



To preserve and enhance the unique village character of Laguna Beach

May 22, 2022

RE: South Laguna Community Garden Park Dear

Council members,

We strongly request that the Council restore the Garden Park funding, and commit to working with the community to acquire the property so that this heart-warming and beautiful park will become a permanent community asset. Since contacts with the owner's realtor indicate his interest in selling, now is the time for the City to renew its participation.

It is critical that the City Council's emphasis and funding reach all of its neighborhoods as well as the commercial core. We have witnessed much financial and staff support of improvements in the downtown, not only studies, but the physical improvements to help businesses cope with the pandemic. While these are laudable efforts, neighborhoods need City investment and enhancements too. The Garden Park provides a safe and inspiring outdoor experience for the neighborhood and for visitors. This Covid crisis has demonstrated how relevant this facility is.

In this case residents have volunteered and donated to create this exemplary and award- winning Garden Park—they have now raised over \$600,000 in donations and pledges. Restoring the Garden Park funding from the City is critical in making the acquisition feasible. Please consider increasing the City's participation in both funding and providing council and staff assistance.

Park spaces serve the entire city, and providing more parks that meet different recreational needs is an important part of what our Council should be doing.

Very truly yours,

Anne Caenn, President