

Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole

From: tntmcq [tntmcq@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 9:27 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: SB Botanic Garden Plan
May 2, 2010

County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Supervisors and Clerk of the Board

I am writing concerning the upcoming decision on the SB Botanic Garden's Vital Mission Plan.

The Garden has worked for many years to build the facilities needed to maintain the Garden. Over the last ten years I believe that they have really listened to opponents and have paired down their plans to a realistic proposal that compromises development with preservation.

The Jesusita Fire of last year brought more challenges to the Garden, leaving them with almost no maintenance facilities still standing. The Gane House should be rebuilt, they need more storage space, research space, and learning centers. Besides being a beautiful place, the Garden is more than that. They are on the cutting edge of research in the botanic world. People from all over the globe come to the garden to analyze their endangered plants and extinct plant samples. Additionally, there is so much learning that takes place at the Garden. The children in our community get outside of the classroom and interact with plant life, making it a more meaningful and more memorable teaching moment. It is ridiculous to propose that the Garden build downtown and shuttle people back and forth to the Mission Canyon site. The amount of development proposed is very small compared to the acreage held by the Garden.

I believe it is nit-picking tiny details to argue about whether hot food or cold drinks can be served. Critics of the vehicle trips generated should recognize that on-site food and drink has been required of many developments in semi-rural areas, just for the purpose of cutting down on trips off-site for food or drink. Similarly, the debated pavers are limited in scope and certainly make the Garden easier for some people to visit. My own mother had a difficult time some years ago trying to walk the paths with her cane. I don't believe anyone is proposing to put pavers other than in a loop around the meadow, and this seems a reasonable accommodation. Most businesses and new developments are required to do much more, whether or not it is logical for the nature of the business.

It seems the Garden has tried to be a good neighbor, installing the fire line and hydrants last year, and maintaining a low profile. Many of the objecting neighbors seem to be over-reacting to the traffic and fire threats. As a member for many years, I have never seen anything approaching a "crowd" at the Garden. I live near the Natural History Museum, and take the occasional events and their vehicle traffic as part of the trade-off for allowing these institutions to serve us, the residents of Santa Barbara and California. The closing of the Garden on fire alert days should alleviate much of the concern in that regard.

I believe it is time to approve the Vital Mission Plan and let improvements begin. Please support

5/4/2010

their plans and vote to approve the much needed updates.

Sincerely,

Toni McQueen

Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole

From: Janddodowd@aol.com

Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 8:17 PM

To: sbcob; SupervisorCarbajal@sbcos1.org; jwolf@sbcos2.org

Subject: Botanic Garden Plan

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I wish to add my voice to many others in support of the proposal for improving the facilities and property of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. In particular I am concerned that the important research role of the Garden be enhanced by providing adequate spaces for this activity.

The garden has played a vital role in identifying and studying the flora of this region for decades. This work has been hampered by space and equipment limitations which can now be addressed. I urge you to approve of the request to proceed with this vital project.

Sincerely, Donald D. O'Dowd, 801-A Senda Verde, Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole

From: Allen, Michael (COB)
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 7:02 AM
To: Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole
Subject: FW: BOTANIC GARDEN

web

-----Original Message-----

From: Laura Bissell [mailto:laurabissell@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 8:22 PM
To: Allen, Michael (COB); SALUD CARBJAL; Wolf, Janet; Centeno, Joseph; Gray, Joni
Cc: BISSELL LAURA
Subject: BOTANIC GARDEN

i was a long time member and volunteer at the botanic garden. i resigned both positions with great regret. it was necessary to protest ed schneider and his self perpetuating board's many plans. they were poorly conceived and extravagant. i am a mission canyon resident who came very close to loosing my home in the jesusita fire. my daughter and many friends were not so lucky. i find it unconscionable for ed and his board to exploit the fire to get the so called "vital mission plan" passed. the plan is not good for mission canyon , the original goals are not honored and it side steps the historic landmark! i look forward to the rebirth of the garden as the place of beauty and serenity that it was. it's mission is preserving california native plants, continuing research and education . many "trails" should be handicapped friendly but not paved to look like an industrial park. we can with the right plan preserve the garden's beauty and purpose.

Laura Bissell

Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole

From: Peter and Paulina Conn [pconnt43@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 10:53 PM
To: Centeno, Joseph; sbcob; Carbajal, Salud; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Gray, Joni
Subject: SBBG CUP define maintenance, alteration, new construction on landmark

2612 Foothill Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

May 3, 2010

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

SB Botanic Garden (SBBG) expansion plan. The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) needs to include specific definitions for the words "maintenance", "alteration" and "new construction"

Dear Board of Supervisors,

In considering the new CUP for the SBBG please include definitions for "maintenance", "alteration" and "new construction" for the trails on the landmark. Definitions are important so that the SBBG management and the County Planning Department will know if a character defining feature of County Historic Landmark #24 is being changed or not. These definitions also apply to Americans with Disability Act (ADA) guidelines.

Maintenance to a trail returns the trail to its original condition.

Filling in holes in the trail surface that have been caused by use, animals, weather or water would be considered maintenance.

Alteration to a trail changes the trail surface from its original condition. Paving a previously dirt trail changes the original surface of the trail from dirt to cement, bricks, pavers, etc. and is considered a change or alteration.

Newly constructed trails are trails constructed in an area where previously no trail existed. The surface may be compacted dirt or not.

These definitions of "maintenance", "alteration" and "new construction" will also work for other features and structures on the landmark or that are landmarks themselves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paulina Conn
682-5183







Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Katie Dabney [katiedabney@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 9:41 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Botanic Garden expansion

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Orange

As a 40+ year resident of Mission Canyon, I strongly support the concerns of the MC Association and oppose the garden expansion as planned.

Sincerely,
Katie Dabney

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Sherilyn [Sherilync@cox.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 1:35 PM
To: sbcob; SupervisorCarbajal; Wolf, Janet
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Orange

May 4, 2010

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County
105 East Anapamu Street Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara Community and being a concerned citizen myself, I believe it is my duty to inform you of the great need for change and renovations at the Botanic Garden. The Vital Mission Plan has been carefully drafted, revised, and adapted to meet the previous concerns of the community. It will be an excellent advancement for the Botanic Garden as well as the entire community.

I believe it is our duty to stand up to the neighbors of Mission Canyon that will resist any change at the Botanic Garden. As Americans, we know that changing and adapting is what makes our Country not only unique, but a leader in many fields. I think it is important that we do not allow these neighbors who tout fire danger and other fear tactics to rally the community against change at the Botanic Garden.

As a concerned citizen, I am pleading with you; please support these greatly needed changes at the Botanic Garden. Stand up to the neighbors of Mission Canyon and do not allow them to single handedly restrict the Botanic Garden from moving forward.

