

Historical Society Vehemently Says NO to Toll Road Through San Clemente!



Contact: Raad Ghantous, President

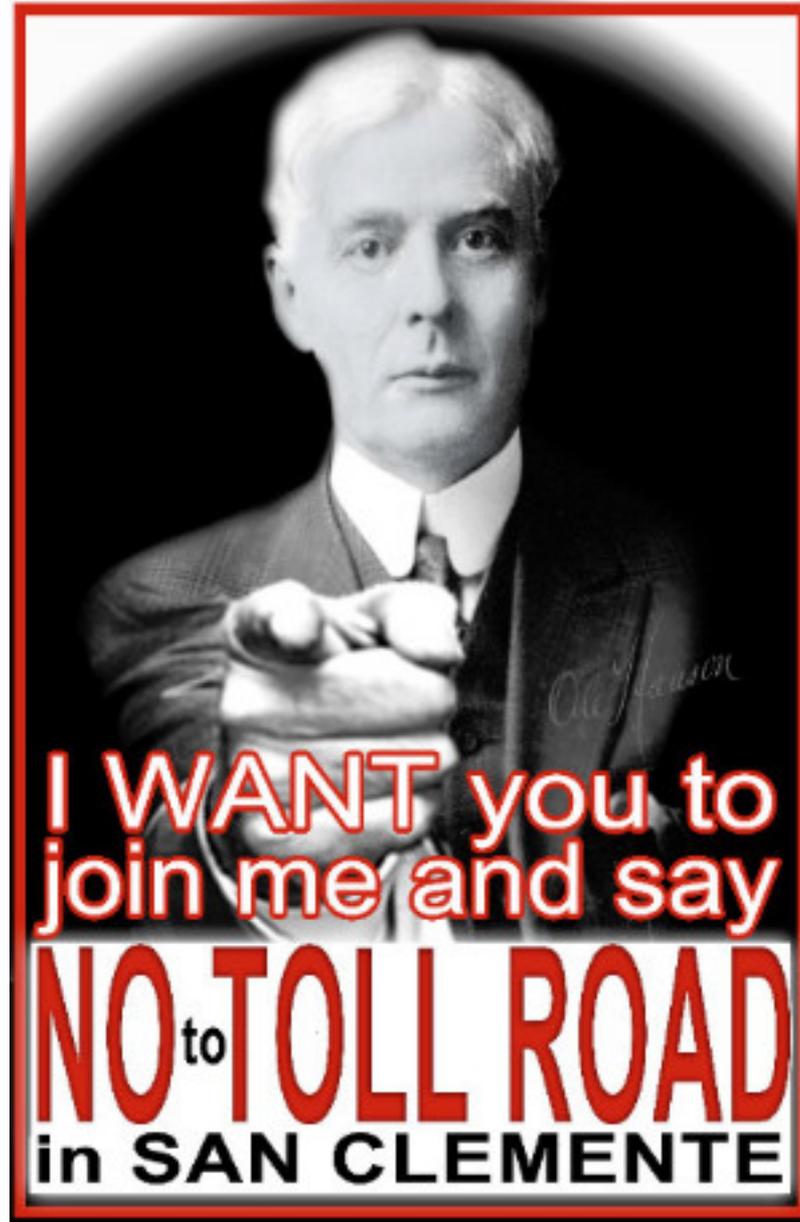
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tel: 949.212.8299

May 17th 2017

Email: raad.ghantous@gmail.com

The San Clemente Historical Society hereby publicly states that it unanimously vehemently opposes any and all proposed, being discussed now or in the future suggested, Toll Roads or Toll Road Extensions that would go through any part of San Clemente!



“This (San Clemente) is just a painting five miles long and over a mile wide. Its foreground is the sea. Its background the hills. We will use for our pigments flowers and shrubs and trees and red tile and white plaster. Our streets shall follow the contour of the ground. Our beach shall always be free from hurdegurdies and defilement. We believe beauty to be an asset as well as gold and silver I do not want people to be repulsed and sent away by ugliness in San Clemente as they have been by ugliness in other communities. This will be a place where man can breathe! The dissatisfied of other communities find rest and hope and peace here.”

~ Ole Hanson, visionary founder of San Clemente, The Spanish Village

This land that Ole Hanson picked out of all California to found and build his dream city on in the 1920s had long held attraction. Its beauty had been recounted by members of the first Portola expedition a century and a half before; its desirability was seen by Father Crespi when he stood on that high hill in 1769 and gazed upon the picturesque land stretching gently down to meet the ocean.

