



City of Imperial Beach, California

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

April 24, 2012

Chairman Lou Smith
Unified Port of San Diego
3165 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

SUBJECT: POND 20

Dear Chairman Smith:

Our City entered into the recent Pond 20 MOU in the hope of creating a thorough process to explore once again, potential uses for the 95 acre site. It now appears that some parties may be trying to short-circuit the process.

Therefore let me make a few comments:

- 1) We would like the MOU process to continue past the initial public discussions to, as the MOU states, "the formulation of a holistic restoration/enhancement plan to provide a balanced approach, which may identify environmental and economic development for Pond 20," after public outreach, development workshops, letters of interest, and public outreach, site feasibility, and involvement of the signatories to the MOU.
- 2) Please do not rule out any potential uses at this stage of the process. It is too early to close the doors to any ideas.
- 3) We believe that development of commerce on a portion of Pond 20 adjacent to Palm Avenue is an appropriate use. Development of commerce will provide jobs and revenues to the South Bay.
- 4) Development of commerce on a portion of Pond 20 can be beneficial to the environmental restoration of other portions of the site by providing funds for restoration and maintenance of the restored area. This finding could happen faster and with greater certainty than governmental or non-profit funds.
- 5) Currently access to the Bay for the public from the South Bay is very restricted, if not non-existent. Therefore, we urge that any development and restoration/mitigation uses plan for and provide public access to the Bay through Pond 20. Such public access should at least allow pedestrians to hike through Pond 20 and should provide access to the Bay for small non-motorized boats such as kayaks, canoes and rowboats.

In summary:

- 1) Please continue your dialogue with interested parties and do not rule out any potential uses at this time.

- 2) We believe the development of commerce in Pond 20 and its restoration are compatible, complimentary uses.
- 3) Any restoration should enhance access to the Bay for the South Bay Community, including pedestrians and small, non-motorized boats.

I thank you for consideration of our thoughts.

Sincerely,



James C. Janney
Mayor
City of Imperial Beach

CC: Port Commissioners
Wayne Darbeau
City Council