

9-1-2020

Hello Kinikia Gardner and Diego Janacua,

I support the use of Open Space and Park Space as the preferred future land-use of the "Santa Monica Airport Opportunity Site" for the park-poor Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community.

This land is owned by the City Santa Monica and on which the voters of Santa Monica passed a 2014 ballot initiative, Measure LC City Charter Amendment, that requires that any land that is closed to aviation use can only be used for "parks, public open spaces, and public recreational facilities." Any other land use would require a vote of the people.

Residents have voiced a clear need for open space at this location. It is important that any updates to the Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community Plan work in conjunction with those community needs and City Charter stipulations.

As Los Angeles creates greater access to denser housing opportunities through zoning and land use changes, the importance and need for parks and open space becomes even more apparent as we can see by the heavy demand that the recent pandemic has placed on our limited amount of park space.

In the Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community there is a severe parks deficit and lack of parks with only 0.5 Park Acres Per 1,000 residents.

This is shockingly well below the already low County average of 3.3 Park Acres per 1,000.

A Great Public Park to replace Santa Monica Airport can provide open space for generations to come even as zoning and land use changes reflect denser housing uses that limits personal yard space.

Great cities need great parks ESPECIALLY where there is only a tiny 0.5 Park Acres Per 1,000 residents.

Some of the important elements in the current 1997 Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community Plan that should be retained are:

"To preserve existing open space resources and where possible develop new open space."

"Encourage the retention of passive and visual open space which provides a balance to urban development of the community."

"Views of distinctive visual resources (e.g., bluffs, wetlands) will not be significantly disturbed."

The land that is listed as the Los Angeles "Santa Monica Airport Opportunity Site." offers spectacular and unparalleled bluff views of the Pacific Ocean to the west and to the Hollywood Hills and Hollywood Sign to the east.

In short, this specific plot of land will make a spectacular and essential addition to a Great Park and is our one chance in this lifetime (or many future lifetimes) to provide this great resource for those living in the Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community area for generations to come.

Sincerely,

MB