



CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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June 24, 2014

Harbor Community Benefit Foundation
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Linda Alexander
President

James P. Allen
Vice President

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Kali Meredith
Treasurer

Subject: LA Conservation Corps “Gaffey Safe Street Pedestrian Path & Beautification 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 Safe Street Pedestrian Path & Beautification Project” Harbor Community Benefit Foundation (HCBF) 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 Safe Street Pedestrian Path Beautification Project” as a critical next step in the Leland Park restoration effort. One major benefit is the fact that this Project will address a Community Safety problem along Gaffey Street. As there is no sidewalk along either the east or west side of Gaffey Street, people currently walk or skateboard in the street. Obviously, this is very dangerous. By extending the sidewalk on the west side of Gaffey Street from where it ends at the Elberon Street Bridge north and into the Park at the driveway to the old Park maintenance service road, and then up into the Park and along the lower terrace until it connects to the existing sidewalk just south of Cabrillo Street, this Project will correct this Safety problem while providing a link into Leland Park from the portion of the San Pedro Community that lies south of Summerland Avenue.

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This pedestrian link will increase the access to the recreational resources at Leland Park, and is consistent with the "Green Pathways" that have been identified by the San Pedro Urban Greening Project. These Green Pathways are intended to allow residents of all ages to safely traverse from the various neighborhoods in San Pedro with non-motorized means to access local schools, landmarks and parks. Moreover, such Pathways make important improvements to our air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, another much needed benefit in our community.

The Project will also provide a significant Beautification benefit because the existing weed covered hillside portion of Leland Park along the west side of Gaffey will be converted to a vibrant native/drought tolerant landscape complete with a water conserving irrigation system. The existing non-native palm trees will be replaced with native/drought tolerant trees suitable for this coastal microclimate.

Finally, we feel that the LA Conservation Corps' ability to provide landscape construction jobs to local economically disadvantaged youth that also provide skills training that assists these same youth to gain living wage employment is a tremendous Community Resource benefit to our local Community.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this very important San Pedro Community Benefit Project.

Sincerely,

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

Linda Alexander, President
Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council