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Ms. E. Shearer-Nguyen  
Environmental Planner  
City of San Diego Development Services Center  
1222 First Avenue, MS 501  
San Diego, CA 92101

San Diego, March 23, 2012

Dear Ms. Shearer-Nguyen,

I am taking this opportunity, on behalf of the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership to indicate our strong support of the Environmental Impact Report for the Plaza de Panama Project. The impacts during construction phase have been extremely well identified and mitigated to such a degree that it is very possible we may be able to solve a current problem, i.e., lack of an efficient way to take better advantage of available parking spaces for visitors to Balboa Park's Cultural Core, the Central Mesa.

The plan is to provide a shuttle system that will carry employees and Park visitors from outer parking lots into the Prado and it's the institutions that surround the Plaza de Panama and the Plaza de California. With approximately a year long period of activity this will also provide the means to evaluating how we can best provide for future visitors who will be dependent on private automobiles to visit the Park without having to park there. The peripheral lots can still be served by the same system that will be thoroughly evaluated during the proposed mitigation project. We believe this same system could be adapted to provide peripheral parking for employees and visitors in designated areas once the construction program is completed.

In addition the experience in encouraging attendees and staffs at San Diego High School, San Diego City College, and the United States Naval Hospital to park in new areas provided by the schools and Hospital, thereby making it possible to have empty lots in the central core at the beginning of the visitor hours at the institutions. These lots are presently from half to three quarters full at the present time. Furthermore, the 2015 Centennial Celebration which is scheduled to begin January 1, 2015, will provide a year to perfect such a system as a major legacy to improve public access to the Park's cultural institutions.

I congratulate the Sponsors and Designers of the plan to reclaim the Plaza de Panama and the Plaza de California for creating such an ambitious innovative plan that will have such long lasting benefits to our City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey W. Kirsch', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeffrey W. Kirsch, Ph. D.  
Executive Director

cc. Mayor Jerry Sanders  
cc. Sherri Lightner  
cc. Kevin Faulconer  
cc. Todd Gloria  
cc. Anthony Young  
cc. Carl DeMaio  
cc. Lori Zapf  
cc. Marti Emerald  
cc. David Alvarez  
cc. Plaza de Panama Committee