

Pacifica Chamber of Commerce Candidates Forum

Question #3: What is your position on Managed Retreat, are you for or against and why?

Sue Beckmeyer:

I do not support Managed Retreat. I believe it is the responsibility of the City to protect and defend homes and businesses. Adopting a Local Coastal Plan that includes managed retreat as an adaptation strategy will reduce property values and cause increased costs for property owners.

Mary Bier:

As stated in the Sea- Level Rise Policy Options for Pacifica LCP Update, "Managed retreat is NOT included in any of the near- term policies. Managed retreat would be considered in the mid- to long term IF feasibility and monitoring warranted." I feel very strongly that we need to build the capacity of the city to begin to armor and protect our community. I live in West Sharp Park and am committed to work towards accessing funding begin to implement the short-term strategies in the plan. If elected I will commit to protect, armor and nourish first and foremost.

Bridget Duffy:

Managed retreat is just a way of saying - " rather than spending a lot of time, money and energy trying to fix problems that we imagine we may have some day, we should see how things go and be ready with a plan if we one day, we need to retreat."

That doesn't sound unreasonable or cruel or dastardly, which is how it is being betrayed to the public.

The hysteria that is being whipped up around the words "managed retreat" is similar to the fear inducing, "no new taxes," which is in the public record as being based on a fraudulent claim. I hope that if American voters have learned nothing else in the last few years it's that - the only thing we have to fear, is fear itself...and Trump, of course.

Vickie Flores:

I am against managed retreat, as it will drop home and business values for people who have invested time, energy and money into these properties. Depending on your stance in this situation, managed retreat has a different meaning. But if this word affects property values why are we attempting to use it? We need to protect home and business owners from this over reaching process. The coastal commission only requires that we have a plan, although they highly urge Pacifica to include Manage Retreat in the plan it is not required. One of Pacifica's current goals is to be a compassionate city. I don't see how putting our citizens' in this predicament shows or encourages compassion.

John Keener:

I am for protecting homes and businesses from the ocean. That is not managed retreat.

Mike O'Neill:

Obviously if needed all options must be on the table. However, why are we forecasting for an event that is estimated to have a 3% chance of happening in 100 years. I agree we need to have preliminary planning and that all evidence points to sea level rise, but do we need to go to 3 alarm out of control solutions immediately or look at what happens and adapt our responses to actual events not conjecture or special interests.

Adonica Shaw-Porter:

Managed retreat is an issue for all coastal cities - not just Pacifica. As a former weather woman, and as someone who has sent our Sea Level Rise adaptation plan to several meteorologists' for review, I'm inclined to keep it in our current plan. First, because there is enough research and science to support the fact that the sea level is rising and may impact our coastline within the next 50-100 years. Secondly, because Del Mar in Southern California attempted to remove it from their plan and they were eventually forced to add it back into their adaptation plan, or risk losing control to the state over the development of everything from seawalls to shopping centers. Pacifica is facing bankruptcy and can't afford not to have control over these things. Lastly, I would keep it because I've knocked on doors and there are many people who have told me that they are in favor of it. As an elected official it would be my responsibility to hear everyone's voice in controversial issues such as this, so I would not be in favor of removing this option at this juncture. I believe part of the issue we are having with managed retreat is the fact that we don't have an accurate count of people who are for or against it. If elected I would want to run a poll or a vote to get a conclusive number of homeowners who are in favor of it or opposed to it, and start conversations from there about how to approach the issue long-term.