



March 12, 2007

Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council
Mr. Joe Gatlin
President
809 S. Grand Ave
San Pedro CA, 90731

Antonio R. Villaraigosa, Mayor
City of Los Angeles

Dear Joe:

**Board of Harbor
Commissioners**

S. David Freeman
President

Jerilyn López Mendoza
Vice President

Kaylynn L. Kim

Douglas P. Krause

Joseph R. Radtsich

Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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Thank you so much for your letter of February 23, 2007, regarding Knoll Hill. In that letter you requested that I confer with staff and the Board and provide your organization with a short and long term use plan for Knoll Hill.

First, although many uses for this property have been discussed, the Port has no immediate plans to develop or significantly improve Knoll Hill. However, as I have stated publicly on many occasions, the Port has no intention of incorporating this site into a container terminal, instead I believe this property has tremendous potential as an "overlook park." The dog parks, as well as any other approved use like ball fields are only temporary until a permanent use for this site is identified.

"Our plate" is pretty full with the waterfront developments in both San Pedro and Wilmington. As such, I have been reluctant to start additional projects until we are able to catch up with some of our back-logged capital program. In addition, the approved development on the waterfront may very well help determine what the best use of the Knoll Hill property is. The time lag in developing plans for this area will also give the Port the opportunity to acquire the remaining privately owned parcels on Knoll Hill as they become available on the market.

Recognizing that the planning process for Knoll Hill will not occur in the immediate future, I had no objections to the temporary use of the site for ball fields. Although Port staff and I keep the Commissioners apprised of all our potential development plans, I do not have a Knoll Hill plan appropriately vetted for them to consider, however, please know that any future development plans for Knoll Hill would involve community collaboration and a complete review by the Commissioners. It is collaboration from all concerned which will determine the best use of this property.

Your letter does come at an optimum time. I will be writing to all the neighborhood council presidents to arrange a meeting to discuss how the Port can work more closely with all the neighborhood councils. The use of Knoll Hill is one example of many issues of mutual interest we can collaborate on in the future.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (310) 732-3456.

Sincerely,


GERALDINE KNATZ, PH.D.
Executive Director

