



PATRICIA C. BATES

CHAIR, ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

ORANGE COUNTY HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
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September 25, 2009

Mr. Pete DeSimone
Manager, Starr Ranch Audubon Society

Mr. Dan Silver
Executive Director, Endangered Habitats

Ms. Jean Watt
President, Friends of Harbors, Beaches & Parks

Ms. Claire Schlotterbeck
Executive Director, Hills For Everyone

Mr. Karl Warkomski
Executive Director, Laguna Canyon Foundation

Ms. Elisabeth Brown
President, Laguna Greenbelt Foundation

Mr. Scott Thomas
Committee Chair, Sea & Sage Audubon Society
Chapter

Ms. Patricia Barnes
Committee Chair, Sierra Club, Angeles

Ms. Mary Fegraus
Community Member

Ms. Theresa Sears
Community Member

Dear Members of the Steering Committee:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the proposed Letter of Intent between the County of Orange and the Irvine Company involving the potential transfer of more than 20,000 acres of additional open space. The various members of the Steering Committee have demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship in Orange County and I welcome your participation as we set forward a process that ensures and embraces an open, transparent and inclusive approach that will yield greater public stewardship of Orange County's open space. To that end, I am encouraged that discussions between the Steering Committee and OC Parks have already begun.

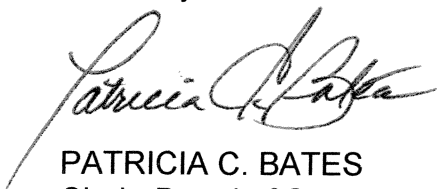
In response to your letter dated September 21, 2009, it is my belief that that proposed action before the Board of Supervisors on September 29, 2009 merely starts a process toward the mutual goal of transferring ownership of the more 20,000 acres of open space from private ownership into the hands of the public. The proposed Letter of Intent sets forth a baseline of conditions that can be used by OC Parks for negotiating a successful transfer. Any final decision by this Board of Supervisors is not anticipated for at least four months which should provide ample time for the evaluation and resolution of the various concerns you raise in your letter.

It is my desire to seek the support of my colleagues on the Board to formalize into our process an opportunity for your Steering Committee and other interested parties to participate in a public manner throughout the process. I will be directing that a standing Agenda Item be placed before the OC Parks Commission to receive a monthly status report on any efforts set forward should the proposed Letter of Intent be approved by the Board. This will ensure that an open, transparent and inclusive approach is provided to you and any other member of the public. Additionally, I will be directing that OC Parks add this item to my monthly briefings to ensure that I am fully briefed on this important issue as we move forward.

Since the Steering Committee appears to be supportive of this effort, at least in concept, I am pleased that we will once again establish a partnership in moving forward together toward an opportunity that will benefit Orange County residents for generations to come.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (714) 834-3550.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia C. Bates".

PATRICIA C. BATES
Chair, Board of Supervisors

c: Members, Orange County Board of Supervisors
Thomas G. Mauk, CEO
Mark Denny, OC Parks
Nick Chrisos, County Counsel
Darlene Bloom, Clerk of the Board