




R-32

Date: August 8, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District 

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: Resolution Protecting California State Park Lands**

The City of Long Beach embraced "sustainability" as the basic guiding precept of the 2010 Strategic Plan. Specifically, the 2010 Plan established as an environmental goal to encourage public environmental education, awareness and involvement in areas such as air and water quality, the deleterious impacts of automobile reliance, and the unintended consequences of unchecked population growth. (E1.7) The 2010 Plan also encouraged collaboration in regional efforts to reduce pollution and to work with neighboring cities and agencies to identify and purchase land for wetlands and bird fly zones.

The City's 2010 Strategic Plan clearly encourages the City Council to take appropriate actions on regional environmental issues. One such project that should be of interest to the residents of Long Beach is a proposed toll road, called the Foothill-South Toll Road, that would run over four miles in length through the heart of the nearly 1,200 acre of San Onofre State Beach. California state park lands are designated for their protection and preservation on behalf of future generations and should not be warehoused for later development in a manner inconsistent with state park purposes. Similar to the City's policy of sustainability, protection of state park lands is a matter of paramount statewide concern, which requires that these lands not become the least costly alternative for major infrastructure projects deemed to be necessary for uses inconsistent with state park purposes.

On November 18, 2005, the California State Park and Recreation Commission, in a resolution entitled "Opposing a Proposed Toll Road Alignment and Request for Action to Protect San Onofre State Beach," reaffirmed the principle that state parks are "designated for their protection and preservation on behalf of this and future generations and should not be used in a manner inconsistent with state park purposes. I am requesting the City Council's support for opposing the Foothill-South Toll Road on California State Parks property on the grounds that the proposed road is not a sound environmental investment and is inconsistent with California and the City of Long Beach's compelling interest in protecting public state park lands.

Recommendation: **Request the City Attorney to draft a resolution opposing the Foothill-South Toll Road on California State Parks property and to direct the City to refrain from acquiring any bonds for, or making other financial investments in, the Foothill-South Toll Road.**