

Gracey Van Der Mark
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Please return your response via email to by September 15, 2020.

1. Please tell us why you are running for election to the Huntington Beach City Council.

*I am running for a seat in council to be a representative for our residents and not special interest organizations.

2. What is your vision for the City?

*I would like to preserve our suburban environment and protect our charter city status.

3. What public boards, committees, and/or commissions, non-profits have you served on in the last five years?

*Finance commissioner for the city of Huntington Beach

*Chair of Caring for America for the Huntington Harbour Republican Women Federated

*Measure R Bond Oversight Committee

*Measure Q Bond Oversight Committee

4. Do you feel that the current or near future water needs of Huntington Beach require the construction of a local seawater desalination plant?

*No, I do not feel our water needs require the new construction of the local seawater desalination plant. We have a more than adequate supply of water in our aquifer and the added benefit of the GWRS (Ground Water Replenishment System) that is currently adding to the aquifer with more water than would even be supplied by costly desal water.

5. Did you support the approval by the City of Poseidon's Environmental Impact Report, Conditional Use Permit, and other permits to construct and operate a seawater desalination plant in our city?

a. Why or why not?

*I do not support the permit approval because we do not need Poseidon. We have plenty of water and at a more affordable price than Poseidon would offer.

6. Do you support the continued use of the abandoned AES Power Plant's open-ocean intake and outfall pipes to serve the Poseidon desalination plant's operational needs?

a. Why or why not?

* I do not support using the AES intake to serve Poseidon operational needs. Most simply, the proposed desal water is an overpriced proposal for something we do not need in Huntington Beach. Also, there are significant risks to our local coastline and ocean environment. Since HB is a world class tourism destination due to our pristine coastline, this is not a risk we should be taking.

7. Do you feel that the probable costs of Poseidon's desal water would require such measures as public subsidies and/or participation by water districts in blending expensive water with cheaper water to bring down the cost of desalinated water?

* My understanding is that the proposed Poseidon desal water will double the cost of water to rate payers. This is entirely unacceptable especially given that the water is not needed by HB and definitely should NOT be publicly subsidized.

8. Have you solicited or received campaign contributions from Poseidon Water, Poseidon Resources, Brookfield Infrastructure Partners, an affiliated PAC, association, OC-WISE, OCTax, OC Taxpayers, members of the Board of Directors, or senior management, either directly or indirectly?

a. If yes, who have you solicited and how much have you raised or intend to raise from such sources?

*I received an endorsement application from OCTax which I filled out but I did not solicit or receive any contributions. Nor am I planning on soliciting or accepting any funds if offered.

