

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 26, 2022

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San Diego Councilmember Raul A. Campillo joins Coronado Councilmember Bill Sandke, Announces Support for Suicide Barrier on Coronado Bridge, Calls on SANDAG to Make Project a Regional Funding Priority

SAN DIEGO — Raul A. Campillo, City of San Diego District 7 Councilmember and Vice-Chair of the SANDAG Transportation Committee, today announced his support for the construction of a suicide barrier along the Coronado Bridge, which he believes should be a regional policy priority.

"Over 400 people have died by suicide on our region's iconic bridge, and we as leaders have a duty to stop this. We have \$25 Million allocated to a project that no longer needs it, and we have an urgent need to save lives and protect public safety," Councilmember Campillo said. "I thank Councilmember Sandke for his leadership and call on my SANDAG colleagues to join us in making this suicide barrier a regional priority. There is no time to waste."

This week, Coronado Councilmember Bill Sandke penned an <u>op-ed</u> detailing his work in recent years to call attention to the need for a suicide barrier on the bridge and to classify suicide barriers into a specific funding category. They are currently not part of any funding category.

"I look forward to working collaboratively and creatively with Councilmember Campillo to secure a sound financial foundation for the completion of the long overdue suicide barrier," Councilmember Sandke said. "Building regional support for the barrier effort is my goal, and I was elated to hear from my friend and colleague this morning."

In 2004, \$25 million was allocated to a proposed tunnel from the Bridge to North Island Naval Air Station. Since this tunnel is no longer in consideration, Coronado officially requested in 2018 that this funding be repurposed to circulation improvements for the Bridge, but that request remains unapproved. Today, Councilmember Raul A. Campillo joins Councilmember Sandke in calling on SANDAG to repurpose this funding for the construction of the life-saving and long-overdue suicide barrier, as both councilmembers, who serve as members of the SANDAG Transportation committee, expressed their desire to work on this issue at a meeting earlier this month. They request that voter-approved funds be repurposed and constitute a local match for state and federal funding to get this done.

About Councilmember Raul A. Campillo

Councilmember Raul A. Campillo proudly represents the Seventh Council District of the City of San Diego. District Seven includes the neighborhoods of Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, Grantville, Linda Vista, Mission Valley, Serra Mesa, San Carlos, and Tierrasanta. District Seven is home to Mission Trails Regional Park and Cowles Mountain, the Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá, Lake Murray, the San Diego River, and Skateworld.

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