

CHAIRMAN ANTHONY KUO AND VICE CHAIRMAN GREG SMITH
IRVINE PLANNING COMMISSION

Friday, November 22, 2013

Dear Irvine Neighbor,

We've been waiting for the Orange County Great Park to become "great" for years. And, if you're like us, you're becoming angry. Almost \$200 million has been spent on the Park since voters approved it in 2002. We have little to show for it, but now there's hope for its future.

Irvine voters recently elected Mayor Steven Choi and Christina Shea to the City Council, and together, they've been working hard to fulfill their most important campaign promise: to build the Great Park.

In July, a plan to develop 688 acres of the Park into world-class athletic fields, open meadows, gardens and an environmentally-friendly 18-hole public golf course was presented. This plan would also keep more than 4,000 high-paying jobs in Irvine that would otherwise be lost to a different city. On September 10th, all five Councilmembers directed City Staff to document this proposal, which obligates the developer to build, operate and maintain these Park improvements for ten years.

Last week, the Council had the opportunity to seal the deal. Mayor Choi and Councilmember Shea brought this plan forward for a vote. But instead of moving ahead, the other Councilmembers voted to delay action. And now, the City's eleventh-hour negotiations are threatening to kill the agreement.

Irvine has the opportunity to enhance its standing as both an attractive destination and as an economic engine. But our City Council must act now. The offer to build a substantial portion of the Great Park cannot be extended indefinitely. In fact, it's been widely reported that if the Council does not approve the agreement at its November 26th meeting, this generous private-sector support may have to be withdrawn.

If you agree that it's time to finally get the Great Park built, we urge you to contact Republican Councilmember Jeff Lalloway today. Make your voice heard by calling City Hall at 949-724-6233 or send him at email: jlalloway@cityofirvine.org. Ask him to support his Republican colleagues at the November 26th Council meeting so we can have the Great Park we've been promised.

Sincerely,


ANTHONY KUO
Chairman
Irvine Planning Commission


GREG SMITH
Vice Chairman
Irvine Planning Commission