

Solana Beach Senior Care

Why I support Solana Beach Senior Care



By Tom Golich

For 50 years, my family and I have called Solana Beach home.

I am proud to have served for six of those years on the City Council and continue to take great pleasure in

volunteering. I love my house and I love my little town. But today, at 81, I'm thinking about what happens next.

My wife and I are talking about options that would allow us to stay here in Solana Beach. That's why we are supporting the Solana Beach Senior Care proposal that is up for a vote of the people. Voters will receive mail-in ballots in April.

The Solana Beach Senior Care project would provide assisted-living and memory care for up to 99 residents and offer housekeeping, meals, laundry, transportation and other forms of non-medical assistance. It would be the first residential center in town that is built for people with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

The location on Genevieve Street is ideal for this kind of project. The 2.9-acre lot is bordered by Interstate 5 to the west and a large office building to the north. Nearby, a Montessori school and church blend among the single-family homes. The Senior Care facility would be built in a Craftsman style of architecture and positioned to avoid blocking neighbors' views. Plans include a generous amount of open space along the Marine View Avenue frontage.

During community workshops, some neighbors said they worry about traffic. Traffic studies, however, show that the facility would not place an undue burden on neighborhood streets. A most-important consideration, from a traffic standpoint, is that nearly all of the residents would not drive.

Solana Beach is home to an aging population. One government estimate shows that by 2035, the number of residents who are 80 or older will nearly double, from 660 to 1,271. That's a 93 percent increase.

Where are these folks going to go if they're unable to remain at home? My wife and I are asking ourselves that hard question. We plan to stay at home as long as we can, but what if one of us passes away or needs more care than the other can provide at home? We might need a place like this.

Solana Beach is served by only one assisted-living community, which usually has a waiting list and is not equipped for memory care.

Solana Beach clings dearly to its community character. I would never support a project that does not provide full transparency and allow for a complete public vetting. By voting to approve the Solana Beach Senior Care specific plan, voters would be giving their OK only to the land-use for the property. The project itself would still need to clear an environmental and design review process with approvals from the City Council and California Coastal Commission.

The developer is bearing the full cost of the mailed-ballot election.

Thank you for joining me in support of Solana Beach Senior Care.

Tom Golich served on the Solana Beach City Council from 1998 to 2004 and continues to volunteer for the San Dieguito River Park, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, Torrey Pines State Reserve and St. James Church.