

## HOW TO MAKE COMMENTS THAT COUNT

Monarch Beach residents -

To support and defend your property's future, it's important for you to attend the Dana Point Planning Commission Study Session on **October 13, 2014 at 6:00 PM**, concerning the proposed expansion by South Shores Church ["the Project"]. You may give oral comments, or you may just make a show of force with your neighbors.

But it's even more important that you write your concerns and send them to be received by close of business on **October 30** to the address provided [see below] in the Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report ["Draft EIR"].

### **How do I write comments that will count?**

[\*If you submitted comments in March 2010, see note on page 3 below on resubmitting/updating.]

You will be complaining about the failures/errors in the Draft EIR done on this Project.

Some examples of how to phrase your concerns to make them most effective:

1] The Draft EIR failed to examine . . . .

2] The Draft EIR is inaccurate about . . . .

3] The Draft EIR should have examined this alternative: . . . . [for example, list ways in which the Project's goals might be accomplished in less environmentally destructive ways].

4] The Draft EIR contains these bare conclusions unsupported by actual data: . . . .

[When the Draft EIR said there would be no significant impact, or that the impact would be mitigated into insignificance, on an issue that you care about -- point out that hard data were not given to support that bare conclusion.

If possible, go further and present your own data demonstrating that the impact will in fact be significant.

5] The Draft EIR addresses only the initial impact of . . . . It does not address the subsequent steps and cumulative effect of . . . .

6] The Draft EIR contains some number tables but does not tell us in plain language exactly what the effect will be on [for example] every road and intersection the project will affect.

7] The Draft EIR focuses on immediate streets, but does not address critical consequences for [for example] near-by major roads.

**The preparers of the Draft EIR will be required to address every specific comment that any person makes. But if you just make general, universal philosophical points [for example, "Enough is enough!"], that requires no response [except "Comment so noted."]. So make your comments count -- state your concerns in a way that requires they be addressed.**

### **Where do I send my comments [by October 30]?**

You can send your comments in two ways:

(i) email them to Dana Point Senior Planner SAIMA QURESHY at [squreshy@danapoint.org](mailto:squreshy@danapoint.org) -- or

(ii) regular mail them to:

Saima Qureshy, AICP, Senior Planner  
City of Dana Point  
Community Development Department, Planning Division  
33282 Golden Lantern  
Dana Point, CA 92629-3568

### **Where is the October 13 Study Session?**

It starts at 6:00 pm at:

Dana Point Community Center Gym  
34052 Del Obispo Street, Dana Point

### **Where can I find relevant documents/information?**

Go to the website of Voices of Monarch Beach [VoMB ] --  
[voicesofmonarchbeach.org](http://voicesofmonarchbeach.org)

**\* If you previously submitted comments in March 2010 on the Initial Study:**

Please find your 2010 comments [see note below] regarding the South Shores Church project and resubmit those comments, with any editing desired, for inclusion as comments on the current **Draft EIR**. Your 2010 comments are still pertinent and deserve the attention of the City of Dana Point and other agencies that review large projects in our area.

NOTE: **Finding your 2010 Comments:** If you can't locate a digital or hard copy of the comments you submitted in March 2010, you can see and print them from Volume II, Part 1, Appendix A. (Pages 18-19 list the people who submitted comments, followed by the text of each person's comments.)

**If you care about your property's value, you need to be involved now!**