



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carpinterians launch YES! Save Our Downtown Open Space campaign for November's ballot

CARPINTERIA, Calif. (July 6, 2022) Less than one year ago, a determined group of residents gathered far more than the required number of signatures to put an initiative on the Nov. 8, 2022 General Election ballot. That's the power of passion and spirit of community behind the City of Carpinteria's YES! Save Our Downtown Open Space campaign, which launches on July 7.

"The gateway to the beach should not be developed," said Annie Sly, spokesperson for the all-volunteer grassroots organization. A high profile Carpinterian, Ms. Sly co-owned the popular Linden Avenue eatery Sly's, which is credited with bringing fine dining to the World's Safest Beach. "In November, Carpinterians will decide whether to change the zoning of Parking Lot #3, at Linden Avenue and 5th Street, from General Commercial to Open Space/Recreation, securing the high-use lot from commercial development."

Along with the conviction that a well-utilized public property should not be given by the City to a developer for private gain, the YES! campaign's concerns include:

- saving downtown open spaces from traffic and congestion
- protecting the community's finite water supply,
- preserving existing the community garden,
- keeping mountain views for all to enjoy, and
- maintaining Carpinteria's small town charm as well as the look and feel of its famed beach neighborhood.

"Based on the response to our signature gathering, we are very optimistic about our public piece of land at remaining public," noted Ms. Sly. "We have our work cut out for us, but Carpinterians are no strangers to protecting what's best for all. Everyone is welcome to join our good fight."

The YES! campaign will host an information table at the Seal Fountain on Linden Avenue Thursday afternoons, 3:30 to 5:30, coinciding with the Farmers Market. More information is available at parkinglot3.org and [Facebook.com/saveourparkinglot3](https://www.facebook.com/saveourparkinglot3).

ATTACHED ARTWORK

YES!_Annie Sly_headshot

Suggested caption: Annie Sly, representative of YES! Save Our Downtown Open Spaces, on Linden Avenue with the public parcels that YES! Save Our Downtown Open Spaces in the background. Photo by Robin Karlsson.

YES!_Parking lot shot

Suggested caption: Suggested caption: Carpinterians will decide if the public land at the corner of Linden Avenue and 5th Street should remain for public use in November's election. It is the site of a well-used parking lot and community garden. Photo by Amrita Salm.

YES!_Deed

Suggested caption: The 1989 deed of SPTC HOLDINGS, INC. (Southern Pacific Railroad) granting the land to the City of Carpinteria, stipulating it for public use.

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ABOUT YES! SAVE OUR DOWNTOWN OPEN SPACE

The campaign YES! Save Our Downtown Open Space is an all-volunteer, grassroots nonprofit organization putting the decision on how the public property at the corner of Linden Avenue and 5th Street is to be used in the hands of City of Carpinteria voters. To learn more, visit parkinglot3.org or email info@parkinglot3.org. The mailing address is P.O. Box 684, Carpinteria, Calif., 93014-0684.

Committee to Save Our Downtown & Beach Parking Lot
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