



NORTH PARK PLANNING COMMITTEE

<http://www.northparkplanning.org>

nppc-info@cox.net

May 23, 2011

Dear Mayor Sanders and Dr Jacobs:

On February 15, 2011 the North Park Planning Committee (NPPC) took action on the Plaza de Panama, Circulation & Parking Structure Project. This took place following presentations by Irwin Jacob's Project Team and SOHO, as well as extensive input by the public and discussion by the NPPC Board.

While people appreciated Dr Jacob's efforts to solve persistent problems in the Park they felt his project had numerous fatal flaws. They were concerned the project was focused on cars when it should have focused on pedestrians; there was frustration that Dr Jacobs has refused to seriously consider other options.

Those present identified a number of viable options for removing vehicular circulation from the Plaza which are not a part of this "Action" but might be in the future. There was support for removing the parking, which could be done now, so the discussion focused on the bypass portion of the plan, as this was singled out as the most egregious part of the project.

Additional concerns included but were not limited to; the concern over bringing more cars to the center of the Park, pedestrian vehicular conflicts especially the hard right going east onto the bypass, and using old technologies instead of figuring out how to bring pedestrians into the Park through transit solutions that would serve into the future. For these reasons the following Motion was approved:

MOTION: To oppose the "bypass bridge" off the historic Cabrillo Bridge as proposed in the Jacobs' plan for Balboa Park, and to encourage real exploration of alternative plans to remove parked cars from the Plaza de Panama that meet Secretary for the Interior Historic Preservation Standards. Carlson/Callen. (12-0-1) (Granowitz recused from discussion and voting.)

Mayor Sanders and Dr. Jacobs

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There was unanimity that achieving the goal of removing cars from the Plaza is something everyone would like to see, but not if doing so would cause irreparable harm to the historic and iconic Cabrillo Bridge and the majesty of the entrance to the Park. This trade off was seen as unacceptable, for all these reasons, we respectfully request that you intervene to stop the bypass.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'René A. Vidales', with a horizontal line underneath.

René A. Vidales, Vice Chair
North Park Planning Committee

cc: Hon. Christine Kehoe, State Senator
Hon. Toni Atkins, Assembly Member
Councilmember Todd Gloria
Councilmember Sherri Lightner
Councilmember Kevin Faulconer
Council President Tony Young
Councilmember Carl DeMaio
Councilmember Lorie Zapf
Councilmember Marti Emerald
Councilmember David Alvarez
M. Wayne Donaldson, State Historic Preservation Officer
Stacey LoMedico Director Park and Recreation Dept
Michelle Sokolowski, Project Manager, DSD
Bruce Coons, Executive Director SOHO
Cathy Winterrowd Senior Planner HRB
David Kinney Chair Balboa Park Committee
North Park Historical Society
University Heights Historic Society