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Subject: Support for the Fairview Park Master Plan Update

Costa Mesa Mayor, City Council, City Staff, Fairview Park Steering Committee, and PACS Commissioners:

The Orange County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (OCCNPS) has long had an interest in Fairview Park and the adjacent and connected lands of Talbert Regional Park, Canyon Park, and the recently conserved Randall Preserve. We are dedicated to the conservation of this remarkable place, its natural resources, its rare native plants, and the public's enjoyment and access to the land.

OCCNPS supports the Draft Fairview Park Master Plan Update. This plan presents clear, scientific findings that uphold the public's wishes for Fairview Park to prioritize habitat protection, restoration, and low-impact human use. Glider airplane flying and illegal trail from pedestrians and cyclists have significant negative impacts on habitats and native plant ecology and are incompatible and inappropriate activities at Fairview Park.

Fairview Park hosts several regionally rare and sensitive special-status native plant species which have been scientifically documented at Fairview Park, and other species that may be present and occurring nearby. Those documented at the park include the following (scientific documentation available upon request):

***Callitriche longipedunculata*, Longstock water-starwort**

Locally Rare. One of only two Orange County locations

***Camissoniopsis lewisii*, Lewis's evening-primrose**

California Rare Plant Rank: 3 (*CNPS Review list*).

***Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*, Southern tarplant**

California Rare Plant Rank: 1B.1 (*rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere*).

***Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*, San Diego button celery**

California Rare Plant Rank: 1B.1 (*rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere*).

State of California status: Endangered. Federal status: Endangered.

Orange County's only population. State and Federally protected species.

***Hordeum intercedens*, Vernal barley**

California Rare Plant Rank: 1B.1 (*rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere*).

State of California status: Endangered. Federal status: Endangered.

***Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*, Goldfields**

California Rare Plant Rank: 1B.1 (*rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere*).

Orange County's largest native (presumed) population.

***Lycium californicum*, California Boxthorn**

California Rare Plant Rank: 4.2 (*limited distribution*)

***Microseris douglasii* ssp. *platycarpa*, Small flowered microseris**

California Rare Plant Rank: 4.2 (*limited distribution*).

***Myosurus minimus* ssp. *apus*, Little mouse tail**

California Rare Plant Rank: 3.1 (*CNPS Review list*).

***Nama stenocarpum*, Mud nama**

California Rare Plant Rank: 2B.2 (*rare, threatened, or endangered in CA; common elsewhere*).

***Navarretia prostrata*, Prostrate navarretia**

California Rare Plant Rank: 1B.2 (*rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere*).

***Orcuttia californica*, California orcutt grass**

California Rare Plant Rank: 1B.1 (*rare, threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere*).

State of California status: Endangered. Federal status: Endangered.

***Triglochin scilloides*, Flowering-quillwort**

Locally Rare. Orange County's only known population.

As biologists and environmental scientists it is important for us to point out that much of the biological resources currently persisting at Fairview Park have already been severely compromised and significantly reduced. The current palette of plants occurring at Fairview Park is dominated and in many cases overwhelmed by invasive and non-native species. While green and at times even flowery, these species are not supporting ecological health or native biodiversity.

The fragile and sensitive lands at Fairview Park need not only protection, but restoration, to allow them to again provide essential biological and environmental services. Specifically, the disturbed soils and mounds need to be removed, the topography reformed to its original contour, the extensive invasive plants aggressively managed, locally native plant species restored, and off-trail travel restricted.

OCCNPS supports the recommendations made by the City's Master Planning expert consultants, the Fairview Park Steering Committee, the city's Parks and Community Services Commission, the resource agencies, and the requirements of State and Federal law to protect habitats and species. This plan will prohibit damage from high impact glider airplane and off-trail bicycle and foot-traffic activities and preserve the seven miles of trails for low-impact human recreation and natural resource health, as specified in the Master Plan Update.

Please accept the Fairview Park Master Plan Update and allocate proper funding to Fairview Park to increase illegal activity enforcement.

Thank you,



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