Today San Clemente retains over 200 properties from its founding period, all of which are listed on both the City's and the State of California's Historical inventory lists, a fact very few places around the county, if not the state, can even come close to claiming.

It's historical significance and cultural importance was recognized and federally acknowledged when San Clemente in 2006 was awarded the distinguished accolade of being recognized as a 'Preserve America Community'; a designation only held by 2 other cities in Orange County and that not even nearby San Juan Capistrano, site of the historic San Juan Mission, has.

San Clemente also is home to 5 properties distinguished nationally by being included on the National Register of Historic Places. These are The Casa Romantica Cultural Center & Gardens, the Oscar Easley Building atop of Avenida Del Mar, the Historic heart of the Spanish Village, the Goldschmidt House, the Hotel San Clemente, and the Ole Hanson / San Clemente Beach Club.

San Clemente also is home to the historically listed Casa Pacifica, also known as the Richard Nixon Western White House, a property that has also been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places; The former home of H.H. Cotton, Where F.D.R is known to have visited often to discuss strategy with his close friend who originally built it.

Additionally, San Clemente's San Onofre area is the historic site of ' La Cristianita', the very first baptism in California performed in 1769 by Father Francisco Gomez, a member of the Portola-Serra expedition approved by King Carlos III of Spain. This expedition tasked with colonizing Alt California saw the first close contact between Spanish explorers, Catholic missionaries and the Acjachemen Indians.

San Onofre State Beach is also the site of an ancient sacred California Indian village called "Panhe." It was a large village and burial site of the "Acjachemen" people over 8,000 years ago. Many Acjachemen people trace their lineage back to Panhe. The site continues to be a sacred, ceremonial and cultural location for Acjachemen Indians.

Last but by no mean least San Clemente is also home to many world renowned and iconic surfing breaks such as Trestles which is significant for its uniqueness, the consistency of its waves, and for its association with surfing history in California.

It has played a role in the development of new equipment, new style, and the popularization of surfing as a recreational sport. During its golden age Trestles was at the center of the evolution of surfing techniques and style, influenced equipment innovation, and provided surfers with a sense of community and place.

Generations of surfers still enjoy Trestles and San Onofre. Over the years, local, national, and internationally renowned surfers have all but enshrined San Onofre Beach as a warm, nostalgic, easygoing family-style surf break, much like Hawaii's Waikiki Beach.

As such and given the preponderance of San Clemente's overwhelming, unique to Orange County and beyond heritage, culture and area history that spans back to

even before American Independence in 1776, the San Clemente Historical Society reiterates that it specifically opposes the currently proposed for discussion potential routes shown on current Toll Roads / TCA mobility study map. These routes are currently numbered as #17(connecting to I-5 at Avenida Pico) #14 (connecting to I-5 at Caminol De Estrella / Camino de los Mares) & #15 that would run through San Onofre.

Today we the Citizens of San Clemente truly owe a debt of gratitude to Ole Hanson for believing in the value of beauty and having the conviction to champion it against the conventionalists of his times; Something that we the heirs of his vision will never forget and will always strive tirelessly to preserve and vehemently protect.

If the toll road or toll road extension is built, it will devastatingly and irreversibly endanger and impact our history, culture, quality of life, environment, personal property values and the national and regional historically significant, Ole Hanson envisioned character of our Spanish village by the Sea forever!

"Now, those who have no interest in the City of San Clemente, nor the healthy lifestyle it promotes, nor the beauty of the city and it's history, plan to sully the beauty of this magical place with a hideous toll road. This is something that my grandfather would oppose intensely ; and I share his sentiments. This monstrosity must be stopped and not allowed to proceed. Oppose this with every inch of your political fortitude. I stand with you"

~ Phillip Halfhill Hanson, grandson of Ole Hanson

Authentic San Clemente is not another Orange county 'theme town' to be sullied and sacrificed in the era of Uber and increased alternative transportation options at the questionable eroding altar of the automobile!

WE VEHEMENTLY SAY NO TO THE TOLL ROAD EXTENSION THROUGH SAN CLEMENTE

The Board of the San Clemente Historical Society

All photos are the Copyright © 2017 San Clemente Historical Society, All rights reserved.

P.O. Box 283 San Clemente, CA 92674

For more information, please contact:

Raad Ghantous, President

(949) 212-8299

follow on Twitter | [friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2017 San Clemente Historical Society, All rights reserved.

The MailChimp logo is displayed in a white, cursive font within a dark gray rounded rectangular box.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)