



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER
DISTRICT ONE**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 18, 2009
TO: Honorable Mayor Jerry Sanders
FROM: Councilmember Sherri S. Lightner 
SUBJECT: Gonzales Canyon Neighborhood Park in the community of Pacific Highlands Ranch

Over 5,000 people reside in high density single family homes, detached homes, townhomes and affordable housing apartments within the tight-knit community of Pacific Highlands Ranch (PHR). About half of the 1,677 housing units (June 2009 unit total statistics from the Department of City Planning & Community Investment) in PHR do not have yards large enough for recreation. The single family detached homes only have courtyards and there are also townhouses and affordable housing apartments without yards. The need for a neighborhood park is critical.

This community was promised Gonzales Canyon Neighborhood Park when they purchased their homes. It is the mitigation needed for this high-density residential neighborhood with young and growing families. Gonzales Neighborhood Park is a five-acre neighborhood park - it is in the Public Facilities Financing Plan - and full funding is provided in the PHR Facilities Benefit Assessment (FBA) fund for land acquisition, and park design and construction.

The land acquisition has been unacceptably delayed. The community and I would like the land acquisition to be completed or the timeline to acquisition to be established by the end of the month. We believe that the park design should start immediately in parallel with the land acquisition process to decrease the time before the park is completed. We want the park to be ready by next Spring Break and no later than the beginning of next summer.

I thank your staff for discussing these issues with my office and respectfully request the following:

1. A meeting with our office, the community and Pardee to meet with the appropriate City staff to remove the stumbling blocks to getting this park timely built, and

2. That you and appropriate staff attend a community meeting hosted by our office to discuss the options the community has to get this park built now.

I respectfully request that these actions be scheduled as soon as possible.

It is my priority to ensure that funds are allocated to the ongoing operations and maintenance costs of this park. If this is not possible, it is imperative that we work with the community to find solutions to the operations and maintenance cost.

I look forward to your prompt response.

SL:av

cc: William Anderson, City Planning & Community Investment
Jim Barwick, Real Estate Assets
Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation
Kelly Broughton, Development Services
Patti Boekamp, Engineering & Capital Projects
Kevin Casey, Director of Council Affairs
Mary Jo Lanzafame, Assistant City Attorney
Carmel Valley Community Planning Board
Pardee Homes
Solana Beach School District
Ginny Barnes, Park and Recreation Board
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