



County Executive Office Real Estate

Willowick Submittal

August 21, 2020

To: Grace Lee, City of Garden Grove

From: Brian A. Bauer, Land Development Manager

Subject: County of Orange; Response to Notice of Availability of the Willowick Property

The County of Orange, through CEO Real Estate and OC Parks, (collectively the “County”) provides this response to the City of Garden Grove’s (“Garden Grove”) Notice of Availability of the Willowick Property (“Property”) for open space and housing development purposes. In order to respond in full to the City of Garden Grove’s Notice of Availability letter dated July 24, 2020, and to comply with Government Code Section 54220 et. seq. (the “Surplus Land Act”), the following information is provided to more fully detail the County’s interest in the Property.

Proposing Entity:

On behalf of the County, CEO Real Estate submits the following response. The County’s primary points of contact will be as set forth below:

- i. Brian A. Bauer, Land Development Manager
 1. Address: 601 N. Ross St., Santa Ana, CA 92701
 2. Office Phone: (714) 834-5663
 3. Email Address: brian.bauer@ocgov.com
- ii. Stacy Blackwood, Director of OC Parks

1. Address: 13042 Old Myford Rd, Irvine, CA 92602
2. Office Phone: 714-973-6644
3. Email Address: stacy.blackwood@ocparks.com

Terms of Acquisition:

The County would like to propose a “value add” arrangement for current or future uses of the Property. The County foresees potential scenarios in which a developer may desire to work with the County to place a combination of market rate, supportive, and affordable housing developments on the Property. The City of Santa Ana (“Santa Ana”) will also likely require the development to provide a portion of the Property for park or open space to address a deficit of such land in Santa Ana. To address the need both for housing and open space, the County would like to propose the operation and maintenance of twenty (20) acres of the Property as Open Space as a part of the County Regional Park system and an additional fifteen (15) acres of the Property for a combination of market rate, supportive and income qualified affordable housing.

Under this proposal, the County will provide operation and maintenance of a Regional Park that would serve the population of Santa Ana and permit a private developer the opportunity to focus on the housing portion of the Property. After the park portion is improved by the developer, it will be turned over to the County for future operation and maintenance. This proposal would fulfill three important purposes: 1) it addresses Garden Grove’s desire to monetize this asset while addressing regional needs; 2) it addresses the important need for open space required by the citizens of Santa Ana and surrounding areas; and, 3) it helps the County realize its purpose in providing parkland for the citizens in the County of Orange while at the same time tying into important future regional transportation (i.e., the OC Streetcar).

Working with the Housing Finance Trust, the County believes development of this property is a great opportunity to further its affordable housing goals and begin discussions with Santa Ana to realize this goal. Maintaining the open space or regional park would also help any housing or other developments placed on the Property to meet their open space requirements.

Contingencies of Purchase:

The County of Orange does not seek to purchase the twenty (20) open space acres at this time but seeks to add value to the development of another respondent or future proposer. As such, after the applicable portion of the Property is improved by the developer for park purposes, the County would accept the 'no-fee' transfer of the property for administration and maintenance as a Regional Park. The County would accept such transfer after the property has been appropriately improved for open space purposes. The County would accept the transfer of the affordable housing portion of the property after it has been approved and readied for affordable housing. For the fifteen (15) acres of affordable housing the County would propose to partner with a developer during an option period and accept transfer of the acreage once a development partner had been secured.

Proposed Project:

The County has put together the below development scenarios for a regional park and affordable housing component on the Property.

In the illustrated attached conceptual site plan (see, Attachment A), the regional park is conceptualized as a 20-acre parcel adjacent to the Santa Ana River and the future streetcar system which would be joined with a 15-acre affordable housing parcel. The

regional park could address access to the streetcar and walking trails and exist as a rest stop for travelers along the Santa Ana River Bike Trail. Conceptually, no structures would be placed on the regional park and, as much as possible, open space would be preserved in a natural state. Meanwhile the affordable housing component could host numerous affordable units to promote affordable housing and economic development in this community.

Financing Sources:

1. The proposed operation of the regional park would be financed from either future development, governmental grants, or the OC Parks budget. The ownership of the land could be either through a fee conveyance, a lease, or an easement on the future development.
2. The proposed development and operation of the affordable units would be financed from either future development, affordable in-lieu fees, or governmental grants. The ownership of the land would be through a fee conveyance.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to respond to this Notice of Availability. At your convenience we would like to discuss future cooperation on the Willowick Property and how a County open space park effort and affordable housing could add a tremendous value to all parties involved in this development.

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Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions or need any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian A. Bauer', written over a horizontal line.

Brian A. Bauer

Manager – County Land Development
County Executive Office, Real Estate
County of Orange
County Administrative South
601 N. Ross St., Second Floor
Santa Ana, CA 92701

ATTACHMENT A – CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

