

To my neighbors on Via Palo Alto:

My wife Susan and I purchased our home here on Via Palo Alto as a part-time beach house in January 2017. We lived in Santa Rosa where I had served as Chief of the Departments of Plastic Surgery and Cosmetic Services until I retired in January 2015. We lived in Fountaingrove. After the fires of October 2017, we elected to rent our house, which survived there, to less fortunate friends. We moved to Aptos as our residence January 2018.

In Fountaingrove, I was elected to the Architectural Review Committee for Fountaingrove II East from 2004 until we left in 2017. I served as chairman from 2005 through 2016, when I knew we were spending more time here in Aptos. Moving here, I know how important it can be to contribute to the function of such ventures. While the CSA-3 is not a neighborhood association, it appears that it should function to preserve and protect the appearance and the value of our properties.

When the Board for CSA3 was proposed, I was one of the few who stepped up. I have served now for three years as an active member and one of the two members who deals directly with the County. Living on Via Palo Alto, my focus has been on preserving the beach and its security. Over the course of the last three years, it has been a challenge negotiating with the vendors because of a limited budget, rising wages, and diminishing personnel in the field.

Our current benefit assessment has been \$50 per year per family since 1996. According to dollartimes.com, \$50 in 1996 is worth \$81.83 today. According to censusreporter.org, today's median home price is \$745,600 with 10% over \$1M; median income is \$84,559 with 16% over \$200K. In comparison, I found the median income in Santa Cruz County in 1997 was \$22,800 and in California in 1996, \$38,812. Zillow.com show homes in Aptos going from \$628K in 2010 to \$907K today. In short, income has at least doubled, homes have gone up more, and our commitment to CSA-3 and preserving our neighborhood has not. We get what we pay for.

If we want to preserve our beach, our medians, and our property values, we must all seriously consider the purposes and charges to our area and our neighborhood. The elected Board has to strive to increase our annual assessment or the neighborhood will surely suffer.

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