

# Quiet Zone Survey Responses

## Mayor Tony Kranz

- 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.**

My understanding of this issue is a 10 because of the fact that I live about 340 yards from the spot where southbound trains start sounding their horns and 535 yards from the Leucadia Boulevard crossing, which means conversations must stop when the train goes by. I hear the horns from my house when they are used downtown as well. I'd say I live in the blast zone, but I don't know what the formal definition of that is and don't want to suggest that I have it as bad as those who live closer. I know everyone in my neighborhood is affected by the noise of the many train horns.

- 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.**

My commitment to a citywide Quiet Zone is a 10, as is my commitment to creative budgeting to get the supplemental safety measures constructed so train horn noise can be eliminated. Devising a budget strategy to fund construction of the Quiet Zone will be brought into focus after the election to see if there are any additional revenue streams through Measure K locally or Measure G countywide (raising money which will go towards improvements to transportation infrastructure). One of the costliest needs for infrastructure improvements to address longstanding Quality of Life issues are related to the railroad running throughout our town. The costs for these projects will cost \$10's of millions of dollars. Crossings and grade separations have long been planned but the resources to design, engineer and build them have been very difficult to come by. Much like with the big pipe currently being installed in Leucadia, I will find a way to get the Quiet Zone built.

- 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?**

Establishing a citywide Quiet Zone has been a goal of mine since before I started serving on the city council 12 years ago. I was the council member that advocated for funding the necessary Supplemental Safety Measures (SSMs) that were required for the

Quiet Zone at Chesterfield when SANDAG was doing the double tracking project through the lagoon in Cardiff, saving the city significant costs if the work were to be done after SANDAG had completed their project. I also advocated for the study that was necessary to establish what SSMs would be needed downtown (three crossings) and at Leucadia Boulevard, which are now being designed and engineered. (See discussion above.) I consider the urgency of implementing a Quiet Zone a 10. In 2022, the city council strategic planning process established a goal of having a citywide Quiet Zone within 10 years and the first step of that process, design and engineering, is underway, thanks to my suggestion to use money set aside for the roundabout at Hygeia Avenue and Leucadia Boulevard. I'm confident we can get the project completed within a couple years of approval of the plans by the California Public Utilities Commission.

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

Once the project is "shovel ready" it will be my top budget priority, a 10. It is a project that is long overdue.

**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.**

The city recently submitted a grant request was for construction funding which is estimated at \$10.9 million and would require a 20% City match of \$2.2 million. If the application is unsuccessful, there will need to be creative budgeting to fund construction. But as with the storm water pipe being installed in Leucadia, I will find a way to get it done, so my willingness to do that is a 10. It will be unlikely that the city will have approval for the Quiet Zone construction in 2025, but starting the work in 2026 is very likely.