



THE VOICE OF DOWNTOWN

March 20, 2012

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

Dear Ms. Shearer-Nguyen:

Balboa Park is a significant park resource for the downtown community and the Downtown San Diego Partnership has been following the Plaza de Panama project with great interest since 2010.

We are strongly supportive of the Plaza de Panama project. Of all alternatives studied in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), it is the only project that successfully balances the restoration of park space and the need to accommodate growing numbers of visitors each year.

No other alternative adds acres of park space, accommodates access from both sides of the park and increases parking. We understand that there is a historical impact, but feel that this impact is balanced by the benefits that San Diegans will see in the park.

We are opposed to any option that proposed to close the Cabrillo Bridge to vehicles. These alternatives will force the thousands of cars each day that access the park from the bridge to find alternate routes. As the EIR shows, this causes unacceptable traffic impacts outside of the park, including on A Street – one of downtown's main circulation arteries.

Balboa Park is an asset to the residents, businesses, and visitors of downtown and we strongly support the Plaza de Panama project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kris Michell", with a long, sweeping underline.

Kris Michell
President and CEO