



## Citizens For North County



Press Release  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 17, 2015

### **Carlsbad City Council Bows to LA Developer's Wishes -- Spends \$500,000 on Special Election**

Carlsbad, CA -- Carlsbad will hold a special election in February on Caruso Affiliated's proposed regional mall on the Agua Hedionda Lagoon despite pleas from residents to place the item on the November 2016 General Election Ballot, which would save the city more than \$400,000, ensure more residents cast a vote on the issue, and give the community time to have their concerns with the proposal addressed.

Citizens For North County (CNC) obtained signatures from more than 10% of Carlsbad's registered voters in September, forcing the City Council to either rescind its August 25th approval of the project -- which would mean Caruso Affiliated could come back with another proposal in a year -- or to hold an election.

The all-volunteer citizen's group repeatedly requested the item be placed on the November 2016 ballot so Carlsbad residents could compel Caruso Affiliated to supply the missing details about the project prior to the election.

"The city council had an opportunity to start afresh with residents and level the playing field in favor of a thorough factual discussion of the proposed mall's impact on Carlsbad. Let me assure you there is nothing level or fair when volunteers are trying to ask detailed questions and the opposition has a \$5 million bullhorn. Caruso Affiliated has spent more than \$5 million blasting misleading statements about this project's benefits via television, ads in other media and direct mailers -- an effort to drown out the questions raised by citizens and former city employees concerned about sacrificing the Agua Hedionda Lagoon for a regional shopping mall. Unfortunately, the council chose to tip the scales in favor of Caruso Affiliated by opting for a special election in February," said De'Ann Weimer, president of Citizens for North County.

Special Elections guarantee low turnout usually between 20% and 30%. More than 75% of those voters cast absentee ballots. Absentee voters tend to be older and retired. These also are the voters targeted directly for the last three years by Caruso Affiliated.

"Trouble is 67% of Carlsbad's residents are between 30 and 50 years of age. They are the taxpayers and business owners who will be most impacted by the Caruso Affiliated mall. They are the people who will be stuck in a traffic nightmare as they try to commute to work -- often in Orange County. This mall is expected to bring 12 million

more cars to the Cannon Road interchange off Interstate 5. And they vote most heavily in General Elections," said Weimer. "The reality is Caruso Affiliated wants to make sure these residents aren't heard. A special election does just that."

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Citizens For North Carlsbad is a 501(c)4 organization operating under the ID#1380112.

[www.citizensfornorthcounty.org](http://www.citizensfornorthcounty.org)

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