

Heather Flores

From: juan ovalle [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 7:06 PM
To: PlanningCommissioners; Christopher Koontz; Amy Harbin
Cc: Ben Harris; Sunjana Supekar
Subject: EDITED: Item 2 Sept. 1, 2022 Agenda 712 Baker St. FEIR
Attachments: Screen Shot 2022-09-01 at 1.36.27 PM(1).png; Screen Shot 2022-09-01 at 1.46.13 PM.png; Letter of Support(1).pdf; Wrigley Heights Grant Application CD.pdf

-EXTERNAL-

September 1st, 2022

Planning Commission, City of Long Beach

Subject: Item 2 Sept. 1, 2022 Agenda 712 Baker St. FEIR

As a resident Western Long Beach that grew up and has lived only about a mile away from the Proposed 712 Baker St. project for over 50 years, I ask that you reject this project. As children, the LA River was our playground, riding my bike near the last remaining parcels north and south of the San Diego Freeway was a dream of future park land for all of us to enjoy.

As a member of the Riverpark Coalition, I agree with the comments made by our attorneys, Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Mineer, and would only like to echo a few comments made by colleagues at RPC and add a couple of documents for your consideration as you make that final vote.

On January 18, 2022, the following was part of the Parks & Rec Strategic Plan adopted by council, which you must read and perhaps even memorize. Wrigley and West Long Beach are a mainly working class community with over 80% of the population being of Hispanic and Asian descent.

"The City of Long Beach released the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative [RERI], an evolving report that was unanimously adopted by Long Beach City Council on June 23, 2020. The Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative identifies Equity Goals and Strategies that address issues of systemic racial inequality based on community feedback, national best practices, existing City data, and City Council priorities. The four key goals for the City are: GOAL 1 End systemic racism in Long Beach, in all local government and partner agencies, through internal transformation. GOAL 2 Design and invest in community safety and violence prevention. GOAL 3 Redesign police approach to community safety. GOAL 4 Improve health and wellness in the City by eliminating social and economic disparities in the communities most impacted by racism.

Oh, how the winds have changed from promised action and attempts towards meeting a goal, to political opportunists attempting to appease their donors. Using our City or their position as stepping stones for higher office as is the case with your current Commission President and of course our Mayor, who has received thousands of dollars from associates, employees and family of the Developer of the subject project is not acceptable!

In 2003 our acting City Manager Gerald R. Miller attempted to follow through on a promise by applying for a grant to purchase these 20 acres of land, please refer to the attached grant application. Today, we have a Mayor that may have acted unethically and may have violated a long tradition of Council and Mayors staying away from stating their support for a specific project until approved by Planning (attached). In this case all members of the Planning Commission have been

appointed by the Mayor himself. Now, a letter to solidify his obligation to the Developer that contributed thousands of dollars is simply an open admonition to his obligation to those that pave his way with campaign contributions (see attached).

Oh yes, how things have changed in our City! Some for the better, some for the unethical. Decision makers, please reject this project and do what is right for our western Long Beach communities and protect the last remaining parcels of open land for future generations to enjoy as the riparian wetlands, trails, and forested land to act as a buffer to all the unseen pollution that is reducing the lifespan of our neighbors our children and ourselves.

Vote NO!

Juan E. Ovalle

On Thu, Sep 1, 2022 at 3:07 PM juan ovalle [REDACTED] wrote:

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Planning Commission, City of Long Beach

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Juan E. Ovalle

Riverpark Coalition

<https://www.riverparkcoalition.org/>



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

August 30, 2022

Chair Joni Ricks-Oddie
Planning Commission, City of Long Beach
411 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Chair Ricks-Oddie and Planning Commissioners:

This week you will be considering an item on the Riverpark Residential Project. I am writing in strong support of this project. Its approval will support the housing and environmental goals in our city and have a positive impact on our community.

The Riverpark Residential Project will play an important role in the city's plan to create more housing and to address the issue of housing insecurity. Not only will the project create 226 new housing units, but it will also provide 12 units of affordable housing. This will move our city closer to accomplishing not only our own housing goals, but the goal set out by the State – upholding our city's record as a national leader and model.

