



135 W. Green St, Suite 200
Pasadena, CA
91105
t: 323.223.0441
tpl.org

DATE: March 21, 2022

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Ms. Lee,

Over the last several months, The Trust for Public Land ("TPL") has been meeting with members of the Santa Ana City Council and staff to discuss potential pathways to purchase and convey the Willowick property to the City of Santa Ana for open space. As stated several times in previous communication, TPL's proposal to purchase the property for open space holds a 'super priority' under the Surplus Land Act as our proposal intends to retain the current zoning of the property and contemplates continued use of the property as public recreational open space. It is our reasonable belief that Santa Ana is most likely the ultimate public agency steward on whose behalf we would purchase the property. This belief is further supported by the letter provided to Mayor Jones from Mayor Sarmiento, dated March 7, 2022, in which Mayor Sarmiento states his preference to "secure a large portion of the site for open space, recreation and community benefits."

At this time, it is important to recognize that the City of Garden Grove has shifted the focus of your initial Notice of Availability to sell/lease the Willowick property (dated March 12, 2020) to a more focused interest in leasing a portion of the property to secure a long-term revenue stream for the City of Garden Grove. This shift in approach makes negotiations difficult; we are concerned that it does not prejudice our proposal and negotiations to buy the land for continued use as public recreational open space pursuant to the SLA. We look forward to securing clarity on the City's final intentions by moving forward with a sale of the Willowick site for open space.

I look forward to working with Garden Grove to ensure residents in both Santa Ana and Garden Grove are served by this once in a generation



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opportunity to create tangible community benefits at the Willowick Community Park. If you have any questions or would like to speak with me directly, please feel free to contact me at 323.333.6310.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "R. Mark", written on a light blue horizontal line.

Robin Mark
Los Angeles Program Director