

NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COALITION

Advocating for measures that preserve our established neighborhoods and historic resources for future generations

May 24, 2011

Mayor Jerry Sanders
City of San Diego
202 C Street, MS 11A
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mayor Sanders,

The Neighborhood Historic Preservation Coalition strongly supports removing cars from Plaza de Panama. How to accomplish that is the serious question.

The Coalition supports SOHO's Precise Plan Lite, which removes automobile parking and redirects cars away from the main plaza. It can be implemented efficiently, inexpensively, and with the least impact to the historical integrity of the park. Conversely, we view the Jacobs/Sanders plan as having severe impacts both visually and architecturally to the National Register Historic District. Demolishing some 80 feet of the historically designated Cabrillo Bridge approach wall, and then attaching a modern appendage ramp is not consistent with proper treatment of such an iconic historic landmark. Furthermore, the bypass road with the planned traffic circulation pattern at Alcazar Garden will significantly alter the atmosphere of that historic resource.

The amount of grading, cutting, digging, and soil removal associated with the deep road-trench and parking structure construction will severely alter the historic landscape and the spatial relationship it has with historic buildings.

The Coalition looks favorably on a number of other alternatives that pose less impact. Perhaps a hybrid of various proposals can be achieved. Partnering with the San Diego Zoo, for instance, to solve parking issues on the east side. Explore the Shapery proposal for a west side parking structure and tram service utilizing San Diego's historic streetcars. Re-striping and adjusting car lanes and parking spaces along Sixth Avenue can yield many parking spaces at relatively little cost.

With an abundance of good alternatives we are optimistic we can achieve the goals for 2015 without causing undo harm to our crown civic jewel. We look forward to a successful project resulting in a celebration all of San Diego will be proud of.

Sincerely,



Dan Soderberg, Chair NHPC

cc. Milford Wayne Donaldson, California State Historic Preservation Officer

*Save Our Heritage
Organisation*

*Albatross
Neighborhood
Association*

Between the Heights

*Burlingame
Homeowners
Association*

*Golden Hill Community
Development
Corporation*

Heart of Kensington

Hillcrest History Guild

La Jolla Historical Society

La Playa Heritage

Mission Hills Heritage

*Normalites for
Normal Heights*

*North Park Community
Planning Committee*

*University Heights
Community
Development Corp.*

*University Heights
Historical Society*