Thank you,
SHerilyn C. Scranton

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: LAMARA HEARTWELL [joyblossom@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 10:40 AM
To: LAMARA HEARTWELL
Cc: Allen, Michael (COB); Carbajal, Salud; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Centeno, Joseph
Subject: PLEASE READ, BG appeal, thank you!!!
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Orange

Dear Supervisors,

I know today is a very significant day in the lives of the Mission Canyon residents. It's interesting that this court date is on the one year mark of the Jesusita fire. To me, that is a pointer to remember what happened on this day and to make your decision today with great awareness.

I realize that a large amounts of money have gone into the push to make the BG project be approved, and to look good by the community and to therefore get lots of support.

***** I ask, with all my heart, for you to step into the place of the mission canyon residents, and fully feel our position for a few minutes!

My husband and I chose to move from northern california to Santa Barbara 5 years ago due to finding the property of our dreams in Mission Canyon. The reason why Mission Canyon became our ultimate dream place to live is because of the quiet, remote, beauty of this place while being close to a great city. This project the BG is looking to approve, would SIGNIFICANTLY impact the gift of living in mission canyon. We would encounter a great deal of noise from the amount of construction and people attending events, in addition to not being able to see the stars as well at night due to the amount of lighting at these events. Even more significantly, we would encounter TRAFFIC in traveling to and from our land to go to town. When the BG engaged in one simple construction project about a year and a half ago, months went by where we had to wait 10 minutes or more, TOTALLY STOPPED, on mission canyon rd. due to this construction.

This may not seem like a big deal to you, however, for us, THIS IS HUGE!!! To have invested HUGE amounts of time, money and energy to actually buy property in mission canyon with the intention to spend the rest of our lives here, and then to find out that we'd be dealing with traffic, and light/ noise pollution for 10 years or more..... and to not have a choice of another route, as this is the only road we can take. And, for us, it's REALLY IMPORTANT to have dark, quiet evenings where we can feel like we are immersed in nature and be nourished by this gift. One of my favorite things about where we live is how well we can see the stars at night. To me, this new BG project, is meant for an URBAN area, NOT a RURAL sanctuary. Please encourage them to have their events, and educational buildings, OFF SITE.

Lastly, and **most importantly**, is the safety issue. I know many people have brought this to your attention. My husband and I live at the very top of M.C. rd. and our home was one of the first ones to burn in the Jesusita fire. In talking to the fire department and hearing how many minutes it took for the fire to rip down one side of the canyon, to come flying up the other side, and to ignite the whole canyon..... I was SHOCKED!!!!!! We are talking LESS THAN 5 MINUTES! They fled our property and 3 squads of fire trucks left immediately and didn't even try to save our home and property.

Was I in traffic on May 5th trying to evacuate my home, YES! Did I feel massive fear for my life waiting in that traffic line, trying to escape the fire, YES! Would this expansion of the Botanical Garden effect the amount of traffic, during fire season, YES! Is this a highly risky, dangerous, and NOT needed threat to the mission canyon residents, AND the BG: YES, YES, YES!!!

*****THANK YOU FOR RECEIVING THESE WORDS. To me, we are at a place in our world, as a humanity, where, if we don't make SUSTAINABLE, CONSCIOUS, UN-SELFISH choices, we are not going to survive as a species for much longer. To me, this choice of keeping mission canyon more rural, safe, and less developed, DOES AFFECT this bigger issue across the planet. PLEASE, let's be a model in Santa Barbara of the world we all want to live in vs. feeding the problem of carelessly developing more and more, without taking into account the people, the wildlife, and the importance of protecting our natural resources!

Sincerely,
Lamara Heartwell

May 4, 2010

Dear Board of Supervisors:

After ten years of collaboration, reductions, and refinements, I know that the Vital Mission Plan now presented to the Board of Supervisors by the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden truly represents the minimum needed to continue the Garden's work of eighty years. The plan is absolutely bare-bones, but it needs your approval still.

After the setback of the Jesusita fires last year which destroyed most of the garden and facilities, the plan is even more important to the Garden's future. It asks for only 25,000 extra square feet in order to rebuild and improve vital research and education facilities. All the building is set to be done in the same building footprint that has existed for decades. The buildings will be revitalized, but the activities of the Garden will not change at all.

Additionally, for the first time in history, the Garden will institute a cap on the annual number of visitors and events. This will further protect the environment of the Garden and keep traffic to a minimum. Some neighbors have been concerned about increased fire danger as a result of the plan. In fact, the opposite is true. The County Fire Department has confirmed that with the Vital Mission Plan, fire safety in the canyon will improve. Easier emergency vehicle access, better fire-safe building, and additional fire hydrants all contribute to this assessment. Since the park acts as a natural fire break in the community, we will all be doubly benefited by these improved fire safety measures.

It is clear to me that this is a project very worthy of your approval. I hope it is clear to you as well. Please offer your full support to the Vital Mission Plan so that the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden can continue their vital work.

Thank you,
Julie & Neil Glendinning
2112 Creekside Drive
Solvang, CA 93463

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Diana Kennett [dmkennett2@cox.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 3:48 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: SBBG Vital Mission Plan
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Orange

To the Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara County, May 4 & 18, 2010

Agenda Item: Approval of the Vital Mission Plan of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Madam Chair Janet Wolf and fellow supervisors: I'm a docent and have led children and adult tours at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden for 16 years. I am in favor of the Botanic Garden's Vital Mission Plan.

The Botanic Garden is a venerable institution and part of Santa Barbara's heritage. It attracts visitors from all over the world to California's fascinating flora and performs a valuable service in educating local school children about the natural habitat we live in. An average of three thousand schoolchildren have toured the Garden annually during the last three years. Of those, ten percent participated in a focus lab where they controlled a microscope themselves, often for the first time. Investigating, linking the feel of something with the way it looks down the microscope, such as hairs on a fuzzy sage leaf provide teachable and exciting moments for children. The proposed children's learning center would maximize this integrative approach to nature education and does not increase the annual visitation of students but rather builds on their tour experience.

The Garden has agreed to overall visitor limits should the Vital Mission Plan be approved. As it is a private garden, not supported by public funds, please do not impose punitive visitor limits so that it is unable to support itself.

I urge each one of you to vote for the Vital Mission Plan so that the Garden may arise anew and grow to meet the challenges of the future, with buildings more fire resistant than before, more fire hydrants, and greater safety for the Garden and Mission Canyon residents.

