



David Grubb

North County Coastal Group of the Sierra Club

August 20, 2015 / Press Conference

I am speaking today for the North County Coastal Group of the Sierra Club, as well as several other organizations that have been working to protect our coastal lagoons for many years.

The Agua Hedionda Lagoon has faced an unusual set of challenges. It is the only one of our coastal lagoons that is open to recreational use, and the area around it has experienced a tremendous amount of development, resulting in loss of the natural lands that once buffered the lagoon, as well as providing scenic views. In addition to the nearly completed Poseidon desalination plant, there are plans for a new power plant, the I-5 widening, railroad bridge double-tracking, and now a major shopping mall.

The project review process for a large shopping center would normally include a review of the cumulative impacts of all planned projects, but that process has been bypassed. We are very concerned about the disregard for the cumulative impacts on the water quality of the lagoon from these urbanized and industrial-scale developments.

The I-5 widening will have a huge impact on our entire region. Caruso is depending upon that freeway expansion to fix their traffic congestion. But fixing one problem creates two more they have not addressed - air quality and greenhouse gasses.

We need to get serious about addressing climate change - this project is a perfect example of the old ways of doing things that we need to change.

We can't keep building huge projects like this that depend upon thousands of car trips a day coming from Los Angeles and Mexico to shop in Carlsbad.

And we can't ignore that sea levels are rising and fragile coastal bluffs like those along the southern shore of this lagoon are at risk.

Considering all of the anticipated impacts, we believe that the citizens of Carlsbad, not developers and lawyers, should decide the future of the lagoon.

*David Grubb*

Sierra Club - North County Coastal Group

