

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

APR 20 12 35 PM 1961

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

4072 Crown Point Drive
San Diego 9, California
April 19, 1961

Mayor Dell and Members of the City Council
Civic Center
San Diego 1, California

Gentlemen:

The question frequently discussed in the newspapers concerning surfing and surfing enthusiasts prompts me to write to you. I have three sons who enjoy surfing. They find it a healthful, clean, vigor-producing sport. The cost of maintaining the areas they use is very small, if there is any. They buy their own equipment, generally operate completely away from bathers or any beaches used by swimmers, and often go as far north as San Clemente to find are as of good surf conditions that are not crowded by many people. They are well mannered, decent boys, and do not engage in the types of behavior so frequently claimed to be typical of "all surfers" by a very small number of property owners near Archer Street.

At the north end of Archer Street there is a large area that is unpaved, undeveloped, and apparently of little use. Could it not be graded to form a parking area so the surfers could have a place to park that would not interfere with the neighborhood? Even a lot with a coin operated gate might be worth while and would support itself on the long haul.

I suggest that a close look at the worthy activity involved in surfing for boys who might otherwise be tempted to try less savory activities might prove that the surfing sport did more good for the good property owners than would be the case if they were being taxed for establishing more playgrounds and recreation halls -- or were paying the bills for destruction and damage brought about by idle hands and minds.

I was appalled at the suggestion I read that seven areas were being considered for reservation areas for surfing. How much more sensible it seems to indicate which areas were to be reserved for swimming, boating, etc., and all other beach areas be available for surfing. This makes particularly good sense when one notes that much of the surfing is done in areas unusable for swimming or boating -- such as the Point near Archer Street!

I urge you to examine carefully any decision you may make in this controversy and not allow a few vocal opponents to stampede the facts out of existence. Surfing is a good, clean sport. Do not throw any stumbling blocks in the way of its devotees because of the alleged actions of a few who would be creating trouble no matter what the activities were in which they engage. After all, property damage, noise, and parking problems exist in San Diego in areas far from the beaches!

Sincerely

E. Russell Alkire
E. Russell Alkire

(p.s. Over)

P.S. I plan (at age 45) to learn how to ride one of those tricky cards this Summer and then I'll know more about the situation. Any of you who would care to join me are certainly welcome!

ERA