Thank you

Diana Kennett

Docent and Instructor, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

April 29, 2010

Supervisor Carbajal
Santa Barbara County
Board of Supervisors

Dear Supervisor Carbajal

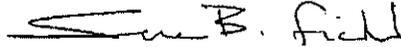
I am writing in regard to the May 4th hearing of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's "Vital Mission Plan". I am in favor of this plan and think it is a natural evolution of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's ability to serve the public by maintaining important type collections and displays of native plants and by providing information about these plants in the form of educational programs and reference library.

It is my understanding the current "Vital Mission Plan" has already has been approved by the Planning Commission and the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission. Please consider the wisdom of their decisions when making your own.

As a professional biologist, I see the Garden as a highly significant centralized information source of native plants and the communities in which they live. It is important to see the tragedy of the Jesusita Fire be turned into an opportunity to rebuild and up-grade the Botanic Garden so it can enhance its ability to remain a viable and outstanding community resource.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important matter.

Sue Benech-Field
65 Hollister Ranch
Gaviota, Ca 93117



May 2, 2010

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

My name is Jay Kendall. The end of this year will mark my 25th year employed by the Botanic Garden. I also live on site in one of the Garden's houses. I work in the horticultural department and I am responsible for the maintenance of the Arroyo and Manzanita sections.

Before the fire last year, those of us who work on the grounds had our breaks, our lunch, and our department meetings in the old Gaine House. Our gardening equipment was also stored there. Our break room had no heat, the walls and ceilings were full of holes, and rats were a constant problem. We have needed a new building to house our equipment for many years. In addition, many of those who work in other departments have offices as small as closets and inadequate meeting space.

I hope you will support us in our effort to carry out these and many other much needed improvements contained in the Vital Mission Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jay R Kendall". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jay Kendall

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Karen Telleen-Lawton [ktl@canyonvoices.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 8:29 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Johnson Nancy
Subject: SBBG

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Orange

I am a past docent at the Garden as well as a neighbor in Rattlesnake Canyon. I support the Garden's long-overdue efforts to remodel and revitalize the grounds and buildings.

Thank you,

Karen Telleen-Lawton

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Paige M. Miller [paigemiller1@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 1:50 PM
To: sbcob; Wolf, Janet; SupervisorCarbajal
Subject: support for the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Orange

Hello,

I am emailing again to state that the Gardens is a wonderful asset to our community and it should be fully supported!! I believe the Botanic Gardens can actually serve to protect the community from fire risk if the current plans are implemented. Please take the greater good for our larger community into consideration and support the Garden next week!

Thank you. Paige M Miller

--

Paige M. Miller
Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology
UC Santa Barbara
pmiller@lifesci.ucsb.edu

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Joe Peduto [joepphoto@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 1:57 PM
To: sbcob; Carbajal, Salud; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Gray, Joni; Centeno, Joseph
Subject: SB Botanic Garden Project
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Orange

To Whom It May Concern:

While I support the renovation and of the Botanic Gardens buildings and grounds, I believe it is imperative that the Chumash site be respected and that any development be kept an appropriate distance away from, and should in no way negatively impact, any such areas.

As a former S.B. resident who loved the Bot.Garden and as a mountain biker who has ridden the canyon many times, I also believe that reasonable limits should be placed on the number of people permitted in Mission Canyon at any one time, because of access considerations on Mission Canyon Road.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this issue.

Joseph Peduto
2159 Rosecrans Street
Simi Valley, CA 93065
805.584.9016 - home
916.601.8897 - cell

P.S. I miss S.B.!!! (Class of '89 Brooks grad,
S.B.Bowl house photographer, 1988 thru 1996.)

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Cathy Jordan [cmj2361@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 10:43 AM
To: Wolf, Janet; SupervisorCarbajal; sbcob
Subject: RE: In support of the Botanic Garden's Vital Mission Plan
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Orange

I am once again writing in support of the Botanic Garden's Vital Mission Plan. I was completely frustrated by the lack of progress at the last meeting but am hopeful for a decision on May 18.

I was also disappointed that the opposition were unable to fight the Plan based upon facts and therefore resorted to attacking people and creating fear. Sadly, this seems to be the norm in our entire nation at present, where logic and reason are out-shouted by fear mongering, passionate yet irrational voices. I hope that you and the Board can listen more to the former than the (albeit louder) latter.

It is time for the Board to act. It is time for reason to stop being held hostage by a fear-mongering minority. It is time for the Botanic Garden to once more take its place as a premier spot for locals and visitors alike to view nature. It is time for the good of Santa Barbara - it is time to endorse the Botanic Garden's Vital Mission Plan.

To address the fire issues specifically and logically:

1. The buildings will be safer under the Plan.

The existing buildings do not meet present fire codes, but the new ones will be fire-retardant with a number of other fire protection measures.

2. The Garden will be safer under the Plan.

The Plan will implement the best fuel management and vegetation control technology, making the Garden and all of Mission Canyon safer.

3. The Plan calls for more fire hydrants.

The Garden has already installed fire hydrants (ironically opposed by the same few neighbors fighting the changes today) which ended up saving the core of the Garden plus homes in lower Mission Canyon. The new Plan will implement even more fire hydrants.

4. The Garden will be closed on Red Flag days.

On days where there is any critical fire danger, the Garden will be closed, and events and classes will be canceled. Fire experts say most Red Flag days are forecast weeks in advance, and at least 24 hours in advance so this will be possible.

5. The Garden has agreed to limit events for the first time ever.

The Garden has always held classes, lectures, and events. Currently there are no limits, but the Plan will limit the number of events in a given month, thereby cutting the traffic and numbers of people visiting the area at one time.

6. The Garden has agreed to overall visitor limits, starting at 1/2 of the visitors once enjoyed.

Under the Plan, the Garden is limiting the number of visitors at a level far below historic usage, thus one more measure to reduce the number of people in the area.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Respectfully,

Cathryn M. Jordan

Hotmail has tools for the New Busy. Search, chat and e-mail from your inbox. [Learn more.](#)

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: maya jamal [mayajamalis@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 9:19 AM
To: Allen, Michael (COB); sbcob; Carbajal, Salud; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Gray, Joni; Centeno, Joseph
Subject: Re:
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Orange

Thank you to all who have already read and sent an email in response.
This is the letter with some corrections.
Thank you!

From: maya jamal <mayajamalis@yahoo.com>
To: allen@co.santa-barbara.ca.us; sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us; scarbaja@co.santa-barbara.ca.us; jwolf@sbcbos2.org; dfarr@countyofsb.org; jgray@co.santa-barbara.ca.us; jcenteno@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
Sent: Thu, May 6, 2010 5:55:39 PM
Subject:

Dear 1st district: Salud Carbajal, 2nd district: Janet Wolf, 3rd district: Doreen Farr, 4th district: Joni Gray, 5th district: Joe Centeno and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,

Although the date for the hearing has past I find it very important to give this subject my time and energy as one knows this may return to our communities courtrooms shortly. I have taken time from this beautiful day and my vacation deep in nature to write this letter because I feel very strongly about this issue facing our community at home. Also, having been to these gardens all my life I remember my times there. Thank you individually and collectively for time and your energy to read this letter for it has taken some time to put it together.

