
In re)
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 Southwest Village Specific Plan)
 Project)
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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT SCOPING MEETING
FOR THE
SOUTHWEST VILLAGE SPECIFIC PLAN PROJECT
San Diego, California
March 4, 2020

Reported by Gina Marie De Luca, CSR No. 6973, RMR, CRR

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In re)
Southwest Village Specific Plan)
Project)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT SCOPING MEETING
FOR THE SOUTHWEST VILLAGE SPECIFIC PLAN PROJECT,
commencing at the hour of 5:46 p.m., on Wednesday,
March 4 2020, at San Ysidro High School, 5353 Airway
Road, San Diego, San Diego, California, before Gina
Marie De Luca, Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for
the State of California.

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ATTENDEES

CITY OF SAN DIEGO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
BY: Elizabeth Shearer-Nguyen, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER
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PUBLIC COMMENTERS:

Michael R. Freedman
Michael Shoemaker
Antonio Blas
John Pizzato

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MEETING AGENDA

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1 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Good afternoon -- or
2 evening. Thank you for attending, and welcome to the
3 scoping meeting for the Environmental Impact Report for
4 the Southwest Village Specific Plan Project.

5 I am Elizabeth Shearer-Nguyen with the City of
6 San Diego's Development Services Department. This
7 meeting is referred to as a scoping meeting, and the
8 purpose is to give the public and interested parties an
9 opportunity to submit comments regarding the potential
10 environmental impacts of a proposed project.

11 A few, little comments about how the meeting
12 will proceed:

13 We're not here to respond to questions about
14 the project but rather to gather input from the public
15 to be used to guide the scope and content of the
16 environmental analysis.

17 Comments may also be provided verbally or in
18 writing. And there's some comment forms in the back, or
19 the public notice is in the back of the room where you
20 can submit them via e-mail as well.

21 Let's see here.

22 Please ensure that you include your name,
23 address, e-mail. And I'm sorry to reiterate this but
24 it's legible. I cannot stress enough that.

25 Additionally, comments can be e-mailed to the

1 address indicated in the public notice.

2 As previously mentioned, this meeting has been
3 scheduled to gather input prior to preparing the
4 project's environmental document.

5 The City's environmental review staff is
6 required by the California Environmental Quality Act as
7 well as the City's Municipal Code to provide the public
8 and decision-makers with independently prepared
9 environmental documents which disclose impacts to the
10 physical environment.

11 Environmental documents prepared in accordance
12 with CEQA requires analysis of a proposed project's
13 impacts and to identify ways that those impacts can be
14 avoided or significantly reduced.

15 Further, the environmental document itself does
16 not recommend approval or denial of a project, but
17 rather this information is utilized by the City's
18 decision-makers as part of the deliberating process in
19 approving or denying the project.

20 A few comments about how the meeting will be
21 conducted:

22 First, there will be a brief description of the
23 project by Ms. Jennifer Campos. And then I will open
24 the meeting to public comment.

25 The meeting, again, is designed to get as much

1 public input as possible on the areas that need to be
2 analyzed or addressed in the EIR in the time allocated
3 for the meeting.

4 Your verbal comments will be recorded;
5 therefore, each speaker is asked to introduce themselves
6 and complete their comments within the allotted time.
7 Three minutes will be provided to everybody.

8 I would ask that you please refrain from trying
9 to conduct a debate on the merits of the project at this
10 meeting for that's not the purpose for tonight.

11 I must emphasize that the focus must stay on
12 those environmental impacts you believe need to be
13 analyzed in the project's environmental document.

14 Lastly, Jennifer has been kind enough to be my
15 moderator.

16 Oh, Brooke has? I'm sorry.

17 MS. PETERSON: Jennifer is the moderator. I'm
18 not the moderator.

19 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Okay. All right.

20 All right. Great.

21 And I respectfully request that you conclude
22 your comments when notified that your time has come to
23 an end.

24 Thank you in advance for your patience.

25 Oh, I'm not loud enough? Sorry. Well, that's

1 a first for me.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can use the mic.

3 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Yeah, I can use the mic.

4 Sorry.

5 Okay. Can you hear me now?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

7 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Okay. Great. Sorry.

8 I respectfully request that you conclude your
9 comments when your time has been notified that it's up.

10 I want to thank you in advance for your
11 patience. And thank you for coming.

12 And now I would like to introduce Jennifer --
13 or Brooke -- I'm sorry --

14 MS. PETERSON: It's okay.

15 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: -- Brooke to the -- to
16 introduce the project.

