

# Love Laguna Beach!

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by Cheryl Kinsman



## *What's inside:*

- **Money, budgets and Laguna.** One of the major issues on the agenda of Tuesday's City Council meeting is setting the priorities of future city spending.
- **Treasure Island update**

**T**hank you for your amazing response my letters to you. I received many nice compliments and many constructive critiques on things I should change as well. Obviously, the purpose of this letter is to communicate with you so you will know what's happening in Laguna and with the City Council.

**D**o you know someone who should be receiving this update? Please e-mail me their name and e-mail address and I'll add them to the list!

**My e-mail address is**  
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*Love Laguna Beach!* is prepared by Cheryl Kinsman, member of the Laguna Beach City Council, as a service to the people of Laguna Beach. Not prepared, printed or mailed at taxpayer expense.

**O**ne of the things we learned in economics was that our wants are unlimited, and our budgets are finite.

So it is in the City of Laguna Beach. Only a small percentage of the city's budget is actually available for discretionary spending, no matter how worthwhile the projects. The vast majority of city money must be used for essential services such as police, fire, lifeguards, sewers, street paving, and employee safety.

Recently, the City of Laguna Beach has had an unprecedented demand for the scarce funds available. Many worthy projects have come before the Council in the past year: a Senior Center; parking at the Village Entrance; funding for the Community Clinic; changes to the Festival Grounds; funding for South Laguna Village improvements; funding for the Boys and Girls Club; rebuilding the Corporate Yard; funding for Bluebird Park; sewer system improvements; free Summer trams; and more.

Some of the funds requested are shown at <http://LoveLagunaBeach.com/Letter22/Budgetrequests.html> (best viewed at 120 percent font size) or can be downloaded at <http://LoveLagunaBeach.com/Letter22/Budgetrequests.pdf>. The spreadsheet, which does not even include all projects requested, shows that, were all requested funds granted for those projects, the current "wish list" of projects totals \$25.97 million dollars—over \$1,000 for every person living in Laguna.

There is no question that the requested projects are good projects, and each has its sponsors who believe that their project is absolutely critical. The question the Council and the Citizens of Laguna Beach need to address is what priority each project should receive.

In order to bring this issue to the attention of the people of Laguna, I have placed an agenda item on the Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, City Council agenda. This will be agenda item 15, the first regular item on the agenda. I invite you to come to give the Council your two cents—make that \$1,000—worth on the projects.

Please come to the Council meeting on Tuesday night to influence how your tax dollars work, or, if you can't be there (the meeting starts at 6 p.m.), watch the item on channel 30.

**T**reasure Island, the major resort being built in South Laguna, will be discussed and updated on Tuesday. This will be item 18 on the agenda, and should provide the people of Laguna Beach further information on the progress and costs and benefits associated with this resort.