I have heard from the Chumash Community that the Planning Commission approved over 25,000 square feet of new buildings in the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens. I have also been informed of the conditional use permit that will give the Garden the ability to build three new homes directly on the Chumash village site of Xana'yan.

Having taught a class in Mission Canyon to the Santa Barbara youth with graduate student teacher at UCSB Julie Anne Cordero, whom also is a strong influential Chumash woman that is receiving her PhD in ethnobotany and an intern at the Botanical Gardens I have great insight of how building there on this site would effect the Chumash people and our community. I will never forget the lecture she gave to our students in the Botanical Gardens beside the dam her ancestors built. In Dr. Dennis Ringers Native American

History 101 class I recall his lecture on the Chumash people and the Santa Barbara Mission. I have also been friends with the Chumash people from the 5 different bands for several years. By listing the following concerns I have heard from the Chumash Community I would like to offer some insight into this issue and why this development is not in favor of the Native Community and myself. I do not speak on behalf of the Chumash community, only from my heart and my community in Santa Barbara.

The simple mention of development on the village of Xana'yan can only come from one who does not know the Chumash people. I can understand how one might not know the historical importance of this valley. Hitting the heart of the Chumash Community the Spanish sought out this valley to take control of the largest tribe they came across in California, the Chumash people. These gardens are now situated where the Spanish began their conquest against Chumash in Santa Barbara and the people directly related to the family members they mourn that were lost in this village are only asking the buildings be moved off of the site. It is very disheartening to see anyone in SB overlooking the historical accounts of Spanish invasion of this canyon especially when the pain of the invasion is spoken directly from the ancestors of the Chumash people mourning their ancestors that were killed there.

Please let me remind you that said the folks who want to build here say that they can build here because they are building in areas of low density and this will lessen the significant impact of the gardens. Are botanical gardens for gardens or buildings? They are created for the community to see and learn about rare plants. I have heard those who intend to build in our communities beautiful garden have said that the village site is not a sacred site because it is not listed as such. This is not true if one is present to hear the anger among the community at gatherings, around the family kitchen tables of incredible native ethnic foods, in conversations between friends or within lecture halls that students in the colleges receive at both UCSB and SBCC. Historically and presently people know these villages are sacred to the Chumash people. On two separate accounts in two different class settings I heard the exact historical knowledge from two professors. Once from a student professor Julie Anne Cordero explaining to our students by the dam in the Botanical Gardens built by her ancestors and separately at SBCC by Dr. Ringer within lecture hall BC FORUM in my Native American Studies 101 class. Both explained that the Spanish enslaved the Chumash people to build water systems to supply the Mission in Mission Canyon. Julie Cordero looked down on the dam in the Botanical Garden and cried to her students "My ancestors built those walls". It is obvious anything named Mission in our community reminds one of the great historical significance the Mission has contributed to our community especially to the Chumash people. Whenever and wherever a Chumash friend of mine sees the word *mission* I know they remember their ancestors and I must take time to respect their loss. I think of what Juile said that day and the loss of the people and of all the stories I have heard from the Chumash people spoken of the Mission. The Mission did great damage to the Chumash people. This was a war zone, a place where many people died and the ones who survived were enslaved forced to carry out the desires of the conquistadors. It is those who mourn for their people lost

there in this war and who were enslaved that built this town that spoke to you.

The ones who want to build in the Botanical Gardens say the policies that would allow for Native American consultation and ethnic values to be heard is used only in special important village sites. If this is so please listen to the word *Mission* and please remember the people who built it and you will know the people who were with you a few days ago are descendant of the people who built the Mission voicing this is one of those special villages!

For the Chumash it is as if one was to add a modern American fingerprint of oppression next to the Spanish walls built with Native American forced labor. Why build more buildings that offend Native people and why not start a new way to respect Native village sites? This would be forward thinking, noble and respected by our community. A way our ancestors would be proud of.

Finally, this site is very well known to have human remains. In a recent survey a toe bone was found in the area of where they plan to grade. The Native Community is asking for Native Cultural values to be acknowledged and our concerns are heard. Chumash people are not brushed aside as discretionary items on a check list. The issue over our ancestral village sites has been brushed aside. We as the people of Santa Barbara need the Chumash community and Native rights to be heard. The main points I have heard from the Chumash community that of great concern are:

- 1) To support relocation of the residential units off one of the last remaining intact village sites left in the area.
- 2) To support further testing and avoidance measures. Once these sites are gone they are gone forever.
- 3) Require that where ever an archaeologist is required so shall a Native American observer be present.
- 4) Support the points made in the appeal for the Friends of Xana'yan
- 5) Support Educational and Native American heritage programs.

Botanical Gardens are intended to be splendid gardens simply with amazing plants. On such a prominent piece of land in SB this development on a Chumash village site would be an example of disrespect to the community and the land. I did not get a chance to write this letter several days ago or attend the hearing. I ask do you know the village or town you come from? And is special to you? Santa Barabara is where I come from and this development is in my town I am opposed to it!

Thank you for hearing words that come from my heart,
Maya Jamal Kasberg

Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole

From: Peter and Paulina Conn [pconnt43@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 10:58 AM
To: Conn Peter
Subject: Fwd: Column in NP re Botanic Garden
Attachments: logo.gif; ATT00001.txt; ATT00002

Dear Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors and Santa Barbara City Council,

I am forwarding Sydney Baumgartner's News Press article as a group email. Ms. Baumgartner is correct in her assessment that in a sustainable community we need cooperation, but besides the private non profit institutions she has mentioned in and around Mission Canyon, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, historically, gave its classes downtown in our public schools and for garden clubs in there club houses or our downtown social and educational facilities. Hope School District has a whole grammar school landscape in native California plants. It must also be noted that SB City College has excellent classes in environmental horticulture, botany, biology, landscape design, etc. Adult Education also has classes. Then there is UCSB that is doing lots of research as are other colleges and universities throughout the state. We have a local Native California Plan Society that is educating and restoring landscapes. There is "Growing Solutions" a local non profit that is also growing native California plants. Since the environmental movement began in the early 1970 people are interested in conserving all our natural resources. The historic Santa Barbara Botanic Garden was way ahead of its time. Let's not lose it just because the current administration is a misfit for this highly specialized garden.

Importantly, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is in the City's Zone of Influence.

Fire protection and evacuation concerns are part of a mutual aid agreement.

County Fire has abdicated responsibility for declaring Red Flag alerts. Will City Fire declare them? If so will the County Fire enforce it?

