

SAVE THE CIVIC CENTER FIELD - EMAIL ACTION ALERT!

The City and SMC are about to kill the Civic Center Sports Field at the Coastal Commission hearing in Chula Vista on **October 12!**

Please email by this Friday, Oct. 6th

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Please don't let the City and SMC use the Coastal Commission to eliminate the sports field we have been fighting for for two decades, by proceeding with approval for the City Services Building (CSB) and Early Childhood Lab School (ECLS) without the sports field.

YOUR INPUT IS ESSENTIAL! VOLUME MATTERS!

Send a short email {sample below} to the Coastal Commission staff and Commissioners requesting postponement of the ECLS and CSB items until the December 2017 Coastal Commission meeting, which will be held in the LA/OC region (rather than in Chula Vista), and rejection of the two pending applications if postponement isn't granted. Send separate emails from every member of your household, kids included! Emails are due by Friday, October 6, at 5 PM, in order to be included in the packet that is printed for the meeting. Thank you for your continued support!

SAMPLE EMAIL:

To: Effie.Turnbull-Sanders@coastal.ca.gov, Donne.Brownsey@coastal.ca.gov,
Mark.Vargas@coastal.ca.gov, Ryan.Sundberg@coastal.ca.gov, Aaron.Peskin@coastal.ca.gov,
Erik.Howell@coastal.ca.gov, Roberto.Uranga@coastal.ca.gov, Stephen.Padilla@coastal.ca.gov,
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Teresa.Henry@coastal.ca.gov, dayna.bochco@coastal.ca.gov, john.ainsworth@coastal.ca.gov
CC: fieldatcivic@gmail.com

Subject: 10/12/17 items Th9a (5-16-1033 ECLS) & Th9c (5-17-0429 CSB) - Postpone & Oppose - SAVE THE CIVIC CENTER FIELD!

"Dear Coastal Commissioners and Coastal Commission Staff:

Re: **Agenda Item No. Th9a**, Application number 5-16-1033, Santa Monica Community College's Early Childhood Lab School (ECLS) – **OPPOSED**

AND -**Agenda Item No. Th9c**, Application number: 5-17-0429, Addition to Santa Monica's Historic City Hall (aka the City Services Building)(CSB) – **OPPOSED**

I am requesting that you delay the hearing on these applications to December 2017 because Coastal policy states that matters be scheduled for the local meeting for maximum public participation. These are matters of huge public interest, and we cannot be expected to travel from Santa Monica to Chula Vista in order to participate.

Alternatively, I am requesting that you reject the applications for the following reasons:

1. Lack of public process. There was no meaningful public notice of submission of these projects to the Coastal Commission, and no real engagement by the City or SMC with residents at the City level on these projects.

2. We have a municipal Civic Center Specific Plan of 2005 (CCSP) that includes the Civic Center Sports Field. The CSB and ECLS cannot be considered in isolation without adversely affecting the other elements. As far as residents are concerned, the field is ready to go. It is the simplest of the remaining elements and has been intentionally delayed by the city in acknowledgement of its effect on the two projects selectively chosen to put before you. Funding has been budgeted for this field, but the City continues to delay submitting it, favoring instead two projects which directly affect the site on which the sports field is to be built. It's not appropriate for the City to use you, the Coastal Commission, to consider only two of the three reasonably foreseeable projects piecemeal and in isolation, and literally park them where you know the field is supposed to go, with the effect of setting you up as the field killer. How can the Coastal Commission create conditions for the approval of these two projects that adversely affects the third known and funded project in the CCSP?

3. Access. Approving these projects will negatively impact coastal access because they fail to include self-contained, on-site parking and instead are using up parking meant for other projects. This puts pressure on coastal parking for the remaining projects in the Civic Center coastal zone, such as the sports field and Civic Auditorium, which will directly affect the decision of the Coastal Commission concerning these elements.

