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REALTORS® Meet with Local Policymakers Over Housing Issues

(SAN DIEGO, Calif. – December 20, 2019) – At our quarterly breakfast on December 13, San Diego REALTORS® hosted two local elected officials, San Diego City Council Member and Mayoral Candidate Barbara Bry, and Del Mar City Council Member Dwight Worden.

Hosted by the Government Affairs Department for the Greater San Diego Association of REALTORS® (SDAR) at Arterra in Del Mar, the “Politics & Pancakes” event is a regular gathering for real estate professionals to engage with policymakers over the hot-button issues affecting their industry and being debated at all levels of government.

“We covered a range of topics impacting homeowners in our region, including short term vacation rental regulations, the statewide rent control law and emerging policies in our coastal communities in response to sea level rise,” said SDAR’s 2020 President Carla Farley. “Perhaps more than ever, property owners need to be paying attention as many of the regulations proposed, and even some of those recently enacted, may determine home rental rates and place new limits on their ability to protect property from rising tides. We engage our elected leaders on these and other issues to advocate for private property rights and to ensure that policies don’t create new barriers to homeownership, especially for first-time homebuyers,” she added.

Council Member Bry, an ardent opponent of short-term vacation rentals (STVRs), provided an update regarding her priorities for STVR regulations in San Diego. Bry was one of two primary authors to short-term rental regulations approved by City Council in 2018, but later rescinded following a signature-gathering effort by proponents of STVRs. Since that time, Bry has called upon the Mayor to ban STVRs and remains hopeful that she’ll again secure passage of her highly restrictive proposal to limit these rentals to a homeowner’s primary residence.



But STVRs were only one of many issues covered during the meeting, with Bry’s vocal opposition to rent control policies earning strong praise from the attendees. She noted that her opponent in the San Diego mayoral race, Assemblyman Todd Gloria, voted in support of the recently enacted statewide rent control law.

Dwight Worden, council member for the City of Del Mar. Worden, who served as Mayor in 2018, is leading the Del Mar’s ongoing effort to push back against the California Coastal Commission’s recommended coastal adaptation policies for sea-level rise. Del Mar’s challenge to the Coastal Commission has garnered attention from affected property owners, real estate professionals and even neighboring coastal cities who are curious about a potential precedent-setting outcome.

Worden discussed some of the steps Del Mar took to study the impact of anticipated rising seas along Del Mar's coastline and to develop a plan to protect low-lying homes and infrastructure. Absent from the plan – and the key point of contention - is a controversial provision known as “managed retreat”, a management strategy that calls for removal of certain homes and infrastructure in proximity of rising tides. Instead of removing private residences, Del Mar's plan would defend these coastal areas through techniques such as beach nourishment and river channel dredging that aim to manage rising seas and mitigate flood risks. As explained by Worden, the proposal also includes triggers calling for a review of the plan should seas rise more quickly than anticipated.

Del Mar's Coastal Program Amendment will be considered by the Coastal Commission during their February meeting. For more information about the plan, [click here](#).

To contact SDAR's Government Affairs Department, contact govaffairs@sdar.com.

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