The SB Botanic Garden will, whether the expansion plan goes through or not, be declaring its own "red flag" days and shutting itself down. That is total irresponsibility. What institution as interested in money generating activities as the SBBG has become, will close when it is unsafe in Mission Canyon. The Jesusita Fire began on May 5, 2009. It was not a "red flag" day!!

The SBBG's expansion plans are a concern of the entire community not just the residents on upper Mission Canyon Rd.

Please, GET INVOLVED! Read, read, read, and make decisions on historical knowledge not on propaganda.

Do the right thing.

Deny this project and send it back to the drawing boards for environmentally sensitive and downsized redesign and a re evaluation of the SBBG's reason for being in high fire hazard Mission Canyon.

The EIR is inadequate and incomplete not only because of the faulty mitigation measures that do not save the Landmark or the registered archaeological site, but there was inadequate study of the building uses and sizes, inadequate writings of what "research" and "education" are and are not supposed to be at the SBBG, a CUP that is inadequate and unenforceable, and not all the SBBG's contiguous parcels (eight acres on Las Canoas [7] and Tunnel Rds[1] with employee housing) were included in the expansion plans. Plus there is the recent Jesusita Fire that provides new insights.

Sincerely,
 Paulina Conn
 682-5183

Begin forwarded message:

>>

>>

>> Opinion: SHARED SPACE? Duplication and expansion of facilities for
>> large gatherings is an expensive and dangerous proposition for
>> community

>> Sydney Baumgartner

>> May 16, 2010 6:39 AM

>>

>> I'd like to challenge the Santa Barbara community to come together
>> to solve a looming problem that affects us all so profoundly. The
>> Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural
>> History were one united organization at their inception, sharing
>> facilities and disciplines to study, explore and instruct Santa
>> Barbara about its environment.

>>

>> Both of these venerable institutions are in the throes of expansion.

>>

>> The Botanic Garden has proposed large gathering facilities for
>> instruction and is on the brink of county consideration and approval
>> of its expansion.

>>

>> The Natural History Museum has invited neighbors from the city's
>> Upper Eastside to view its plans for expansion of its facilities with
>> greater capacity for gatherings, events, education and instruction,
>> as well as better traffic circulation.

>>

>> Saint Anthony's Seminary is expanding its facilities for a larger
>> school, a block and a half from the existing Roosevelt School. The
>> Santa Barbara Mission, between these two schools, has a large
>> facility for gathering and worshipping for neighbors and tourists.
>> The Fielding Institute nearby has gracious meeting rooms for
>> instruction.

>>

>> The duplication and expansion of more facilities for large
>> gatherings is an expensive and dangerous proposition for our
>> community. Coordination of the schedules of all of these facilities
>> and the resulting number of people in this area at any given time
>> becomes an impossible task.

>>

>> Add to this mix, sundowner winds, low humidity and the threat of
>> fire down the lower corridor of Mission Canyon. Then consider the
>> current economic pinch on the budgets of these institutions and the
>> great cost of expansion of facilities to draw larger groups of people
>> for educational purposes.

>>

>> Could we step back in time to consider a solution:

>>

>> Share use of existing facilities among these organizations to save
>> considerable capital expense and to prevent duplication of existing
>> buildings. Coordinate scheduling of events to relieve the traffic and
>> congestion in Mission Canyon, the Upper Eastside and Alameda Padre
>> Serra evacuation routes. Threat of fire in this area demands careful
>> coordination and planning between these organizations.

>>

>> This level of cooperation between city and county entities may be a
>> challenge, but the ultimate saving of lives in time of emergency, the
>> actual savings in cost of new, duplicate facilities, the reduced
>> footprint of added buildings on the land and the new sharing of
>> facilities and information will make each of these organizations
>> stronger and less competitive than they are at present.

>>

>> In a nutshell, it would be insanity to build and fill multiple
>> auditoriums with people at the top and at the bottom of Mission

ATT00001

>> Canyon Road, with the unrealistic hope that a sundowner wind would
>> not spread a fire through this dry oak woodland corridor.
>>
>> I hope for a step back in the planning process and for cooperation
>> between our beloved institutions.
>>
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>> Publishing, LLC unless otherwise specified.

Who is Sydney Baumgartner?

Santa Barbara enjoys a reputation as a world class garden town and Sydney Baumgartner's contribution to Santa Barbara's landscape architecture is a well-known component of that reputation. Her training and design theories are rooted in the iconic traditions of Lockwood and Elizabeth de Forest, the latter being her professional mentor and aunt by marriage.

The de Forest influence of purpose-driven outdoor rooms, a broad plant and hardscape vocabulary, and relating the designed landscape to the surrounding natural landscape using transition zones and borrowed views defines Sydney's signature style. From large estates to historical restorations and community-based projects, Sydney's philosophy of order, balance, scale and rhythm within a landscape is the starting point of any project. Her belief that "you have to be a good gardener to design a good garden" is evident in her own garden's function as a proving ground for plant materials, many of which she has evaluated and passed on to local nurseries for commercial propagation.

For over 25 years, Sydney Baumgartner has been designing landscapes that complement and enhance the eclectic architectural styles that comprise Santa Barbara's world class residential enclaves. The climate, history and architecture of Santa Barbara have influenced Sydney's designs, as have her travels throughout the world to places like Sweden, Chile, France, Bali, Portugal, Germany, Italy, and England. Sydney's portfolio consists of diverse design styles, including English cottage, Italian, Spanish revival and French, and her designs range from traditional to contemporary and formal to informal.

Clerk of the Board
Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Supervisors:

We need to support the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. I am doing my part by writing you this letter and voicing my support, and now I ask you to do your part and vote in favor of the proposed Vital Mission Plan. This plan is so bare bones, so essential, that a vote against it could potentially doom the Garden. The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is functioning on fumes right now and it is unrealistic to expect them to perform like this for much longer. It is unrealistic to expect the workers to work in buildings that are not as fire safe as they could be, especially after portions of the land have recently felt the scorch of a fire. It is unrealistic to ask them to continue to store endangered plants and then not give them the space to do it. It is unrealistic to ask them to function as though a massive fire did not burn 60 of its 78 acres when anyone can see it has!

The Garden really does need support, and unlike many other organizations at this time they are not asking for money. They are asking for permission. They are asking for permission to make the land more prepared, should another fire occur. The Vital Mission Plan calls for water sprinklers inside the building, a fire truck turn-around, and increased and updated fire hydrants. They are asking for permission to build trails that the handicapped and disabled can use. They are asking to rebuild, but only on land that has already been built and is such a small portion (one percent). They ask for permission for these items not because they are greedy, but because the Vital Mission Plan is vital. The name is not some marketing gimmick; this plan is vital to the survival of the Botanic Garden. I think that any supervisor who cares about the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden will understand that and vote yes for the plan. Your vote is important.

