



BALBOA PARK
CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

March 14, 2012

Elizabeth Shearer-Nguyen
City of San Diego Development Services
1222 First Avenue, MS 501
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Plaza de Panama Project Draft EIR

Dear Ms. Shearer-Nguyen:

On behalf of the 26 art, science, and cultural institutions comprising the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership (BPCP), I am writing to comment on the Draft EIR for the Plaza de Panama Project. BPCP was formed in 2003 to provide a means for member institutions to identify and achieve collective goals and to speak with one voice on issues of mutual benefit and importance. We are dedicated to developing and sustaining the Park for the benefit of all now and into the future.

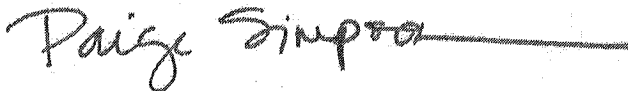
The Plaza de Panama Project is an issue that the Partnership feels is of mutual benefit and importance to our membership, and to the Park as a whole. Our board voted early last year to support the project.

We have reviewed the Draft EIR and find it to be a very thorough document that looked at all feasible alternatives to the project. If this alternatives analysis tells us anything, it is that there is no perfect alternative, but it clearly shows which one is best. The Plaza de Panama Project is the only alternative that presents a well-thought plan that addresses increased park space, historical restoration and rehabilitation, accommodation of visitor access to the park, increased parking and improved mobility within the park.

In addition to comments about the proposed project, we would like to express our opposition to alternatives that propose to close the Cabrillo Bridge to vehicles. Closing off access from the bridge may negatively impact the institutions within the park. Our member institutions count on convenient access to the park to attract more visitors, and cutting off that access will hinder these efforts. We should be pursuing efforts that make it easier to get to the park, not more difficult.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,



Paige Simpson
Interim Executive Director

Cc: Mayor Jerry Sanders
Plaza de Panama Committee
Councilmember David Alvarez
Councilmember Carl DeMaio
Councilmember Marti Emerald

Councilmember Kevin Faulconer
Councilmember Todd Gloria
Councilmember Sherri Lightner
Councilmember Tony Young
Councilmember Lorie Zapf

Collaborative for Arts, Science & Culture