17 MS. PETERSON: Okay. So I'm going to stand
18 over here just so I can click forward.

19 So I'm just going to give you a really broad
20 overview of the project itself.

21 Southwest Village Specific Plan is located just
22 south of here. It's just south of the current terminus
23 of Caliente.

24 And the purpose of the plan -- so the Otay Mesa
25 Community Plan, which is the master plan governing the

1 entire community of Otay Mesa -- in it has a provision
2 that requires if any one person wants to develop within
3 the Southwest Village area -- and that, the Southwest
4 Village area, has been defined in the -- the boundary of
5 it has been defined in the Community Plan. If one
6 project wants to go forward, there needs to be a
7 comprehensive, Specific Plan prepared for that entire
8 area.

9 So our project, our -- the Specific Plan is
10 implementing that provision of the Community Plan. It
11 will include a whole framework for housing, and so it
12 certainly implements the goal to provide a framework to
13 streamline construction of housing.

14 It will establish thresholds for different
15 types of development going forward. That's different
16 densities of residential, for commercial, for parks, for
17 school in a comprehensive way. It will also provide a
18 framework for water, sewer, and stormwater facilities.

19 So the guiding principles behind the land use
20 plan are to streamline, as I said, a framework for
21 housing; and it will provide a framework for, like I
22 said, different densities which allows for different
23 types of housing.

24 It will provide natural resource protection for
25 the vernal pool preserve, for the multi-habitat planning

1 area around the project, and for natural resources.

2 The land use plan has been developed around the
3 concept of a grid system so that blocks are small enough
4 to really support pedestrian activity. And it's been
5 developed around kind of the central Village Core and
6 then with kind of decreasing density, so a Village Core
7 that's got commercial and higher-density housing
8 surrounded by kind of decreasing levels of density. And
9 we've also strived to preserve viewsheds and access and
10 really maximize public -- community recreation
11 throughout.

12 So, as I mentioned -- I'm just going to kind of
13 point it out. So, as I mentioned, there's a
14 higher-density Village Core here. So Caliente would
15 come down. The project does include the connection of
16 Beyer Boulevard all the way over to San Ysidro.

17 So there's a mixed use, so commercial-retail
18 kind of central core with residential surrounded by
19 high-density housing here. And then these kind of tan
20 colors are lower density -- they're medium-high, so
21 lower density. Then that's center -- center. And then
22 we plan for a central school, a central park, and then
23 low-, medium-density residential surrounding the -- at
24 the perimeter.

25 There's certainly a plan to be a transit hub in

1 the center of that Village Core. We've identified
2 parks. It doesn't necessarily show all of the parks.
3 It shows that central park. And then there will be
4 surrounding parks certainly planned for in that
5 framework.

6 As I mentioned, there's a school site
7 identified. There's a lot of preserved open space
8 around it. And then I've already mentioned the
9 connection of Beyer and Caliente.

10 So just a little bit of additional detail:

11 As I mentioned, this is kind of high-density
12 housing. So that's, like, 20 to 44 dwelling units to an
13 acre, which is kind of a higher-density, multi-family
14 kind of apartment-type product. And then there's
15 medium-high, which is more like your higher-density
16 condo. And then there will be single-family residential
17 along the perimeter.

18 I think that's -- I mentioned there's a central
19 school identified. And then this kind of crosshatch you
20 see on the planning area up here is an area that we've
21 identified as, most likely, residential; but should a
22 second school need to be constructed, that's the --
23 that's the area that we've identified where that would
24 go.

25 So this is just an overview of the circulation

1 network. So Beyer Boulevard and Caliente would be
2 four-lane, major roadways. South Caliente and the
3 completion of this road shows that they'll be supporting
4 lower- -- lower-volume, lower-traffic roadways
5 supporting those two main roadway kind of arteries. And
6 then there will be smaller, local roadways surrounding
7 that. So this is to kind of provide a snapshot of how
8 that land use plan I just showed you is supported by the
9 roadway system.

10 We have prioritized a comprehensive kind of
11 bicycle and pedestrian network through the project. So
12 this just shows those bicycle -- I don't want to cover
13 up the legend -- shows the bicycle. So the yellow here
14 and the red are kind of key. And all the way through
15 here are areas where we've identified bike facilities,
16 the -- also the yellow here and then throughout. And
17 the green are paseos and sidewalks. And then the light
18 green patches you see are where we've identified parks.

19 So you can see that we've really tried to
20 provide a system where the parks are connected by
21 bicycle and pedestrian networks so that there's not
22 necessarily a need to get in your car to get around.