Thank you,



Aleta Meyr

PO Box 300

Carpinteria, CA 93014

Supervisor Janet Wolf
105 East Anapamu
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Supervisor Wolf:

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Thank you,



Aleta Meyr
PO Box 300
Carpinteria, CA 93014

RECEIVED
MAY 17 2010
2ND DISTRICT OFFICE

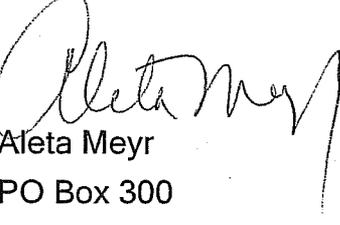
Supervisor Salud Carbajal
105 E. Anapamu
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Supervisor Carbajal:

We need to support the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. I am doing my part by writing you this letter and voicing my support, and now I ask you to do your part and vote in favor of the proposed Vital Mission Plan. This plan is so bare bones, so essential, that a vote against it could potentially doom the Garden. The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is functioning on fumes right now and it is unrealistic to expect them to perform like this for much longer. It is unrealistic to expect the workers to work in buildings that are not as fire safe as they could be, especially after portions of the land have recently felt the scorch of a fire. It is unrealistic to ask them to continue to store endangered plants and then not give them the space to do it. It is unrealistic to ask them to function as though a massive fire did not burn 60 of its 78 acres when anyone can see it has!

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Thank you,



Aleta Meyr
PO Box 300
Carpinteria, CA 93014

RECEIVED
MAY 17 2010
1ST DISTRICT OFFICE

April 22, 2010

ATTN: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 E Anapamu St., Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Board of Supervisors,

We continue to permit opposition to make ridiculous declarations against the Botanic Garden's Vital Mission Plan. I am here to state that I support this Vital Mission Plan.

Friends of Mission Canyon have said, "The addition of commercial food service and a kitchen facility will substantially extend and intensify non-garden related activities such as weddings, high-heeled parties, etc. Prepackaged food will create litter and impact wildlife attracted to food waste and human handouts."

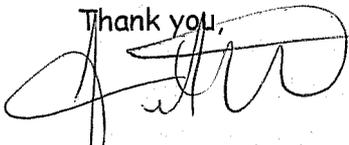
However, the "commercial food service and a kitchen facility" referenced is actually a 226 square feet area. Yes, 226 sq. ft. Approximately the size of most residential kitchens and clearly incapable of generating substantial food waste. And "high-heeled" parties? I certainly hope we are not suggesting that as a living museum the Botanic Garden does not merit high-class events or fundraising opportunities.

If Friends of Mission Canyon is allowed to assert such absurdities as "if the Botanic Garden has a kitchen facility *then* weddings will substantially intensify" I might as well declare that "if you are a member of the Friends of Mission Canyon *then* your neurons are not firing correctly."

An independent Environmental Impact Report has determined that the approval of the Botanic Garden's Vital Mission Plan will not have any significant impact. This is a fact. Let's stop allowing eccentric claims to influence our decisions.

Please approve the Botanic Garden's Vital Mission Plan.

Thank you,



Linda Malhotra
5329 University Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

04/26/2010

Santa Barbara County
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Let's not make the mistake again of allowing the "Vital Mission Plan" for the Botanic Garden to remain unrealized any longer. Emphasizing the Garden's necessary and crucial need for the projects' fulfillments, I urge you to deny the appeals and to join your County colleagues in support of the "Vital Mission Plan".

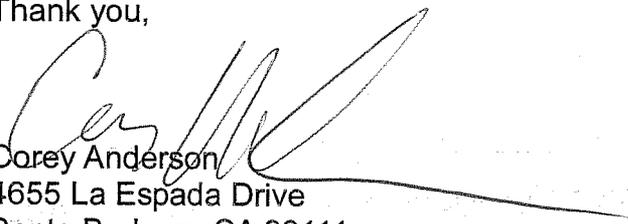
After reviewing the plan's goals and reasons for the many facility restoration projects, it is inconceivable to me as to why a person would not support it. It is my understanding that those who are opposed to the plan do so mainly based on concerns involving personal fire safety.

Despite what these opponents may want you to believe, the "Vital Mission Plan" will actually improve fire safety for both the Garden and Mission Canyon residential areas. It will provide for: more accessible emergency water availability; evacuation plans and drills; on-site staff and plant specimens relocation; new and improved fire truck turnarounds; and the use of fire resistant building materials in the construction of new facilities. Because of the constant threat of seasonal fire damage, any plan that seeks to improve fire safety measures should be applauded and embraced.

It is criminal that these protocols and projects have not gone through sooner. It's interesting to speculate that if they had maybe the damage suffered from the Jesusita Fire would not have been as disastrous.

Please support the "Vital Mission Plan" and you will be voting to support the entire community.

Thank you,


Corey Anderson
4655 La Espada Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Allen, Michael (COB)

From: LAMARA HEARTWELL [joyblossom@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 10:40 AM
To: LAMARA HEARTWELL
Cc: Allen, Michael (COB); Carbajal, Salud; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Centeno, Joseph
Subject: PLEASE READ, BG appeal, thank you!!!

Dear Supervisors,

I know today is a very significant day in the lives of the Mission Canyon residents. It's interesting that this court date is on the one year mark of the Jesusita fire. To me, that is a pointer to remember what happened on this day and to make your decision today with great awareness.

I realize that a large amounts of money have gone into the push to make the BG project be approved, and to look good by the community and to therefore get lots of support.

***** I ask, with all my heart, for you to step into the place of the mission canyon residents, and fully feel our position for a few minutes!

My husband and I chose to move from northern california to Santa Barbara 5 years ago due to finding the property of our dreams in Mission Canyon. The reason why Mission Canyon became our ultimate dream place to live is because of the quiet, remote, beauty of this place while being close to a great city. This project the BG is looking to approve, would SIGNIFICANTLY impact the gift of living in mission canyon. We would encounter a great deal of noise from the amount of construction and people attending events, in addition to not being able to see the stars as well at night due to the amount of lighting at these events. Even more significantly, we would encounter TRAFFIC in traveling to and from our land to go to town. When the BG engaged in one simple construction project about a year and a half ago, months went by where we had to wait 10 minutes or more, TOTALLY STOPPED, on mission canyon rd. due to this construction.

