



# **MEDIA STATEMENT**

## **COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM MARTI EMERALD**

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**Date: 7.14.2015**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **SAN DIEGO (AND THE) CHARGERS**

*San Diego, CA – July 14, 2015* – The San Diego City Council voted 6-3 to authorize \$2.1 million for environmental review services for a Stadium Reconstruction effort. Council President Pro Tem Marti Emerald was joined by Councilmembers Alvarez and Gloria in voting against this action. Emerald shared the following statement during council:

“In the interest of full disclosure, my family and I are big Charger fans. My husband grew up here, rooting for the Chargers. I enjoy them, too, and have great personal admiration for the Spanos Family and appreciate their contributions to our communities. We would love to see them stay. But, the Chargers have made a business decision that’s right for them. They have walked away from the bargaining table for the opportunity to move to a larger market.

Their spokesman attorney Mark Fabiani is widely quoted as saying, ‘The Chargers want no part of San Diego’s recent efforts to craft a stadium deal’, what Mr. Fabiani calls, ‘A misbegotten, doomed legal strategy.’ Now, here we are the San Diego City Council, considering a request for more money: \$2.1 million for a rushed Environmental Impact Report so the city can rush a ballot measure to voters in January. This after the council approved a quarter of a million dollars for a financial plan, which still does not exist, or at least is not being shared with this council.

Let’s make a decision that’s right for San Diego. Let’s refocus on the needs of our neighborhoods. We need billions of dollars to rebuild vital facilities and services, repair roads and bridges, build parks, invest in public safety and quality of life for all San Diegans.....not invest our precious tax dollars to further enrich a wealthy few.

Many of my constituents in District 9 live paycheck to paycheck. Most could never afford to buy tickets for a Chargers game. Yet, here we are contemplating a vote that would ultimately have them paying for a stadium with their tax dollars. It’s fundamentally unfair to straddle our hardworking taxpayers with this expense. I’m with the Chargers. This is a misbegotten strategy and we should stop throwing good money after bad. This is why I am voting no on this newest request for money, and will continue to do so if the Mayor continues down this path to build a costly new stadium at taxpayer expense.”

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