



CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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June 24, 2014

Natural Resources Agency
Attn: EEMP Coordinator
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA, 95814

Linda Alexander
President

James P. Allen
Vice President

Pat Carroll
Secretary

Kali Meredith
Treasurer

Subject: LA Conservation Corps “Gaffey Street Pedestrian Path & Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Project”

To Whom This May Concern:

On behalf of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council, I would like to express our support for the LA Conservation Corps (LA Corps) “Gaffey Street Pedestrian Path & Environmental Enhancement Project” EEMP Grant Application. Currently, there is no pedestrian access from Gaffey Street into Leland Park. The sidewalk along the west side of Gaffey Street ends at Elberon Bridge just south of Leland Park. Pedestrians who wish to access the Park from the San Pedro neighborhoods south of the Bridge have no way to access Leland Park, nor to traverse safely along the west side (and east side of Gaffey Street for that matter) towards the Park and into the Park or even beyond the Park to the north.

Leland Park is a wonderful community resource that until very recently had been neglected for many years, and allowed to deteriorate into an extreme derelict condition. Recent actions by the Los Angeles City Dept. of Recreation and Parks to allocate funding to restore a four (4) acre portion of the Park with an enhanced softball/baseball field, children’s playground, and adjacent pathways and community center is an important step towards restoring the landscape, habitat and water conservation functionality of the 21 acre Leland Park property.

We view the LA Corps “Gaffey Street Pedestrian Path & Environmental Enhancement Project” as a critical next step in the Leland Park restoration effort. We feel that this Project will accomplish the following objectives:

1. Restore native hillside habitat and increase species diversity – currently the area of the proposed Project is covered with weeds and non-native palm trees. These will be replaced with native hillside appropriate plants that will provide much needed erosion control, while conserving precious water resources
2. Protect resource lands that have fallen into a derelict condition – the proposed new plantings will provide much needed native habitat appropriate for hillside areas adjacent to the Pacific Ocean
3. Provide enhanced hillside erosion protection and soil stabilization – new hillside plantings of deep rooted native plants will stabilize hillside soils and provide enhanced erosion control

4. Improve water quality and recharge groundwater supplies by intercepting stormwater runoff from Gaffey Street and the adjacent hillside – runoff from Gaffey Street and the hillside adjacent to the proposed Project site will be intercepted in constructed bioswales behind the curb along the west side of Gaffey Street. This bioswale will utilize Low Impact Development (LID) Best Management Practices (BMP) techniques appropriate for the soils and microclimate of the San Pedro Community to clean this stormwater runoff and redirect the runoff for groundwater recharge.
5. Improve air quality, provide pedestrian transportation alternatives, and reduce greenhouse emissions – the proposed pedestrian pathway along Gaffey Street and into Leland Park will provide bicycle and pedestrian walkway access from the Leland Park neighborhood to the existing bike lane along the west side of Gaffey Street. This will provide alternative transportation routes to nearby schools for students, and alternative transportation routes to the downtown business community, the Port of Los Angeles, and the downtown business community
6. Enhance the scenic vista along Gaffey Street and create access to Leland Park from Gaffey Street for recreational purposes – the proposed Project will provide access from Gaffey Street, a major transportation route in the San Pedro Community, into Leland Park that does not currently exist. In addition, the newly proposed native landscape enhancements along the west side of Gaffey Street will greatly enhance the scenic vista to travelers along Gaffey Street
7. Protection and preservation of existing open space – the proposed Project will protect and preserve the existing open space in the western section of Leland Park through the proposed native landscaping enhancements of the Project. The current condition of the proposed Project site is currently an eyesore and covered in weeds

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important San Pedro environmental enhancement project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Alexander".

Linda Alexander, President
Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council