23 This is just another snapshot of the park. So
24 the Specific Plan provides for 36 acres of park and
25 recreational opportunity overall. And then it -- we're

1 also proposing about 18 miles of trails, which you can
2 see some of that included here. It will also connect to
3 the regional Otay Mesa Community trail system.

4 Here is an overall timeline for the project.
5 We have -- I didn't include this, but we have been going
6 through the process now since early 2018. We've been
7 meeting with a subcommittee of the Otay Mesa Community
8 Planning Group. We went in -- we were planning in March
9 and now, actually, it will be April 2020 to go to
10 Planning Commission just for a workshop to get their
11 input on the overall concept and the direction that we
12 are going with the Specific Plan.

13 After this scoping meeting, we then plan to
14 prepare a draft EIR, which will be out for public
15 review, along with the Specific Plan, sometime spring --
16 actually, this should say "spring of next year" -- and
17 then a Planning Group recommendation hopefully in
18 June 2021 and then hearings late in 2021.

19 And that's it.

20 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Great. Thank you, Brooke.

21 I'd like to open up the public comments. So if
22 someone would like to come up and -- or if someone wants
23 to come up.

24 MR. FREEDMAN: I don't need a microphone. I
25 have a rather broadcast voice.

1 My name is Mike Freedman, and I am the chairman
2 of San Ysidro Community Planning Group.

3 I would like just simply to clarify that the
4 fact that the off- -- off-sites designated in the
5 diagrams that you showed will be included in the EIR.
6 I'm speaking specifically of the Beyer Boulevard
7 connection.

8 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: So you're asking a
9 question if they're going to be included?

10 MR. FREEDMAN: That's my question.

11 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Sorry.

12 MR. FREEDMAN: I want to make sure that this --

13 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Yes.

14 MR. FREEDMAN: -- I can convey this to my
15 planning group --

16 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Okay.

17 MR. FREEDMAN: -- because this is something
18 that we have discussed --

19 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Yes.

20 MR. FREEDMAN: -- for many years.

21 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: There are off-site
22 components related to the roadworks.

23 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry?

24 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Yes, they are. Sorry,
25 ma'am. I guess I don't project as much as I thought.

1 Yes, the EIR does -- the project does have
2 those components, and they will be included in the
3 environmental document.

4 MR. FREEDMAN: All the way?

5 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: You know, I don't recall
6 if they're all the way. I think we're only looking at
7 those components that --

8 MS. PETERSON: What do you mean "all the way"?
9 There are certainly off-site --

10 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Right.

11 MS. PETERSON: -- components all the way into
12 San Ysidro that --

13 (Simultaneous colloquy)

14 MR. FREEDMAN: Back to the existing dead end?

15 MS. PETERSON: Yes.

16 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Yes.

17 MS. PETERSON: And even past that. So the
18 traffic generated by our project and how it spills into
19 San Ysidro is required to be looked at.

20 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Yes.

21 MR. FREEDMAN: Thank you.

22 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Thank you.

23 MR. SHOEMAKER: An easy one. Is there a place
24 to go on the Internet to get some of the traffic
25 circulation plans, or will that be available at some

1 point?

2 MS. PETERSON: It will certainly become
3 available. There's a project website, and there's cards
4 on the back table. But as those are developed and
5 available for public review -- I actually think most of
6 that is available already because we've been presenting
7 it to the subcommittee. So it should be on the website
8 already.

9 MR. SHOEMAKER: Okay. Thank you.

10 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: How about anything related
11 to the environmental?

12 MR. BLAS: I have a question of that.

13 I'm an owner -- my name is Antonio Blas. I'm
14 an owner of a property on Oleander subdivision.

15 Does the City treat an accepted subdivision
16 with public roads to the high standards of any road
17 line, like Pardee and all of the property that they own,
18 to have the full EIR to a subdivision? I don't know if
19 I'm explaining.

20 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Yeah, I'm not quite sure
21 of your question.

22 MR. BLAS: As a division, once it's accepted
23 from the City --

24 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Right.

25 MR. BLAS: -- before its accepted, you put it

1 through the EIR.

2 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Correct.

3 MR. BLAS: Once it's accepted and they don't
4 develop for X amount of years, when they come to try to
5 develop, you're going to push them to do an EIR again?

6 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: No. If the project is
7 approved and you fall within the scope of the project
8 that was analyzed, you could rely on that environmental
9 document.

10 If you were to propose a project that is
11 inconsistent with that plan and/or with the approvals,
12 then you would have to come in and do a separate
13 approval.

14 MR. BLAS: Okay.

15 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Does that answer your
16 question?