This may not seem like a big deal to you, however, for us, THIS IS HUGE!!! To have invested HUGE amounts of time, money and energy to actually buy property in mission canyon with the intention to spend the rest of our lives here, and then to find out that we'd be dealing with traffic, and light/ noise pollution for 10 years or more..... and to not have a choice of another route, as this is the only road we can take. And, for us, it's REALLY IMPORTANT to have dark, quiet evenings where we can feel like we are immersed in nature and be nourished by this gift. One of my favorite things about where we live is how well we can see the stars at night. To me, this new BG project, is meant for an URBAN area, NOT a RURAL sanctuary. Please encourage them to have their events, and educational buildings, OFF SITE.

Lastly, and most importantly, is the safety issue. I know many people have brought this to your attention. My husband and I live at the very top of M.C. rd. and our home was one of the first ones to burn in the Jesusita fire. In talking to the fire department and hearing how many minutes it took for the fire to rip down one side of the canyon, to come flying up the other side, and to ignite the whole canyon..... I was SHOCKED!!!!!! We are talking LESS THAN 5 MINUTES! They fled our property and 3 squads of fire trucks left immediately and didn't even try to save our home and property.

Was I in traffic on May 5th trying to evacuate my home, YES! Did I feel massive fear for my life waiting in that traffic line, trying to escape the fire, YES! Would this expansion of the Botanical Garden effect the amount of traffic, during fire season, YES! Is this a highly risky, dangerous, and NOT needed threat to the mission canyon residents, AND the BG: YES, YES, YES!!!

*****THANK YOU FOR RECEIVING THESE WORDS. To me, we are at a place in our world, as a humanity, where, if we don't make SUSTAINABLE, CONSCIOUS, UN-SELFISH choices, we are not going to survive as a species for much longer. To me, this choice of keeping mission canyon more rural, safe, and less developed, DOES AFFECT this bigger issue across the planet. PLEASE, let's be a model in Santa Barbara of the world we all want to live in vs. feeding the problem of carelessly developing more and more, without taking into account the people, the wildlife, and the importance of protecting our natural resources!

Sincerely,
Lamara Heartwell

Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole

From: Making Change [editor@hopemakingchange.org]
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 9:52 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Mission Canyon

Dear Supervisors,

I work in Santa Monica, and lived in Ventura for many years. However, I oppose any corporate or governmental development of Chumash Lands.

Chumash lands should be respected and protected. Not only are the proposed lands historical sites, they are ancient monuments of Indigenous life.

More should be done to restore lands to traditional and natural states, and not developed for commercial or residential use.

These lands should be repatriated back to nature.

That is where I stand, as a California citizen.

Jennafer Yellowhorse
Making Change... A Community Human Rights Newspaper
Empowering the Poor and UnHoused
With an Income and a Voice
P.O. Box 235, Santa Monica, CA 90406
(310) 289-7446

editor@hopemakingchange.org

www.hopemakingchange.org

**Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
123 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, California 93101**

May 14, 2010

Re: Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens Vital Mission Plan

Honorable Chairman and Supervisors,

The BOS is in the process of making a decision on the Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens Vital Mission Plan proposal. This is a Santa Barbara landmark and one that I have come to appreciate from being born and raised here in Santa Barbara. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to visit on my own as a child and with my children, as an father. Little did I know, that as an adult, I would find myself in this position of having to oppose their efforts to enhance and expand their efforts of promoting the natural beauty of this land. But that is where I find myself today. It is not an easy place, but I feel that it a decision that I need to make and accept.

Here is my dilemma; I understand all that the Botanical Garden is trying to achieve here today with this proposal, on the other hand, I have to stand up for my culture and my ancestors, that is my responsibility. I have attended meetings and have met with the representatives of the Botanical Gardens and listen to their proposals and offered up my concerns and alternatives. However today, I feel that they were not adhere to, as I would have like them to have been. It for this reason that I write this letter.

I would like to advise the BOS that I write to you as a concerned Native American today, and not as a representative of my tribe. Although the job that I do on behalf of my people, deal with these issues. Projects come across my desk on a daily basis that will impact my culture as this one will, in which I must make comments and recommendations to protect my culture, that are in direct conflict with those who propose them.

Today, with development of existing lands, we as a people are constantly battling to preserve our cultural resources, sacred sites, traditional places and burial sites. Over the past decades, many laws have been established to protect our culture and rights, but we still find ourselves in the same position of proving the importance of our heritage. When our sites are destroyed, they are gone forever,. That is why it is so important to preserve today, what is left, for future generations to come. After all, this is part of the reason for the gardens' proposal, to preserve the botanical culture of this land, as well, as it's own history.

Therefore, I would like to make the following comments, concerns and recommendations;

1. The plan calls for the construction of new housing for the staff on top of a village site, that would destroy it. CEQA calls for avoidance whenever possible and the plan to move these structure to another area, that was approved by the planning commission was a welcome relief.

Here is my concern: When this project was presented to us, there was no talk about the additional work that would take place in the garden area itself. They plan on demolishing existing buildings and construction new one with a larger development footprint, without addressing the cultural issue adequately.

Recommendation: I would like to see the area of new construction in the existing garden be subject to an XP1 survey. This will determine the absence or presence of culture material. If this is not completed prior to construction, the loss of cultural material, as well as information will be lost.

2. The cultural resource section of this plan fails to recognize the cultural landscape/ district, similar to that of a historical landscape or district. The number of sites in the area should have been a sign of such an area. However, this was not mentioned the plan.

Here is my concern: Without that understanding, I feel that a fair or correct decision could be reached for this project, with regards to cultural resources.

Recommendation: I would recommend that the BOS review the cultural resource section and look at this project from that perspective and make their decision to that regard.

3. The plan does not layout a plan for inadvertent discoveries of cultural material or human remains. I know that archaeologist says that it will follow the legal guidelines in what to do, but beyond that, I as a Native person would like to see this in writing and to be specific.

Here is my concern: Culture material or human remains that would be inadvertently discovered and will stop the project adding time and cost, as well as adding to the discussion of what to do with these items or ancestors.

Recommendation: Require the archaeologist to write a handling and treatment plan, in consultation with Native American community, that would include the following;

- A. Who shall be contacted in the event of a discovery.
- B. How they will be handled. No pictures of any human remains
- C. Where will they be curated
- D. Who will receive these items/human remains (multiple MLD's)

E. Where will they be reburied. On garden property or off property? Ceremony for our ancestors is extremely important.

This plan should established in consultation with Natives Americans, to assure that proper respect is given to all cultural items and human remains that might be discovered within this project .

