

To who it may concern,

I should like to make it clear that while I am in favor of the expanded outdoor dining in La Jolla Shores, I strongly protest the reportedly possible plans to “find” the Coastal Commission mandated parking spaces by using the alley east of La Jolla Shores between the La Jolla Hotel and Avenida de La Playa.

I am a long time resident of La Jolla Shores. Part of what makes our area unique is the abundant greenery in close approximation to the beach. The proposal to add parking all along the alley adjacent to La Jolla Shores will have impacts on foot and vehicular traffic in an area that is already suffering all summer long for much of the day and all year long at evening rush hour. Moreover, the proximity of the alley with La Jolla Shores drive makes for a difficult egress with heightened risk of accident and serious injury for both drivers and pedestrians.

This proposal was a surprise to me and everyone that I have spoken to in the area. I am confident that any polling of our community would strongly resist this solution to the restaurant parking dilemma. Our neighborhood has largely been negatively impacted by the strong surge in visitors with little benefits to those of us who live here. The proposal to add parking (and remove the greenery) is not the right solution.

Given that winter is approaching, with less outdoor dining, it is a good time to step back and look at alternatives. The most obvious one to me is to take back illegally painted red curbs in the Shores area. Another alternative would be to add diagonal parking directly on La Jolla Shores to the east and keep the alley separate along with the green space. My point is that the proposal as I understand it, is one that is ill-conceived out of the public eye. Perhaps that is why it is not in the best interests of the residents of La Jolla Shores.

Thank you for your consideration,

Douglas Bates, MD.
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