



Via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail

December 16, 2011

Mr. Bradley T. Cox
Senior Managing Director
Trammell Crow
2049 Century Park East, Suite 2600
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Re: Rio de Los Angeles State Park and Taylor Yard, Parcel G-2

Dear Mr. Cox:

In 2000, over three dozen community, business, faith-based, environmental and social justice groups formed the Coalition for a State Park at Taylor Yard to connect our diverse,

densely urbanized communities through restoring the Los Angeles River and creating park land and open space along its banks at Taylor Yard, and preventing the unwarranted expansion of industrial facilities in northeast Los Angeles. Many of the undersigned organizations, as well as thousands of individual community members, participated in that successful effort that led to the creation of Rio de Los Angeles State Park.

Based on discussions that you recently have had with some of this Coalition's members, we understand that Trammell Crow may be pursuing plans for industrial development of Parcel G-2 at Taylor Yard. For that reason, we write now to reaffirm our commitment to the Coalition's longstanding community vision for Taylor Yard and urge Trammell Crow to abandon any plans for industrial development of the site or any portion of it, including Parcel G-2.

This Coalition has developed a long-term vision of a 100-acre state park at Taylor Yard that includes the restoration of adjacent riverfront lands. This vision has been widely adopted by elected officials and government agencies, and was developed through consensus, building largely on the results of community organizing and planning efforts dating back to the early 1990s. This vision promotes the values at stake in creating park and green space around disproportionately park-poor, income-poor communities of color around Taylor Yard: investing in people and stronger communities; improving physical, psychological and social health; achieving conservation benefits, including clean land, water and air, and habitat protection; stimulating economic growth through local green jobs; and ensuring equal access to the River.

The Coalition triumphed over a previous development proposal that did not square with the community's vision. In the late 1990s, Florida-based Lennar Partners proposed 650,000 square feet of industrial warehouses for Parcel D at Taylor Yard, posing numerous environmental and social justice impacts to neighboring residents and schools. In January 2001, members of the Coalition filed successful litigation against Lennar, Union Pacific Railroad and the City of Los Angeles. The California Attorney General filed a brief in support of the park advocates, and the court ruled in their favor on a range of issues. As a result, the California Department of Parks and Recreation acquired that property in December 2001, and Parcel G-1 in 2003. Rio de Los Angeles State Park opened on Earth Day of 2007.

The Coalition achieved the first phase of its goals—stopping the industrial development and building a state park at Taylor Yard—through a relentless and high-profile campaign that received extensive coverage in the media at a time when the Los Angeles River was not as much in the public consciousness. Since that time, the City has created the Ad Hoc River Committee and adopted the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan. Los Angeles Unified School District has created the Sonia M. Sotomayor Learning Academies at Taylor Yard. The state has invested hundreds of millions in revitalizing the Los Angeles River. The U.S. Department of Interior and the Obama Administration have named the River as one of seven national priority rivers through the Urban Waters Partnership and targeted improvements along the River as one of the top 101 national outdoor priorities through the America's Great Outdoors campaign.

In other words, efforts to restore the Los Angeles River and revitalize its adjacent neighborhoods have gained significant momentum, prominence, and visibility in the last decade. Moreover, this Coalition remains as invested in, and committed to, realizing the community's

vision for a restored riverfront and preventing industrial development at Taylor Yard as it was back in 2000. We anticipate that any plan to develop the G-2 parcel for industrial purposes would generate a high-profile public campaign of opposition and, if necessary, protracted and costly litigation.

We strongly urge Trammell Crow to drop its purchase option on the G-2 parcel. We hope you will agree that the long-term public benefits of protecting this critical Los Angeles River frontage far outweigh any short-term potential for financial gain that industrial use of the property might provide.

Very truly yours,




Joel Reynolds
Director, Urban Program
Natural Resources Defense Council



Melanie Winter
Founder and Director
The River Project



Doug Carstens
Partner
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Founder and President
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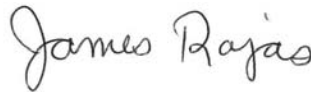
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