

Dear Salud,

I hope this finds you well.

I am writing to express my concern over the proposal for the Coastal Commission to take over much of the authority regarding coastal zone permitting from the Board of Supervisors.

As you know, having yourself supervised many of the issues relating to the coastal zone, property owners already have a plethora of rules and regulations that must be followed in order to obtain final building permits. You will recall that in my case it involved a process of over 3 years and untold expense. What I praised the Board of Supervisors and you at the time for was your availability to properly shepherd the process as complicated as it was. You were available, and most importantly, you are an elected official with requisite accountability to your constituents. Should the Coastal Commission, which is not elected, and therefore, has no such accountability, obtain ANY further authority, the implications are clear for a complete loss of final control for the Board of Supervisors and therefore for any property holders who will be at the mercy of their decisions. I believe, without any attempt at hyperbole, that this is the definition of tyranny.

Some of the proposals that have been placed on the table such as to grant property owners of beach front houses permits for only 50% of repairs to their beach access is possibly unique in its disregard for safety and sanity. When I have described this to friends their immediate response is which beach steps would you repair and which ones would you leave for accidents to happen? What would anyone say if they were told that they could not repair the stairs in their own homes? Who will assume the liability, and who will be responsible for the medical care of those who fall prey to unsafe conditions—especially children or old people? Frankly, I think that Jay Leno would not even find it sufficiently believable to do a skit about it. If he did, Santa Barbara would become a laughing stock. It's absurd.

In my time as a diplomat at the United Nations I grew accustomed to proposals which stretched the imagination beyond appropriate levels of belief, but I must say, this goes to a new level.

I know and trust that you and your colleagues on the Board of Supervisors will not allow this forfeiture of the responsibilities which have been entrusted to you and that reason, and democracy, will prevail.

Thank you for all you do. This is certainly one of the most important decisions you will take.

Sincerely,

John M. Klink