In addition to providing housing, the project will improve and stimulate the surrounding community. It will do so by eliminating a contaminated site and replacing it with 5 acres of new park, dog park improvements, and upgrades to the city-owned park it will be located adjacent to. The recreational opportunities that this development will provide will be enormously beneficial to the surrounding Wrigley Heights community and our entire city.

Thank you for your consideration and your hard work on behalf of our City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Garcia", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

State of California – The Resources Agency
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

**CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, AND
COASTAL PROTECTION ACT OF 2002**

GRANTPROJECT APPLICATION

This Form and Required Attachments Must Be Submitted for Each Project Site













PROJECT NAME WRIGLEY HEIGHTS ACQUISITION		AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTED \$5 million	
		Estimated TOTAL PROJECT COST (State Grant and other funds) \$6.8 million	
Grant Applicant (Agency/Organization and Address) City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation & Marine 2760 N. Studebaker Road Long Beach, CA 90815-1697 FAX (562) 570-3224	COUNTY Los Angeles	NEAREST CITY Long Beach	
	PROJECT ADDRESS 701 Baker Street, Long Beach		
	NEAREST CROSS STREET Wardlow Road & Magnolia		
	SENATE DISTRICT NO. 25 th	ASSEMBLY DISTRICT NO. 54 th	
Grant Applicant's Representative Authorized in Resolution			
Gerald R. Miller Name		Acting City Manager Title	(562) 570-6916 Phone
Person with day-to-day responsibility for Project (if different from authorized representative)			
Dennis Eschen Name		Manager of Planning & Development Title	(562) 570-3132 Phone
Brief description of Project The Wrigley Heights Acquisition project will provide for the acquisition of 20 acres of Los Angeles River front property for the future restoration of historical wetlands, passive recreation, and publicly accessible open space.			
For Development Projects Land Tenure – Project is: _____ acres: _____ Acres owned in fee simple by Applicant _____ Acres available under a _____ year lease _____ Acres other interest (explain) _____ _____		For Acquisition Projects Project land will be <u>20</u> acres <u>X</u> Acres acquired in fee simple by Applicant _____ Acres in other than fee simple (explain) _____ _____	
I certify that the information contained in this Project Application form and Application requirements is accurate.			
Signed <u>(Gerald R. Miller)</u> Grant Applicant's Authorized Representative as shown in Resolution		<u>2/28/03</u> Date	

Top Industries

Select cycle: 2022

Most members of Congress get the bulk of their campaign contributions from two main sources: the industries that make up the economic base of their home district and the Washington-based interest groups that pay more attention to the member's committee assignments in Congress. In addition, most Democrats receive substantial sums from labor unions. [• Read more](#)

Robert Garcia (D)

Industry	Total
Real Estate 	\$79,570 
Pro-Israel	\$56,600
Retired	\$52,449
Leadership PACs	\$35,500
Business Services	\$34,098
Building Trade Unions 	\$31,000 
Human Rights	\$30,340
Lawyers/Law Firms 	\$30,224 
TV/Movies/Music	\$25,860
Misc Unions	\$24,250
Construction Services 	\$23,055 
Lobbyists 	\$21,350 
Education	\$19,139
Civil Servants/Public Officials	\$15,900
Candidate Committees	\$14,000
Misc Finance	\$12,500
General Contractors 	\$11,850 

Top Contributors

These tables list the top donors to candidates in the 2021-2022 House election cycle **The organizations themselves did not donate, rather the money came from the organizations' PACs, their individual members or employees or owners, and those individuals' immediate families.** Organization totals include subsidiaries and affiliates.

Select cycle: 2022

[Download .csv file](#)

Robert Garcia (D)

Contributor	Total
American Israel Public Affairs Cmte	\$38,450
Curtin Maritime	\$17,400
Waterford Property Co	\$14,500
Lyon Living	\$13,800
Integral Communities	\$11,600
Shangri-La Industries	\$11,600
Comcast Corp	\$11,600
Keesal, Young & Logan	\$10,050
Insite Property Group	\$10,000
Beverly Connection Rockets	\$10,000
Billie Jean King Enterprises	\$8,700
Keck Graduate Institute	\$8,700
Real Estate Law Group	\$8,700
United Parcel Service	\$6,800
Eka	\$6,800
Demos	\$6,300
Corporate Enterprises	\$5,800
Catalyst Cannabis Co	\$5,800
Ttsi	\$5,800
Servicon Systems	\$5,800