# EastBluff #4 Town Hall: Special Assessment Program Update

January 19, 2021

# **Immediate Challenges--**We face a number of immediate challenges that must be addressed before tackling our aging infrastructure

#### **Immediate Challenges**

- Current Situation: Our Community is 35 years old and must address its aging infrastructure
- Reserve Study: Updated Reserve Study is required every 3 years and must accompany upcoming audit, annual budget, and Dec. YE Disclosure Statement
- Deferred Work Orders: Various deferred health and safety work orders require immediate resolution
- Gutter Project: Prior gutter contract did not contain the project specs detailed by EB4's engineer, OSJ.
- Special Assessment: Board believes a Special Assessment may be needed to fund deferred capital projects & repairs.
- Data Requirements: Project specifications, cost data, and/or supporting bids needed to complete Reserve Study and estimate amount of any Special Assessment. Collecting the necessary data is extensive and costly.

#### What is the Plan to Address the Challenges?

- Implement Two-Phased Plan to Return EB4 to Financial Stability and Address Infrastructure Requirements
- \* Phase I:
  - > Address operating and operating deficiencies
  - Update Reserve Study and Prioritize Capital Projects
  - > Determine if a Special Assessment is needed
- ❖ Phase II:
  - > Subject to sufficient funding, complete Project Plan
  - > Return EB4 to Financial Stability.
- Gutter Project: Rebid Gutter Project and Complete
- Improve Disclosure and Transparency to Residents

# **How Has The Board Responded?**

- Implemented Two-Phased Plan to Return EB4 to Financial Stability and Address Infrastructure--Phase I implemented in June and scheduled for completion by end of January 2021
- ❖ Phase I:
  - > Address operating and operating deficiencies--
    - Property Manager & Landscape Contractor replaced and monthly costs reduced
    - Overall 2022 Operating Budget reduced by 6.5%
    - Past Due Receivables collected and reduced
  - > Update Reserve Study and Prioritize Capital Projects--completed without need for "interim special assessment"
  - > Determine if a Special Assessment is needed--Options and Recommendation will be delivered by end of January 2021
- Phase II: (subject to adequate funding, on track to begin during first half of 2021)
  - > Subject to sufficient funding, complete Project Plan
  - > Return EB4 to Financial Stability.
- Gutter Project: Project re-bid to OSJ specifications. Project completion scheduled before end of February
   2021, resulting in higher quality materials and installation
- Improve Disclosure and Transparency to Residents--Monthly program updates and multiple Town Halls delivered to educate Residents since June 2020. Information/Document postings expanded on Avalon's website and multiple surveys conducted to obtain Residents' feedback.

### Reserve Study, Cost Data and Assumption Sources

Reserve Study: Prepared by SCT, EB4's consultant, to comply with California Civil Code. Select sections of the Level II Study required for year end disclosure

#### **♦** Inputs

- Cost Data
- EB4 Beginning Reserve Balance
- > 2022 Budget, including annual Reserve Allocation

#### Cost Data:

- OSJ Specifications
- Contractor Bids
- Construction Committee Estimates
- SCT Industry Standard Data

#### SCT Assumptions

- > 3.0% inflation rate for project costs and 1.0% interest rate on reserve balances
- ➤ 4.34% annual increase in Reserve Allocations

### Reserve Study Comparisons: Key Summary Stats 2022 vs. 2019

	2022 Reserve Study	2022 Per Unit	2019 Reserve Study	2019 Per Unit
Aggregate Estimated Current Replacement Cost	\$9.5 million	\$47,959	\$10.5 million	\$52,638
Aggregate Estimated Future Replacement Cost	\$14.5 million	\$72,821	\$15.0 million	\$75,524
Aggregate Capital Expenditures Initial 5 Years	\$5.8 million	\$29,353	\$8.5 million	\$42,802
SCT: Annual Reserve Allocation Increase % Assumption	4.34%		4.95%	
SCT: Special Assessment Assumptionover 5 yrs for 2019 study & 4 yrs for 2022 study	\$5.0 million	\$25,126	\$8.7 million	\$43,500
SCT: Inflation Rate Assumption	3.0%	n/a	3.0%	n/a
100% Funded	30 Years	n/a	30 Years	n/a

More accurate project specs and bids resulted in a net reduction in estimated replacement cost

Spreading projects over a longer period results in higher inflationadjusted costs over 30 years

Size of estimated project/costs reduced and timing has been spread out to mitigate Special Assessment

Lower current replacement costs & capital expenditures during years 1-5. SCT Assumption-Not Final

