

Esteemed Mayor Sanders:

Climate change, water conservation, water quality and park land are among the top priorities our community shares with the City of San Diego. Because our neighborhoods are in such proximity to the bay and ocean, we appreciate your vigilance on these issues. Like you, in a time of limited financial resources, we are desirous of making the most of existing assets and increasing the potential for drawing funding dollars to our region.

A project has come to our attention that seems to address our shared environmental priorities, promise recreational opportunities and optimize resources and fundability. Tentatively called the "Water-Wise Park," the approach is appropriate for any area in proximity of the ocean. The California Coastal Conservancy shares our interest in exploring the project's viability. For a limited time it has put aside \$50,000 only to support an inquiry into the project's feasibility on City of San Diego land, pending your assent.

The ultimate project would create a lush, green park *entirely without imported fresh water*, by re-using near-site freshwater resources. The proprietary design technology can treat and reuse storm water, grey water and even black water with small-footprint, ecologically-based bio-remediation technologies. Additionally, such a project can employ untreated seawater to irrigate landscape that thrives in saltwater. This process can increase circulation in nearby waters, improve water quality, boost aquatic life and enhance valuable habitat. Implementations of these approaches elsewhere have been scientifically vetted, and the California State Regional Water Control Board has expressed interest in their application locally, as have other community groups and agencies.

Approximately 1 acre of public, undeveloped dedicated open space on the southeast side of the Boat Channel (across from Liberty Station) seems like an appropriate site for such a Water-Wise Park. The California Coastal Conservancy's commitment to tidelands and trails is consistent with the goals of the NTC Precise Plan and the Local Coastal Program. Also, the requested feasibility study area is within the Tidelands Trust. This open space has multiple stakeholders with environmental challenges regarding the Boat Channel that have yet to be resolved.

After reviewing the methodologies available for achieving a Water-Wise Park, our board feels that the feasibility study process, if approved by your office, can begin to resolve pending issues at no cost to the City.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that you seriously consider support of this proposed feasibility study. The study would establish stakeholder interest, determine existing infrastructure, and create a bioremediation plant palette tailored to reduction or removal of specific pollutants of concern from airport runoff and surrounding hardscape. Ultimately, it will also attract proposition and foundation dollars dedicated to climate change, water conservation, water quality, coastal access and increased greenscape.

Our board can put you in touch with experts who will present the technologies to you and/or your staff. We believe that knowing of these technologies will increase your office's confidence in our region's ability to deal prudently and economically with existing and anticipated environmental challenges. We look forward to your positive response to this request.

Sincerely,

PCPB