4. Neither Visitor Serving Nor Recreational Use. Section 30213 of the Coastal Act states, "Lower cost visitor and recreational facilities shall be protected, encouraged, and, where feasible, provided. Developments providing public recreational opportunities are preferred." The CSB and ECEC are neither visitor-serving nor recreational. The CSB is a City staff building. The ECEC is private day care for the RAND Corporation, City and SMC employees, as well as an SMC satellite campus. Both projects have substantially increased in size and have eliminated on-site parking to the detriment of the recreational and visitor-serving uses of the remainder of the site. The sports field will serve 3000 high school students across the street, thousands of youth and adults who would use the field in other hours, and visitors to Civic Auditorium events that incorporate the field space such as festivals and other public events. By approving CSB and ECEC and effectively preventing the sports field from being built, the Coastal Commission is prioritizing non-visitor serving and non-recreational uses over a visitor-serving and recreational use in the coastal zone.

These applications seeking approval are part of a known plan for specific uses and facilities on a small contained site within the purview of the Coastal Commission and they should not be considered in isolation, especially when that consideration effectively prejudices and likely eliminates one of the uses (the sports field) due to insufficient information being provided by the applicants.

Sincerely,
[YOUR NAME]"

BACKGROUND:

Despite the City Council's repeated representations that the approved field is moving forward and allocation of funds for construction, the City has applied for Coastal Commission permits to begin construction of the Early Childhood Lab School (ECLS) and the City Services Building (CSB) in a way that kills the field. Approval of plans for both projects are before the California Coastal Commission Thursday, October 12, in Chula Vista.

The City and SMC eliminated the original planned on-site parking requirements for these projects (approximately 350-400 spaces), and instead have told the Coastal Commission they will rely on available surface lot and tower parking at the Civic Center. Furthermore, the Coastal Commission is not looking at the space needed for the sports field because the City hasn't submitted it to the Coastal Commission.

It comes down to simple math. According to the parking data submitted by the City and accepted by the Coastal Commission in their report, there are 592 parking spaces available during the weekday in the surface lot and structure. The Coastal Commission report says the CSB will use 90 spaces (for 239 employees and folks doing business with them), the ECLS footprint takes up 230 spaces, and the ECLS requires 55 spaces (for 25 staff and 90 college students). $592 - 90 - 230 - 55 = 217$ parking spaces left. The field footprint is **430** spaces, so it will be rejected.

On June 27, the City Council rejected the school district's offer to contribute \$50 million to build an underground parking structure under the sports field at the Civic Center, saying that it could not justify building all that parking because parking just isn't going to be that important in the future. If that's the case, why has the City gone to such great lengths to lock up Civic Center parking for itself and its pet projects to make sure there's enough for the ECLS and the CSB?

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

The applications were originally scheduled as consent items (meaning no hearing) in September because the City led the Coastal Commission to believe that there was no opposition. Since neither SMC nor the City notified the public that they had submitted the projects to the Coastal Commission, they hadn't heard otherwise. Luckily, a few residents found out about the hearing at the last minute and scrambled to submit a request to remove the items from the consent calendar for (1) failure to give notice and lack of public access files; (2) inappropriateness of the applications for consent calendar due to their controversial nature; (3) failure to accurately determine parking usage of the ECEC and CSB and Civic Center parking capacity due to inaccurate and incomplete information provided by applicants; and (4) failure to consider the approved Civic Center Field project as a concurrent application.

The Coastal Commission agreed to postpone for a hearing, but only until October 12 in Chula Vista. Not only do we need more time to review and comment on the applications and documents, the hearing should be held in a location that permits maximum public participation instead of being held outside our region. Furthermore, the Coastal Commission needs to reject these two projects if it won't consider the field at the same time because these applications call for parking where the field is supposed to go.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Although, a few of us are prepared to head to Chula Vista for an early morning meeting on October 12, we desperately need more time to review and comment on the applications and documents plus we believe the hearing should be held in a location that permits maximum public participation instead of being held outside our region. It's the community's job to convince the Coastal Commission to reject these two projects if they won't consider the sports field at the same time because these applications call for parking where the field is supposed to go.