

March 21, 2012

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

RE: Balboa Park Plaza de Panama (Project No. 233958/SCH No. 2011031074)

Dear Ms. Shearer-Nguyen:

Attached please find comments on the Plaza de Panama Draft Environmental Impact Report prepared by several members of C3's Parks & Open Space committee. C3's board of directors will be meeting on April 8th to review the committee's work product. Please note that C3 enables specific standing committees to respond on behalf of the organization, particularly on a time sensitive basis such as this draft EIR, when the issue is one in which C3 has demonstrated civic experience and has position statements in place to guide the committee's actions.

As mentioned above, C3 has a long-standing interest in all aspects of issues relating to Balboa Park. In recent decades our organization has actively participated in the draft processes of the Balboa Park Master Plan in 1986, the Central Mesa Precise Plan in 1992, as well as many other studies, including: traffic circulation, parking, landscape architecture, pedestrian access, museum building expansion, and more.

With respect to the proposed project the only position C3 has taken to date is to oppose the construction of the bypass bridge off of the Cabrillo Bridge. C3 is aligned with the many other civic and community organizations who wish to emphasize pedestrian use of the park and to de-emphasize automobile use within the park, particularly within the Central Mesa.

C3 strongly supports both in concept and in implementation, an intra-park shuttle service to accommodate reduced vehicular access within the Central Mesa. The proposed tram service that is apart of the Plaza de Panama project fails in that effort. The proposed project encourages automobile use rather than discourages such.

Your responses to the questions raised by C3's Parks & Open Space committee to the Plaza de Panama Draft EIR are appreciated.

Sincerely,

John Lomac
2012 C3 President