

May 28, 2008 Keith Shillington; City Council Oral Communication

Good evening councilpersons. I'm still Keith Shillington. I still live on Leucadia Scenic Court on the very north edge of our fair city. And I still own and operate that little cybercafe at the Northeast corner of E and 2nd Streets.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you. I have several points to speak on, today I'd like to address:

- Public Planting

And, I guess public planning as well. But really, I'm about the plants tonight. At a time where it's pretty clear that we're not going to be getting more water; money's only going to get tighter; a little deep ecology makes a lot of sense. I'm very disappointed with the plant palette used in the recent right of way work on Leucadia Blvd. Oh, I think it's plenty pretty; but only to the shortsighted eye.

The use of native and naturalized species would dramatically reduce the long term maintenance expense. Water, and high-touch labor are only required in the first few years of life. Once these types of plants become established, they pretty much take care of themselves, requiring annual, or maybe semi annual maintenance.

I would hope that one of the goals for the gentrification of our fine city would be to maximize the public plantings. More plants that require less maintenance; plants which make up the natural beauty of a region only recently despoiled by human beings.

It's taken us less than 200 years to transform a unique and beautiful coastal desert into a network of concrete and asphalt; why are we not planting to at least partially reverse this damage?

I beseech you, City Council of Encinitas. Do what it takes to make our community hallmark in deep planning for the future preservation of our fine quality of life. Think deep. Plant for long term survival.

Thank you, and have a nice evening.