

From: Richard Gutmann <rwgutmann@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 20, 2021 8:39 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; CityAttorney <CityAttorney@longbeach.gov>

Subject: Westside Park Space

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Please read my attached letter pleading for you to do the right thing and not allow further degradation of the West Side of our City with self-storage and tiny-lots homes, when we are in such great need of open space and the air-cleaning trees such space will provide.

Self-storage next to Los Cerritos Elementary School (or any school) is a horrible idea. People can, and do, store explosives, fireworks, ammunition, various flammables--almost anything--in such facilities.

This site is known to be horribly contaminated with oil sludge and various toxic chemicals 50 feet deep in some places, yet City staff wants to allow this project to proceed without so much as an Environmental Impact Report. This is irresponsible and most likely inviting a lawsuit in the future.

I hope you all do the right thing and first require an EIR for the proposed storage facility at 3701 Pacific Place, before rejecting such neighborhood-destroying projects as proposed there and at 712 W. Baker Street.

Richard Gutmann
Long Beach, CA 90806-1117

Date: 3-20-2021

Mayor Robert Garcia
411 E Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mayor Garcia and City Councilmembers:

Residents in the western half of Long Beach have approximately 17 times less access to green space than residents in the eastern half of Long Beach. Western Long Beach (aka the Diesel Death Corridor) also suffers from much higher rates of asthma and cancer in addition to experiencing lower life expectancies than eastern Long Beach. More so now than ever, the City of Long Beach has an obligation to lean into its stated goals of achieving equity in our city. The immense disparities in access to green space cannot be allowed to stand; park equity must be made a top priority for the City of Long Beach.

Given the urgent need for increasing park spaces in western Long Beach, and given the immediate threat posed to the last remaining parcels along the lower LA River, I urge you use any and all available means to **acquire the time-sensitive 3701 Pacific Place and Oil Operators Inc parcel at 712 Baker St** before they are built on and lost forever to our community and all who care about the LA River.

Acquiring these properties along the LA River will enable the City to make significant progress toward its long-established promise laid out in the RiverLink Plan, which was unanimously approved by the City Council in 2015. The City must begin negotiations in earnest with the landowners to acquire these properties for the public while assisting the would-be developers to relocate their proposed construction to more suitable and less sensitive locations. These lands are too valuable to the City to lose. The Council's available tools include:

- Requiring an Environmental Impact Report at 3701 Pacific Place
- Denying all requests for zoning changes
- Denying all approvals and permits for construction
- Using eminent domain to meet the dire need for green space along the lower LA River

Many millions of dollars have been earmarked by state agencies for acquisition (e.g. AB 530 and Prop 68); significant federal funding is also available to clean these lands to meet the needs of our communities for green space. The Mayor and the City Council must do everything in their power to stop the construction and instead bring these last open spaces into the public domain before they are paved over and gone to us and future generations forever.

Name: Richard Gutmann

Signature: Richard Gutmann

Council District Number: 7