Inflation assumption higher than current economic forecasts

Many HOAs target a 35-40% funded rate at all times

# Comparison: Summary of Capital Projects/Infrastructure Repairs

Projects	2022 Current Estimated Replacement Cost	2019 Current Estimated Replacement Cost	Comments	
Asphalt & Concrete	\$707,512	\$345,750	More accurate specifications	
Buildings: Balconies, Landings, Doors, Weep Screeds,Pony Walls, Stucco, etc	4,532,627	5,055,452	Reduction in weep screeds, partially offset by Pony Wall increase	
Electrical/Lights	187,878	172,878	N/A	
Fences, Gates, Rails, Walls	423,586	429,820	N/A	
Irrigation & Landscape	902,000	1,217,450	Less Landscape Refurbishment	
Paint & Waterproofing	1,199,267	814,447	Increase in Cabanas, doors, & gates to avoid need for wood trim replacement	
Pools & Related	381,411	287,858	N/A	
Utilities	673,000	1,826,000	Drains & Sewer Lines	
Termite Control & Other	536,539	325,291	N/A	
Total	\$9,543,820	\$10,474,946	<\$931,126>	
Aggregate Capital Expenditures Initial 5 Years	\$5.8 million (61%)	\$8.5 million (81%)		

# 2022 Cash Flow Prioritization (SCT)

(in thousands)	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Beg. Reserve Balance <sup>1</sup>	\$0	\$296	\$479	\$1,039	\$1,794	\$1,282	\$825	\$953	\$1,145	\$1,411
Regular Assessment Contribution <sup>2</sup>	382	399	416	434	453	472	493	518	537	560
Special Assessment <sup>3</sup>	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	0	0	0	0	0	0
Project Expense	1,340	1,465	1,115	944	976	936	371	332	283	380
Ending Reserve Balance	\$296	\$480	\$1,039	\$1,794	\$1,282	\$825	\$954	\$1,145	\$1,411	\$1,605
Reserve EOY % Funded	5.5%	10.7%	26.1%	49.0%	38.3%	27.0%	29.3%	32.8%	37.3%	40.0%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>SCT assumed a zero balance as of Jan 31, 2022; however actual balance is estimated to be ~\$236,000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Annual increases based on SCT assumption of 4.34%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>SCT Assumption--Board will reduce, delay and/or finance any Special Assessment prior to Vote

# Potential Initiatives to Reduce HOA Capital Expenditures, Special Assessments, and Annual Regular Assessment Increases

Project	Examples	Comments		
Continue to evaluate opportunities to reduce operating expense to increase the portion of regular assessments that funds the Reserve and capital projects	<ul> <li>Earthquake Insurance</li> <li>Water Usage &amp; Cost</li> <li>Legal Expense</li> <li>Water Intrusion &amp; Remediation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Finance Committee will continue to review operating expenses to identify opportunities to reduce</li> <li>Operating expense reduction would allow a larger allocation of Regular Dues to Reserves</li> </ul>		
Shift financial responsibility for select projects back to homeowners	<ul> <li>Water Heaters</li> <li>Concrete Entry Pads</li> <li>Atrium Drains</li> <li>Garage Doors &amp; Components</li> <li>Water Meters</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Many HOAs do not bear the financial responsibility for listed examples</li> <li>Bylaws would have to be changed and changes must be approved by residents' vote.</li> </ul>		
Reduce, Phase and/or Delay less critical projects or repairs	<ul><li>Landscape &amp; Tree Removal</li><li>Asphalt &amp; Concrete</li><li>Fences</li></ul>			
Finance all or a portion of necessary projects over 5-10 years to spread out the cost.	<ul> <li>Line of credit for a portion of project cost during yrs. 1-5</li> <li>Repayment term 5-10 yrs.</li> <li>Upfront fee, plus annual interest</li> </ul>	Finance Committee is investigating loans & lines of credit, which may be used to reduce/defer need for a large Special Assessment		

# Next Steps to A Recommendation and Residents' Vote

- **♦ AMOUNT AND TIMING OF A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT HAVE <u>NOT</u> BEEN DETERMINED. "Special Assessment" estimates above, based on SCT Assumptions. EB4's Board is developing a plan to reduce, delay and/or finance any Special Assessment before the vote**
- Board and Finance Committee will continue to identify opportunities to reduce the need for a Special Assessment (See Slide #8):
  - Reduce and/or delay select estimated project costs
  - Continue to reduce operating expense to increase funds available to increase reserves
  - Initiatives to shift responsibility for select projects/repairs to individual homeowners
  - > Financing alternatives to spread financial impact over multiple years.
  - ➤ In the next 5-10 years, achieve and sustain a Reserve Balance of 35-40% of "100% Funded" target.
- Board will develop two or three project plan alternatives and a Special Assessment recommendation.
- Town Hall to Discuss Alternatives and Special Assessment recommendation before end of January.
  - Pros and cons of alternatives and financing options will be reviewed
- Residents' Vote

# What Does the Board Want For Our Community in the Long Run?



**Sound Infrastructure** 



**Stable Financial Position** 



**Predictable Assessments** 



**Improved Property Values** 



**Better Disclosure for Owners/Buyers** 





**Attractive Community Aesthetic**