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 7 … I know many people that live in the blast zone. They’ve helped me understand its devastating impact on anyone living within the blast zone. For instance, I know Pete Albanese who is a resident in the blast zone and a vocal advocate for its resolution. Since joining the Council in 2022, he has continually briefed me on this subject. He provided detailed technical reports and recounted the frustrating history of previous Councils deprioritizing a Quiet Zone (QZ) solution. My opponent has had 12 years in Council including 2 years as Mayor to prioritize this issue and has instead focused on other nonessential projects.

It is the 7/24-hour nature and jarring volume of the horns that makes it an immediate quality of life and health issue. I consider QZ to be a basic infrastructure improvement that should have been addressed quickly by previous Councils rather than diverting funding to vanity and beautification projects.

In my 2 years on Council, I have shown that I am concerned about basic infrastructure issues in Leucadia such as Leucadia flooding even though I live and represent District 4. As a result of this focus, the Council better addressed mitigation and funding for Leucadia flooding. In 2025, the Council will need to focus on Quiet Zones similarly. Quiet Zones, like Leucadia flooding, is a basic infrastructure problem that must be addressed now.

I am not an expert in Quiet Zone and its solutions. As always, I am sure there is more to learn and therefore I rated my knowledge less than 10.

1. 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 9 …I consider this project to be a basic essential infrastructure project that is necessary for health and quality of life. Furthermore, it impacts a significant portion of our residents at all hours of the day and (most importantly) night. It should be a high priority like similar public safety and health projects. Quiet Zone ranks with pavement condition, drainage, flooding, law enforcement and wildfire safety in priority.

1. 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 8 … This project belongs in the top tier of urgent programs. Health and safety projects like this should be scheduled based on their likelihood of impact, population impacted and pervasiveness (like 7/24 impacts) of the risk. The impact of train horns is guaranteed, unavoidable and it occurs all day and night making it urgent to address. The population it impacts is large since the train bisects the coastal neighborhoods with the highest concentration of housing. Less important and urgent projects such as beautification and vanity projects should be funded and constructed after Quiet Zones. I will schedule it against all other capital improvement projects accordingly. I chose 8 since this impacts health but the horns are not threatening to a person’s life.

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

Rating 9 … This question parallels and overlaps question 2. Our “commitment to allocate the necessary funds” and “make the train horn quiet zone a top budget priority” are closely related. I rated it similarly as a result. It is important that Quiet Zone is one of the funded items for 2025.

1. 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 … The key phrase in this question is “willingness to get started in 2025.” I am committed to getting started in 2025. I am willing to facilitate this with City General Fund funds. The wording “getting started” means that some funding may need to come from the City’s budget however the City should and will look for other sources of funding. I envision the funding in practice being spread over a couple of years due to the nature and timing of contracting, construction and payments. We could use this time to apply for grants to reimburse the General Fund allocation should we successfully win any grants.