I respect your due diligence in this matter and look forward to a most fair and honorable decision in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Freddie Romero
Concerned Chumash**

Cc: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors:

1st district: Salud Carbajal:

2nd district: Janet Wolf:

3rd district: Doreen Farr:

4th district: Joni Gray:

5th district: Joe Centeno:

Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole

From: Norma J Davenport [apr2g00d@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 4:13 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Botanic Garden Letter for 5-18-10 Meeting
Attachments: image001.emz; oledata.mso

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

sbcob@ co.santa-barbara.us

To: Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara, California

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Hearing 5-18-10

The board of the Botanic Garden has been misguided by leadership whose point of view **has shifted the direction of the garden from that of a "gift of a garden for the whole community,"** (the original intention of the benefactors of the gift) to a money making venture. The protection of the area as a natural habitat for native fauna and flora has been violated. One example: a chainlink fence along the the edge of the creek right down the middle of the garden. They said it was to protect the creek. It not only looks horrible, but how are the animals going to get to the creek and through it.

"BARE BONES" OR SHELL GAME?

The steepness of the slope make it impossible for wheel chairs to negotiate most of the trails. Yet SBBG insists they are doing everything to allow handicap access. There would be nothing for the handicap and the rest of us to see, but handicap ramps. The steepness of the land was very apparent after the recent Jesusita fire. The general slope of most of the terrain makes it INDEFENSIBLE. So it cannot be emphasized enough that the garden's recent land acquisitions of adjacent properties, which they are using to minimize the percentage of development area 25,800 s.f. as compared to the overall size 78 acres, does not mean they have actually down-sized. Any plans should take into consideration the slope of the terrain, and the fact that the 25,800 s.f. touted as "net s.f." is in addition to the already existing square feet to be re-built, ON the same 13 Acres. So **"their perceived smaller expansion" IS really not smaller at all. The steepness of the slope of the terrain reduces the "defensibility" of the terrain and therefore increases the fire danger to us the residents and people that will be occupying the facilities.** If the Garden decides to put other working facilities on other adjacent properties recently purchased, would roads need to be expanded increased traffic? What about the increase in traffic into and through heretofore residential areas? What is the impact of this development on the value of our properties? What is the cost to us as county taxpayers? Where are the 60 foot diameter fire turnarounds going to be located? The fire department themselves were very honest and realistic during the several fire news conferences they held regarding "defensibility." The chief himself said something to the effect, "...up till now the fire has been chasing us..." The coolness and the fog had brought them a respite, which they used to their advantage to set more lines of defense. The fire threat cannot be understated. Because of the swirling winds there was a severe threat in Mission Canyon Heights and along Foothill, with the biggest fear was that the fire might jump Foothill and take off into Santa Barbara.

PERSONAL FIRE EXPERIENCE

5/17/2010

Living at 2300 Las Canoas Rd and on the side of the road that places us one parcel away from recently acquired land by the garden, puts us in a position to state how threatening the plans of the garden are. The fire came upon us from behind from a ridge, compost-planting area of the garden east of Mission Canyon Rd., down into a culvert creek area that runs parallel to mission canyon road. Our only access is a one lane, curved stone bridge. It made us acutely aware that had there been a bottle neck of cars from the garden and upper Mission Canyon Road. We would have been trapped. Even though the garden recently said that they had provided an alternate fire escape route, it is difficult to see if you are standing at that bridge how the creek would be passable even on foot. The way the winds were changing in every direction in the closed canyon, we would not have been able to outrun in on foot. The private lane that serves address 2447 does not belong to the garden and they should not be assuming they can suggest it be used as an alternate fire egress. During the Tea Fire, there was no evacuation warning. The fire was moving fast that at 5:45 p.m. we could see the fire advancing over the ridge above St. Mary's Seminary, without so much as a fire siren alerting us. We packed up and were ready to go by 5:15 p.m. My son forgot something and had to go back and by 5:30 p.m. the traffic along Foothill with people evacuating from the El Cielito area above Sheffield reservoir was backed up. So it cannot be emphasized enough that the gardens recent land acquisitions, which they are using to minimize the percentage of development area as compared to the overall size, does not mean they have down sized. Any plans should take into consideration the slope of the terrain, where "their perceived smaller expansion" is not smaller at all because the steepness of the slope of the terrain reduces the "defensibility" of the terrain and therefore increases the fire danger to us the residents and people that will be occupying the facilities. The fire department themselves were very honest and realistic during the several news conferences they held. The chief himself said something to the effect, "...up till now the fire has been chasing us..." The coolness and the fog had brought them a respite, which they used to their advantage to set more lines of defense. The fire threat cannot be understated. Because of the wind there was a severe threat in Mission Canyon Heights and along Foothill, with the biggest fear was that the fire might jump Foothill and take off into Santa Barbara.

The threat to us as a family and individual was up close and personal. You as the stewards of safety are therefore on notice about the gravity of the responsibility in approving this project.

SUSTAINABILITY RESPONSIBILITY

We have owned our house here in the Las Canoas Area since early 1970's. We watched the Garden acquire the property, after the turn onto Las Canoas from Mission Canyon, on the eastern slope along the road to the stone bridge. The garden was lax in their responsibility in keeping the area cleared of fire fuel. It was only a couple of weeks before the Jesusita Fire that they somewhat cleared the area to the west of creek at the bridge. Much "fire fuel" still needs to be removed.

When they acquired the Van Schaik property, they replaced the roof of the existing over half of the roof and left the remaining half with rolled roofing. So their claim to be working for the betterment of the neighborhood is untrue. They plan residential areas for their employees. This sounds wonderful except that all the asphalt necessitated for roads streets causes heat island effects and therefore denudes the area of the natural plants they are claiming to want to protect. After the Jesuita fire there was a stand of Eucalyptus, one parcel away from ours, but still visible from our property. A stand of eucalyptus, had been hit hard by the fire and many of the trees had to be taken down. The garden took them down, but while they were doing that decided to level the top of the ridge, disturbing the valuable top soil which any landscape architect will say we need to protect as a precious resource.

For all the "children" they claim to want to teach. Children learn more from being out in the garden than in the classroom. The national park system, which I frequented as a child, provided some of the most memorable and informative experiences, and it wasn't in a classroom. It was around a open air campfire in the evening, listening to a park ranger explain about the fauna and flora. There were always hikes, follow-up. The last thing I needed was a classroom. The garden was a gift to our community of an Garden Experience conceived long ago, by someone who loved the outdoors.

Don't Spoil it for us.

Let the leadership of SBBG show their goodwill to the community by doing what is best for the community instead. The current Garden leadership has threatened legal action before. The SBBG board has been bought and now contains only yes-men. As our elected stewards and representatives you must take into consideration the expansion plans of the Museum of Natural history and maybe coalesce all of these organizations into a "working for the community good mode."

The Letter of Sdyney Baumgartner, below, provides a common sense approach and alternative to the expansion hopes of the Botanic Gardens, and Museum of natural history.



I'm sure these organizations can only want the best for the community that supports them, and can work together to bring about the best results.

Norma J. Davenport

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