

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 16, 2015

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

## Council Hearing Regarding One Paseo to be Heard in Council Chambers in February

SAN DIEGO --- San Diego City Council President Sherri Lightner announced that after a comprehensive community search, the hearing regarding the One Paseo development project in Carmel Valley will not be heard in the community, but will instead be heard in Council Chambers on February 23, 2015 at 2:00pm.

"City staff made every attempt to honor the multiple requests from community members to find a location in Carmel Valley to hold the meeting. Unfortunately, due to a lack of locations in that community that meet the required criteria, such as access to public transit and multiple ADA and capacity requirements, staff were unable to secure a suitable site," Council President Lightner stated.

Council President Lightner's office received multiple requests from members of the Torrey Pines and Carmel Valley Planning Groups as well as other community members to have the meeting in Carmel Valley because One Paseo is one of the largest land development projects to be considered by the Council in several years.

Staff from the City Clerk's Office, SDPD, City TV, ADA Compliance and legislative affairs worked together to consider sites in Carmel Valley. Multiple criteria must be met in order for a City Council hearing to be held in the community, including requirements for ADA accessibility, access to public transportation, parking and capacity to accommodate expected attendance, in this case more than 600 members of the public.

After touring the most viable location, Canyon Crest Academy, staff were unable to recommend it as a suitable alternative to Council Chambers due to the absence of public transportation in the area as well as capacity concerns. In addition, the facility would not be available for use until mid-March, and Council President Lightner would like to ensure a timely Council hearing. The hearing is scheduled for Monday, February 23 at 2 p.m. in Council chambers, 202 C Street, 12<sup>th</sup> floor. When the item was previously heard by the Planning Board and Planning Commission, two meetings were required to hear the item due to the complex nature of the project and the number of public speakers. The Council President's goal in starting the hearing at 2 p.m. is to be able to come to a decision in one hearing. Due to traffic congestion between the Carmel Valley area and downtown San Diego in the late afternoon and evening, community members have indicated they would prefer the hearing to start at 2 p.m.

To guarantee a hearing date of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the applicant must submit all necessary materials in time to allow for the City Attorney's Office to complete their required review by Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

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