



## **Mary Soriano – LJCPA Candidate Statement 2024**

I began my roots in servitude as far back as 2011 with the La Jolla Town Council (LJTC). At that time LJTC received minutes from other joint community organizations such as LJCPA and its subcommittees, I began attending those meetings to listen to the concerns that were brought up but weren't recorded or presented in minutes, only the majority vote was presented to council.

It was then I learned the value of attending other joint community groups; after listening to some concerns from neighbors of projects that were presented, I was able to vote with a deeper understanding on what was discussed.

My respect grew for the substantial amount of work that LJCPA and its subcommittees that volunteers commit to. I recall several projects that required multiple returns, at times frustrating the applicant, but the board has since improved on being mindful of the cost of delays.

After several years you learn what each LJCPA board member looks for, you learn how they think, who they tend to be more aligned with in thinking. I could tell which developers or architects have been presenting for years because they too knew what each board member wanted to know about in advance in addition to their data, this helped speed up the approval decisions.

My engaging presence at these meetings and just being a hard-working single mom gained me respect and friendships that lead to working with local architects such as Jim Alcorn & Paul Benton, Tony Crisafi, Scott Spenser, and Louis Beacham to name a few. I worked for friends who rented their homes, I worked as a property manager at the historic Redwood Hollow Cottages, I was a runner for permits as far as Oceanside and as far east to Rancho Santa Fe and downtown San Diego, and I presented at San Diego City Council on projects that were getting tied up in community groups.

Also, more recently I attended and reviewed LJCPA's bylaws and operating manual for their CPG application that San Diego City Council required from all community planning groups. This helped me see the differences and strengths between LJCPA and the Downtown CPG application which I was on the taskforce.

Today, I attend Community Planning Council (CPC) meetings to learn beyond La Jolla, to hear what other communities are dealing with and where they come together facing issues that affect them all. At the last meeting a lack of funds from the City was a common issue, some groups aren't as fortunate with the options LJCPA has for meeting room rentals or website development.

With all my diverse community experiences, I would be honored to be a part of the decision making that makes up the fabric of La Jolla on land use and development. Whether it's looking at the character of a home or mixed use, easements, corridor views, and these days addressing ADUs & Jr. ADUs and projects with affordable housing.

Please consider my candidacy on the board of LJCPA.

Salamat.

Mary Soriano