

Candidate: Dan Quirk

Background: Works for an institutional investment advisory firm; formerly served on the city of Del Mar's Finance Committee; currently serves on the city's Utility Undergrounding Project Advisory Committee.

Website: <https://www.danquirkdelmar2018.com/>

Top three priorities:

My top priority is promoting more robust use of data analytics and electronic survey tools (like survey monkey). I believe the way our community makes decisions can be fundamentally changed and improved through appropriate use of inexpensive and easy-to-do electronic surveys. Intelligent and non-biased survey usage could significantly reduce frustration and save many thousands of hours of collective community time spent debating issues on items such as short-term rentals, sea level rise, development projects, affordable housing, tree management, dogs, traffic, parking, design guidelines, street maintenance, the sheriff contract, and the fairgrounds. Surveys are not a panacea, but they can be a powerful and useful supplement to what we currently do.

My second priority is burying powerlines. This was the primary reason that Measure Q, which I helped lead, passed in 2016. This will dramatically beautify the City and improve fire safety, but we have been too slow in acting on this. As a general statement, I crave efficiency, fiscal responsibility, and getting things done quickly.

My third priority is making downtown more vibrant. There are many things we need to do, but the mundane issue of parking requirements for individual businesses is one significant hurdle. There is actually a lot of parking in the City, but the City just needs to get creative in optimizing it. That includes things like promoting sharing agreements between daytime and night-time businesses, subsidizing parking costs during some peak times to provide free parking in a place like the underutilized plaza parking structure, or doing something like providing golf cart shuttle service during peak hours to the underutilized parking lot at Shores Park or the new civic center. The potential of downtown Del Mar is significant. There are bright spots, but smart and creative public policy decisions can help it to be so much more.

On the issues:

The Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan:

Our Adaptation Plan is good and reflects a lot of work. Along with a large number of other beach area residents who will be most impacted by sea level rise, I believe that we should have adopted the plan only as an addition to the Community Plan, not additionally as a Coastal Commission LCP amendment.

941 Camino Del Mar:

I 100% support it. This has been an eyesore for many years in the core downtown area. Del Mar's downtown has some bright spots, but it could be so much better and more vibrant. Given

our location and the number of people traveling through Del Mar and to our beaches, we are dramatically underperforming our downtown potential.

Short-term Rentals:

I support the regulations and the writ. Del Mar is not an outlier here. The City of San Diego passed a ban, as have many other coastal cities, including Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Santa Monica, Rancho Palos Verdes. Many other non-coastal cities like Pasadena (Rose Bowl) and Anaheim (Disneyland) have also passed bans. Not all STRs are bad, but the significant proliferation in residential areas substantially hampers the creation of neighborliness and street-local community. I like having neighbors.

I would support allowing room-share STRs, where the owner is also present 100% of the time.

Affordable Housing:

The state-mandated affordable housing requirement is the kryptonite that developers use to propose significantly upsized development projects to many cities, including Del Mar. Del Mar is currently looking at two controversial projects (Watermark—6 affordable units and the proposed resort hotel—15 affordable units) that are much larger (at least two times) than they would otherwise be if not for affordable housing. From an impact perspective, Del Mar would be far better off if we found a small piece of land to build 20 or so tasteful, city-owned studio or 1-bedroom apartments. The construction of city-owned units would be largely self-funded from the rents, and the overall impact of doing this might be something like 15,000 square feet vs. 600,000 or so for Watermark and the resort hotel. It is a tiny fraction of the development impact. Anyone concerned about preserving open space and minimizing over-development should favor this approach regarding affordable housing. But it will take some creativity to do this, and I've demonstrated creativity and the ability to get big things done as shown by my leadership on the successful Measure Q initiative in 2016.

Measure R:

I'm against this, as is the vast majority of the community.

Gun shows at the Fairgrounds:

I support the Del Mar City Council Resolution 2018-17 calling on the fairgrounds to discontinue gun shows. The recent shooting incident highlights the serious risks. There are over 100 federally licensed gun sellers in the county where individuals can still purchase fire-arms, so eliminating gun shows at the fairgrounds won't be a burden to those interested in buying guns. The Second Amendment applies primarily to gun owners, not sellers.

Bluff stabilization and the railroad tracks:

We cannot allow the NCTD to build their proposed fence along the bluffs in 2019. This will be a terrible loss for Del Mar and the broad community. This is the most urgent issue the city faces. I and two others launched a change.org petition to stop it. Please show your support, sign it, and spread the word: <https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-nctd-from-fencing-off-the-train-tracks-in-2019-on-the-del-mar-bluffs>

The Del Mar Resort:

The idea of a low impact, high-end, boutique-style, resort hotel with beautiful grounds and native greenery that opens up public access to the entirety of the bluffs is a good one. But this current version is much too big (requires a 760-spot underground parking structure), has serious traffic implications, and contradicts the spirit of the Scripps preserve and the Woodward estate restrictions. If built at all, it should probably be closer to half the current size, with significant setbacks, and mostly hidden behind greenery. We should get robust, quantifiable electronic survey data on the community's thoughts. It is also important to understand that our deficiency in affordable housing requirements is contributing significantly to the large proposed size.