



Save Our Heritage Organisation  
*Saving San Diego's Past for the Future*

July 26, 2012

Dear Historic Preservationist and Lover of Balboa Park,

In what can only be described as the toughest battle in SOHO's history, the fight to protect and preserve Balboa Park from the most destructive project ever initiated to a National Historic Landmark in San Diego has received the blessing of all but one City council member, Sherri Lightner.

The six council members who voted to support the deeply flawed project ignored the protest of many thousands of citizens and some of the greatest minds in the region explaining why this was such a horrific plan; the massive protest included the National Park Service, the State Historic Preservation Office, and UNESCO.

The vote allows for a concrete freeway-like off-ramp off the Cabrillo/Laurel Street bridge to bisect and scar the park permanently, to remodel the park's historic core into what can only be described as a suburban business park landscape, to build a monolithic garage behind the organ pavilion and cover it with multiple new buildings that do not fit the park's architecture, and to embrace paid parking for the park.

I met with each councilperson and/or their staff and asked them to have the proponents work with the public and engage in authentic due diligence to find a compromise that would benefit all and protect Balboa Park as well. They refused to do so. The unlawful action taken by council left us with the only recourse being to avail ourselves of the justice system. The lawsuit will be based on the City's violations of the San Diego Municipal Code, the 1870 Trust Dedication of the Park as "free" in perpetuity, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in approving the plan.

As you know SOHO does not enter into litigation lightly or without being in the strongest position to prevail. Court costs to save Balboa Park will be substantial.

We need your financial support. We have never bowed to pressure from wealthy individuals and powerful politicians in making decisions that affect our heritage and we never will. It makes SOHO a formidable foe indeed and because of this a major public relations smear campaign to discredit the organization has ensued. But we remain apart from the fray with our integrity and high standards intact and we will not give up on Balboa Park.

We can save Balboa Park and we need your help. Please consider a donation today. Return the enclosed card or donate online at [sohosandiego.org](http://sohosandiego.org), or contact SOHO directly at (619) 291-9327.

You can count on SOHO to do all in our power to save Balboa Park and we are counting on you in return.

Sincerely,

Bruce Coons  
Executive Director

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