

Basin 4's Bathroom Battle Site

5-8-12 Larry Goodhue
Public Comment

May 3, 2012 | GRUNION GAZETTE | PA

Restroom

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"We met repeatedly with them and they never said anything about the size. We were lied to. So 10 weeks ago, we stopped it, and nothing has happened since ... Now they're saying they don't have the money to fix it. It's our feeling that we wouldn't be in this predicament if they had been honest in the first place."

Replacing the restroom facility, which includes showers, and rebuilding the parking lot were parts of the \$23.7 million Basin 4 rebuild. That, in turn, is part of a larger rebuild of the entire Alamitos Bay Marina, the largest municipally-owned marina on the West Coast.

Sandoval said the Basin 4 restroom was the same design as nine other waterfront restrooms to be replaced during the marina rebuild. He said the increase in size is from 50 feet to 74 feet — a figure Davis and her neighbors dispute, saying the 50-foot width included breezeways.

"The thing is, it's going to cost another \$120,000 to cut the size back to what they want," Sandoval said. "Putting on a flat roof is another \$20,000. The electrical

box is definitely bigger, and it has to be a foot off the ground. But moving it back to where it was would cost another \$50,000 to \$100,000 because the lines are underground, and we'd have to cut off all the power to the basin to do it."

Sandoval said the latest city proposal is to add landscaping and other elements to "soften the impact of the restroom visually. The residents say that isn't enough, and have brought City Councilman Gary DeLong in to try to resolve the dispute.

"The way they have handled the residents on Appian Way has been disgraceful," Davis, who said she has the support of the Naples Improvement Association, said. "With all the other basins, there are no homes across the street... We want the restroom reduced to what it was, and we want the power box moved. They say they don't have any money, but they're going to spend \$35,000 for a trash enclosure for the yacht club. Let the yacht club deal with their own trash. They're going to spend \$20,000 for a new sprinkler system. Maybe we don't need a new sprinkler system."

"The money's there."

At last Thursday's meeting

DeLong and Sandoval to keep construction until the neighbors could bid from a private contractor to reconfigure the restroom should take a couple of months, DeLong said.

"They asked for the see what it would take for a contractor to retrofit rooms, and there's nothing with that," DeLong said. "We have been expanded slightly, and we're working to come up with a solution. We're coming up with aesthetic improvements to make a difference."

"I think the residents that it's an impact. But it is. If you're looking at \$100,000 to get seven feet further side, well... I'm pre-resigned at this point that it's economically feasible."

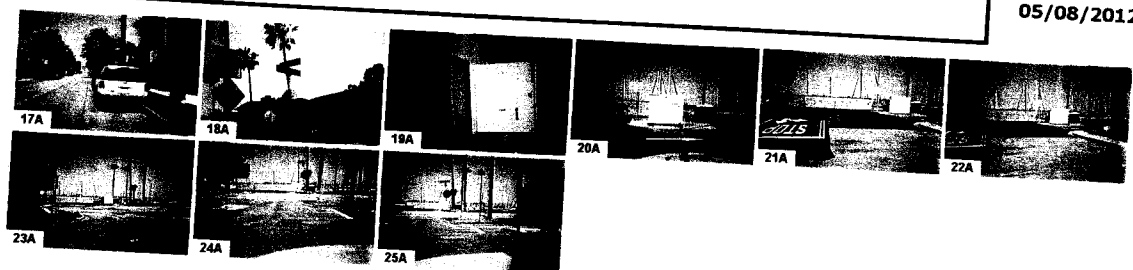
DeLong stressed he would wait until residents had the chance to offer an alternative before moving forward. Sandoval said he agreed with that approach.

"We do hope to make a decision as soon as we can," Sandoval said. "We're already at least two months, and the summer is coming on."

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05/08/2012



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