LA JOLLA SHORES PLANNED DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD

August 20, 2026

Mr. Ben Hafertepe, Development Project Manager
via email Bhafertepe@sandiego.gov

Subj: Presentation of La Jolla Shores Advisory Board Recommendations in Hearing Officer Reports

Dear Mr. Hafertepe,

The La Jolla Shores Planned District Advisory Board (Board) is concerned about the presentation of the Board's recommendations in Hearing Officer Reports. Past Hearing Officer Reports have presented our recommendation as that of a Community Planning Group. The Board is not a Community Planning Group. It is a San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) defined and Mayoral-appointed Review Board that is required to provide input on all discretionary projects in the La Jolla Shores Planned District. The Board members comply with SDMC and Ethics Commission requirements for financial filing and training.

The Board does not frequently recommend unanimous denial of development applications. When we do, we believe that the Hearing Officer Report should provide the explanation for our denial. In Report HO-26-016 on PRJ-1134889, there is no mention in the report of why our board unanimously recommended denial of the permit. The project was a two-story house on a hill in an area of single-story dwellings. Its second story was not stepped back as required by the SDMC. It was also significantly larger than most dwellings in the neighborhood. Both its position and size were completely out of character with the neighborhood and were one of the reasons that the Board voted to deny.

We respectfully request that future Hearing Officer Reports present the Board's recommendation as the SDMC required discretionary recommendation and that these reports also consider the Board's reasoning, especially for unanimous denials.

Best Regards,

Jane Potter

Jane Potter
Chair

cc: Council President Joe LaCava
Elyse Lowe, Development Services Department Director
Heidi Vonblum, City Planning Director
Melissa Garcia, Senior Planner
Matthew Nasrallah, Associate Planner
LJSPDAB Members