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December 14, 2015

RE: DLBA Supports New Long Beach Civic Center

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mayor Garcia and members of the City Council:

On Tuesday, December 15, 2015 the Long Beach City Council will consider moving forward with the development of a new Civic Center to replace the existing City Hall and Main Library structures, which were first identified as seismically deficient in 2007. The new 15.87-acre Civic Center would include a new City Hall and Port Headquarters, a new Main Library, a redeveloped Lincoln Park, and residential and mixed-use development. The Downtown Long Beach Associates (DLBA) supports City Council action to transform our existing Civic Center complex into a place that truly represents the vibrancy and community spirit of Long Beach.

With a Downtown visioning process led by Vice Mayor Suja Lowenthal that began more than five years ago, the DLBA participated, along with the Long Beach community and contributed its input regarding the future of the Civic Center and Downtown as a whole.

In December of 2014 Plenary Edgemoor Civic Partners was unanimously chosen by City Council to develop the new Civic Center through a public-private partnership structure that sought to limit the City's future annual cost to at or near the existing cost to the City of maintaining the existing Civic Center. While the current revised annual cost has risen from that goal, the resulting project has benefited from input during a robust community outreach process leading to a Civic Center that better reflects the needs of the community and City personnel.

The DLBA led its own Civic Center outreach over the past two years (the results of our outreach can be found at downtownlongbeach.org/civic-center) that included workshops, visioning sessions, task force meetings, and community events. These efforts have contributed to shaping the proposed Civic Center project into one that better reflects the desires of the community.

As the proposed development moves forward, DLBA will continue to work with Plenary-Edgemoor Civic Partners and the City in making the new Long Beach Civic Center a world class space for our community.

The redevelopment of the Civic Center poses a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reimagine this space in the heart of our revitalized Downtown. An inviting, well-planned civic core integrated into the existing Downtown fabric could lead to increased civic engagement, greater accessibility to open space, added vibrancy through added residential units and retail, and much more. The DLBA enthusiastically supports making it a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kraig Kojian".

Kraig Kojian
President and CEO

cc: DLBA Board of Directors
Mike Conway, City of Long Beach, Director of Economic Development and Property Services
Amy Bodek, City of Long Beach, Director of Development Services
Jeffrey Fullerton, Director, Edgemoor Real Estate Services