

Destiny Preston – Candidate for Encinitas City Council (District 2)

Quiet Zone Questionnaire – 9/20/2024

Please answer the following questions, including a rating on a scale of 1-10 where indicated (1 being lowest, 10 being highest):

1. Rate your understanding (1-10) of the impact of train horn noise on residents' quality of life. Have you personally experienced living in the blast zone? Do you know residents who live in the blast zone? Please explain your rating.

Rating: 10. Yes, I personally live in the horn blast zone, within one half mile of the Leucadia Blvd intersection. I am frequently awoken at night to the sound of the horn and notice my diminished functioning after nights that are disrupted by the train horns. It is a regular topic of conversation with my neighbors east and west of the train tracks. When considering running for council this was a core priority in influencing my campaign. Encinitas Quiet Zone is a constituency I reached out to early to inform my platform policies.

2. Rate your commitment (1-10) to allocate the necessary funds (approximately \$12 million) for the train horn quiet zone project in the 2025 budget. We know that the budgets are never enough to fund all the initiatives and that some things will need to be cut in order to fund construction starting in 2025, we are sorry about this, but thousands of us are suffering day and night, and are looking for our champions who will fund construction of the quiet zone to end our suffering.

Rating: 10. I am deeply committed to funding the quiet zone measures understanding that the price tag for construction might require additional investments beyond \$12 million. This was a key reason why I'm supporting the tax measure (Measure K) because that funding can make certain that the quiet zone is created in a few years rather than the uncertain timeline of outside funding such as grants. I would like to note that my opponent does not support the tax measure (Measure K), and this to me reveals a lack of commitment to the quiet zone, a vital component of our City infrastructure and residents' quality of life.

3. Rate the urgency (1-10) you place on implementing the quiet zone. Why did you choose this rating, considering the 20-year delay since the federal law was passed?

Rating: 10. In my opinion, the quiet zone is 20 years overdue. As a councilmember I will bring a demonstrated commitment to public service and expertise in government, with the understanding that coordination is required with local, regional, state, and federal agencies in order to advance efforts such as the quiet zone to life. I have the experience working in transportation and planning to see the quiet zone through to implementation.

4. Rate your willingness (1-10) to make the train horn quiet zone a top budget priority. Please explain your position.

Rating: 10. Making the train horn quiet zone a top budget priority seems obvious to me. The resources required to make the train horn quiet zone a reality will directly provide a valuable return on investment for residents and our local businesses for generations. We've seen this in our neighboring cities and the level of its significance given the effect it can have on increasing property values. As a local small business owner in the health and wellness space, I know Encinitas to be a destination for healing and sound pollution at the current level undermines that reputation and quality of life for residents.

5. Some suggest applying for grants to fund this project. Hopefully, grants can be awarded quickly. However, sometimes waiting for grants will delay implementation for years. Rate your willingness (1-10) to get started in 2025 with city funding if no grants are awarded in 2025. Please explain your position.

Rating: 10. As I said, this quiet zone is 20 years overdue, and a delay is not acceptable. While a historic amount of grant funding has recently become available, many state and federal grants require local matching funds. We cannot wait for grants to be awarded, and we should use the resources we have now to make progress on implementing the train horn quiet zone. Again, I support the tax measure (Measure K) which will not only allow us to make real progress on a quiet zone at the City's discretion but will also generate the needed funds for matching grants.

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