17 MR. BLAS: I understood that much.

18 Let's say this subdivision was accepted by the
19 County and adopted by the City and it was already a
20 subdivision for many, many years. Whether they require
21 environmental back then is not a -- something to discuss
22 today. The subdivision is already with public roads and
23 accepted with a map as a subdivision.

24 Pardee is required to do an EIR. Are they
25 going to do an EIR for all of the -- their property,

1 including the Oleander track?

2 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: So I'm not sure if I'm
3 going to be able to answer your question, but I am going
4 to go back in time a little bit. And I may not be the
5 right person that can answer this.

6 When the Community Plan update came forward,
7 they identified, within the Community Plan, specific
8 plan areas. There were two of them, and Southwest
9 Village is one of them. So they identified the
10 properties within there.

11 I can't speak to -- because, again, I'm not
12 that kind of a technical person. I rely on other people
13 at the City for those technical, engineering, and/or
14 mapping issues.

15 MR. BLAS: No, I don't expect you to give me
16 that answer today, but I hope you can keep that in mind.

17 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Right.

18 MR. BLAS: Because we, as property owners of
19 Oleander track -- we are many owners. And for us to
20 come up with anything that would be required for -- from
21 the City for us to develop even though they finish the
22 project -- and we're not going to oppose because it
23 benefit us.

24 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Right.

25 MR. BLAS: Especially the latest map that you

1 just showed us -- they extend the roads that benefit all
2 of the property owners and so we can, on the future, be
3 able to develop our own properties.

4 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Right.

5 MR. BLAS: But my concern is back in the '90s
6 they identified vernal pool on that subdivision, because
7 I -- some -- many of the property owners would try to
8 put a precise plan back then. We submitted a map for
9 Planning Commission. They accepted it. But because
10 they put the moratorium on Otay Mesa because of the
11 airport, our map went to pieces. We wasted money. We
12 wasted environmental study they required back then. And
13 we couldn't revive it later, a lack of money and trust
14 by the property owners.

15 Today we are at the mercy of -- not at the
16 mercy of Pardee. I think Pardee is doing us a big favor
17 by -- by the direction that the City give them to
18 include all of that area.

19 And my question is I hope they don't force us
20 to do an environmental whenever we want to do something.

21 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: No. So, again, we're
22 establishing a specific area, and it's got boundaries.
23 And if you're within those boundaries, you would be able
24 to come in and benefit from this environmental document.
25 You would benefit from this environmental document.

1 MR. BLAS: Okay.

2 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: The only time that you
3 wouldn't be able to use it is if you were to come in and
4 do something that is not consistent with what was
5 identified.

6 MR. BLAS: No. I understand that.

7 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Yeah. Yeah.

8 MR. BLAS: Okay. Thank you.

9 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Uh-huh.

10 MR. PIZZATO: When do you anticipate that
11 actual construction development will commence?

12 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: That, I don't know.

13 MS. PETERSON: I actually can't necessarily
14 speak to that either. Like I said, we anticipate
15 hopeful project approval late 2021. So -- or, actually,
16 into probably 2022.

17 MR. PIZZATO: So one would not assume, if it
18 will take place in 2022, development will commence?

19 MS. PETERSON: We would then -- even once we
20 have approval of the Specific Plan, we then still have
21 to go through the process of -- at the City -- of
22 getting our grading and construction permits. So there
23 is a subsequent process that has to take place before we
24 even put a shovel in the ground, so to speak.

25 MR. PIZZATO: You have to process a tentative

1 map and all that?

2 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry?

3 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: A tentative map.

4 MS. PETERSON: Yes. After approval of the
5 Specific Plan, it does then require processing of a
6 tentative map, yeah.

7 MR. PIZZATO: And you anticipate the Specific
8 Plan could be approved at the end of next year?

9 MS. PETERSON: We anticipate approval into --
10 probably -- it will probably go into 2022.

11 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Any comments related to
12 the analysis that will be conducted in the environmental
13 document? Any additional comments?

14 MR. BLAS: Again, as Pardee starts doing their
15 phases of construction, let's say, four, six years from
16 now, doesn't matter, as property owners, do you think
17 the City -- well, you said no questions. Only comments.

18 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: That's okay.

19 MR. BLAS: Do you think the City would be
20 amenable to doing an assembly district to help us to --
21 to develop our properties? We already have public
22 roads. All we have to do is provide you with a specific
23 plan separate from Pardee because it would be our
24 properties.

25 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Right. I can't speak to

1 that and how the City goes about assessing fees and
2 such. You would just come in and submit your
3 development plans.

