

Times Community News / Daily Pilot / Opinion

# Mailbag: Smart-growth initiative would give Costa Mesans more control

JANUARY 29, 2016, 12:20 PM

**T**he smart-growth initiative that is expected to be on the November ballot gives the people of Costa Mesa a choice between two competing visions of our city and its future.

Many Costa Mesans are conservative in their approach to change. They are wary of dramatic, rapid change that affects their way of life. They like the small-town feel of Costa Mesa, with mostly one-story and two-story buildings, and residential streets where children can play outdoors.

They like shopping at small businesses whose owners and workers they know by name. They like neighborhood parks and schools. They enjoy clean air and mild weather moderated by breezes from the ocean.

Others take a more go-go approach. They want to see economic growth in the form of high-rise condominium and apartment buildings. Costa Mesa's general plans have long defined "high-rise" as more than two stories. They welcome national chain stores and high-density residential complexes to our major arterial streets, even if they displace small businesses and worsen already-failing intersections.

They are willing to tolerate increases in traffic congestion, noise and air pollution in order to accommodate higher-intensity development. They see Costa Mesa's future as becoming more like larger Orange County cities, such as Santa Ana and Anaheim.

Most conservative Costa Mesans acknowledge that change and growth are a fundamental part of life. But they want to exercise control over their pace and direction. They want to preserve the quality of life they have enjoyed for themselves and their children and grandchildren. The initiative is an effort to give them that control.

Eleanor Egan

Costa Mesa

\*

## **The secret charisma of Jim Nantz and Al Michaels**

If you watch sports, you know announcers Jim Nantz and Al Michaels.