

To: Brian Will, La Jolla Development Permit Review Committee
Greg Jackson, La Jolla Development Permit Review Committee
Karen Bucey, City of San Diego, Development Services
Diane Kane, La Jolla Community Planning
Andrew Field, City of San Diego Parks and Rec
Claudia Baranowski, La Jolla Parks and Beaches
Joe LaCava, City of San Diego Council, District 1

From: Suzanne Baracchini, La Jolla Homeowner
Project: **Windansea Belvedere (aka Gazebo)**

I write this letter to express my objection to the construction of a Belvedere/Gazebo at any location along the pristine coastline of Windansea Beach, La Jolla,

My concerns are as follows:

1: Homelessness & Crime: The iconic, fragile and over trafficked half mile coastline of Windansea beach along Neptune Place has many issues including homelessness, youth drug & alcohol parties at night (we can provide photos and crime reports to support these claims). Building a Belvedere/Gazebo at Windansea will exacerbate these problems. Recent evidence (January 2021) of homeless individuals taking over structures in Windansea area is detailed in this article

<https://www.lajollalight.com/news/story/2021-01-05/owner-says-empty-su-casa-building-is-secured-after-reports-of-homeless-people-inside>

2: Public Health: Building structures that encourage public gatherings and put people in close proximity disregard public health guidelines of social/physical distancing at beaches. Encouraging people to gather in structures like Belvederes/Gazebos is potentially unhealthy and not forward looking in terms of future public health policy. The Coronavirus Epidemic has forever changed the way we will design indoor and outdoor living, it would behoove us to start planning for the future and not looking back to the past. Please see CDC Guidelines for Beaches here

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/public-beaches.html>

3: Beach Erosion: The erosion of the bluffs at Windansea is of great concern just as it is along most of our coastline in populated areas. Tackling bluff erosion should be a top priority. Surely building structures like Belvederes/Gazebos on bluff slopes will only add to bluff instability and vulnerability over time. We do not want incidents like what happened at Cook's Crack in La Jolla.

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/watchdog/story/2019-08-09/unstable-cliff-prompts-emergency-constrroad-closures-in-la-jolla>

4: Disabled Accessibility: The proposed Belvedere/Gazebo is described as being ADA compliant. The entire pavement, sidewalk and curbs of Neptune Place that run along the top of Windansea bluffs is totally **ADA non-compliant**. The road is extremely uneven with potholes and cracked asphalt. The sidewalks are treacherous with many tripping hazards and the curbs are crumbling into the gutters, often with rebar exposed.

5: Nostalgia for the past: Nostalgia for Belvederes/Gazebos built in the early 1900's should not dictate community policy or actions in 2021. Times have changed. Windansea has a world renowned surfing history that is memorialized in the "Surfers Shack" structure which was deemed an Historical Landmark in 1998. This should be the only structure at Windansea Beach.

6: Tourism Promotion: I have great concerns for the future of the Iconic Windansea Beach. The City of San Diego continues to promote our tiny beach enclave to the masses that pass through San Diego Airport every year (24 Million people in 2019)

<https://www.san.org/news/news-detail/san-diego-international-airport-breaks-passenger-traffic-record-for-fifth-consecutive-year>

Giant billboard sized ads being placed in San Diego Airport terminals send thousands of tourists to Windansea beach which we all know cannot sustain the number of people in Rental cars, Ubers, on scooters and on foot.



[Billboard AD at San Diego Airport, Terminal 2, December 2020. Photo courtesy of Kelly McGee]

7: Stop The Gazebo Petition: An online petition has been created for those that oppose the construction of the Belvedere/Gazebo. We will keep you updated with the numbers of signatures collected. We received close to 300 signatures in the first few hours of the petition being published on February 6th, 2021. Here is the link to the petition <https://www.change.org/Stopgazebo>

I would like this letter of opposition added to your agenda documents page for the upcoming La Jolla DPR meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 4pm and all other meetings pertaining to these issues.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

Sincerely
Suzanne Baracchini
Resident of La Jolla
Sbaracch@gmail.com