4 MS. PETERSON: Yes.

5 And, Tony, I guess I'll just clarify that the
6 Specific Plan is going to set forth a land use
7 framework. So future development will need to be
8 consistent with that. If it isn't consistent with that,
9 then additional environmental analysis will be required.

10 MR. BLAS: No, no, no. If it's consistent with
11 what you're saying. But we will not have the money to
12 really build the streets and do it unless we have
13 assistance through an assembly district.

14 MS. PETERSON: And I'll add to that there --
15 the Environmental Impact Report is being prepared at a
16 project level for the Specific Plan. There will still
17 be additional what I'll call project-level analysis
18 required for future developments.

19 So there is a global, overarching, programmatic
20 analysis level that will be completed, but other
21 property owners such as yours outside of the Pardee
22 ownership will still have additional detailed
23 project-level analysis required and mitigation.

24 MR. BLAS: And mitigation?

25 MS. PETERSON: Yes.

1 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Yes.

2 MS. PETERSON: So every development is required
3 to analyze and then mitigate based on that, the
4 conclusions of that analysis.

5 MR. BLAS: I would think that my lot would be
6 excluded. It's already part of a subdivision that's
7 accepted. And I have a road in front of me which is
8 only 20 feet wide. I'm willing to give more feet, along
9 with the other property owners, to make it to today's
10 City standards, but it's already a part of -- I have
11 property. It's already public road. What should I do?
12 Mitigation to what?

13 MS. PETERSON: All I can say is that the -- the
14 EIR that we're here to talk about tonight is related to
15 the development per the land use framework that I just
16 presented. I can't necessarily speak to what's already
17 been approved for your project.

18 MR. BLAS: That's why I asked my first question
19 if they push the subdivision to do an additional, once
20 it's already accepted, with --

21 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Right. And, again, I
22 can't speak to that because I don't -- I'm not the
23 right -- I don't have that technical knowledge or
24 understanding of mapping or subdivision law.

25 MR. BLAS: Should I submit the questions on the

1 comments?

2 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: So what I would suggest is
3 you submit comments. And, again, this is not the first
4 or the last time that you can comment on things. But we
5 really do have to keep the scope of this meeting to just
6 the environmental. And I'm sorry that I can't help in
7 that way.

8 MR. FREEDMAN: Can I recommend that you contact
9 Vivian Moreno's office in Council District 8 --

10 MR. BLAS: I already did.

11 MR. FREEDMAN: -- for the Enhanced
12 Infrastructure Financing District in Otay Mesa.

13 MR. BLAS: I already did.

14 MR. FREEDMAN: Oh, you already did. Well, I
15 mean, that's what they're looking at in assessment --

16 MR. BLAS: They told me to just stick with
17 Pardee (inaudible).

18 "Okay."

19 Thank you anyway.

20 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Are there any additional
21 members of the public that would like to comment on the
22 environmental document?

23 MR. PIZZATO: How can we get a picture of that
24 diagram?

25 MS. PETERSON: On the back table there are

1 little business cards that have the project website.
2 And if you go there, most of the plans and maps that
3 have been presented are included in there. Every
4 presentation that we've made to the subcommittee is
5 included on there.

6 MS. SHEARER-NGUYEN: Well, with that, I think I
7 will close the public scoping meeting. I have just a
8 few comments.

9 Thank you for attending and -- oh, sorry. Out
10 of order here. I apologize.

11 This closes the public environmental scoping
12 meeting for the Southwest Specific Plan Project.

13 Your input will be considered by City staff for
14 use in the scope of the EIR and included as part of the
15 official record and document. The information and/or
16 comments submitted will become part of the
17 administrative record and included in the environmental
18 document.

19 Speakers and commenters who provided contact
20 information will also be placed on an interested parties
21 list for further actions associated with the project.
22 Therefore, please ensure that you've provided your
23 address and e-mail if you so do wish to be part of that
24 list.

25 I would also like to remind everyone that this

1 is just the start of the environmental review process.
2 There will be many other opportunities to provide
3 comment on the environmental document and the project,
4 such as during the community group meetings, public
5 review of the draft document, as well as public
6 hearings.

7 Thank you, and have a great evening.

8 MR. PIZZATO: Thank you.

9 (Reporter's Transcript of Environmental Impact
10 Report Scoping Meeting concluded at 6:11 p.m.)

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I, Gina Marie De Luca, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that a verbatim record of the proceedings was made by me using machine shorthand which was thereafter transcribed under my direction; further, that the foregoing is an accurate transcription thereof.

Dated: This 19th day of March 2020
at San Diego, California.



Gina Marie De Luca
CSR No. 6973, RMR, CRR

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