



BALBOA PARK/MORLEY FIELD RECREATION COUNCIL
Balboa Park Activity Center
2145 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101
(858) 581-7100

March 13, 2012

To: E. Shearer-Nguyen, Environmental Planner
City of San Diego
DSDEAS@sandiego.gov

RE: Balboa Park Plaza de Panama, Project #233958/SCH No. 2011031074

As members of the Balboa Park/Morley Field Recreation Council we deal with Balboa Park's recreation component. We are excited that improvements will be coming to Balboa Park. We do have reservations and concerns that we request will be taken into account in implementing any improvements.

The Recreation Council supports the Balboa Park Plaza de Panama Project plan to reduce auto traffic and create walking areas through the center of Balboa Park, increase and improve parking throughout the park and create more open space. However, we are concerned that the parking plan will negatively impact recreation users of the park but feel with proper implementation and review the negative effects can be mitigated.

The idea of and removing Navy and City College users from Lower Inspiration Point is crucial to a successful parking plan implementation to free up adequate parking spaces during and after construction. This will require a concerted and substantial good faith effort by the Plaza de Panama Committee and the City to assure that these spaces are available for the general public and/or City employees. The idea sounds good but it must have real substance.

Additionally, the best of plans may not materialize. We request that there be established a structure, a process and a clear point of contact for monitoring and implementation of modifications to the parking component during phases of construction and after completion of the parking structure and bypass bridge. Groups putting on special events need to know who to contact, as well as the process to be able to modify parking plans to assure the success of their events. User groups need to know that their members will have access to the Park. The Park is for everyone.

We believe that the Balboa Park Plaza de Panama improvements will add greatly to the beauty and utilization of the park. But, as new circumstances arise, we will need to effectively deal with parking issues. We look forward to Balboa Park's second century as the crown jewel of San Diego.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jerry Harris'.

Jerry Harris

Chair, Balboa Park / Morley Field Recreation Council