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Waterfront Delay vs. Eiffel Tower

By George Mullen

With all due respect to Mr. Nelson, who is an honorable man, I have to strongly disagree with his position on delaying the process for the consideration of new waterfront ideas.

Prompt discussion of new ideas is a good thing...in fact, a great thing. Why? Because it helps foster an environment for progress, thought, and innovation...and that is exactly the kind of place we want San Diego to be. It doesn't mean the idea must be immediately given the green light, or ever, for that matter. However, "New Ideas" are the life-blood of humanity...so whether it is Malin Burnham's "Wings of Freedom" or David Malmuth's "Ferris Wheel" on the waterfront, these ideas should be respected, and given full and timely discussion. Bringing forth new ideas is very difficult - the individuals that do so typically spend immense sums of their own money, put themselves on the public chopping block, and are near-always surrounded by naysayers.

Speaking of naysayers, if the similar defenders of the Parisian skyline in the 1880's had had their way, the Eiffel Tower NEVER would have been built. The concept was near universally hated by the so-called intelligentsia, art critics, and nearly everyone else. It was only built because of Gustav Eiffel's drive and willingness to finance it himself. Once it was built, however, it was, and is, universally loved. (Our now beloved Midway Museum was mocked as a concept in the beginning as well.)

So, for those who fancy their naysaying opinions about the "Wings of Freedom", "Ferris Wheel", or any other new concepts, they may want to step back and heed the Eiffel Tower example. Ideas produce greatness, NOT processes. Ask Gustav...

[Link to Bob Nelson article:](#)

Now Not the Time for Port to Have Ferris Wheel Debate – January 15, 2015

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/jan/15/ferris-wheel-san-diego-port-bob-nelson/>