



June 17, 2002

Mike Brewster
CalTrans
P.O. Box 85406
San Diego, CA 92186-5406

Re: Imperial Avenue Overpass Project

Dear Mr. Brewster:

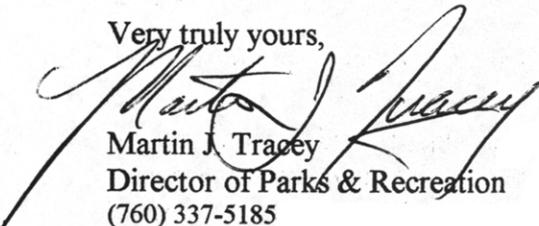
Further to our telephone conversation last Thursday afternoon regarding the Farmers Estates Subdivision retention basin/park and the Imperial Avenue Overpass Project, please be advised that the retention basin has not yet been excavated. We will work with the developer to relocate it outside the right-of-way needs of CalTrans.

As discussed, these retention basin/parks are not parks in the conventional sense. Factually, they are dirt pits dug below grade whose primary purpose is to act as a temporary holding area in the event of heavy rains. Because the topsoil is removed and the depth of the pit puts the surface closer to the ground water table, our ability to grow grass, or much of anything, is hampered by the salts leaching from the soil. The result is an area that has very limited use as parkland.

The City of El Centro currently has more than 125 acres in parks. The General Plan calls for 2.9 acres of parkland for every 1,000 in population. According to the California Department of Finance, the population of El Centro is at 39,342. Currently the City has about 3.2 acres of parkland for every 1,000 in population.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,


Martin J. Tracey
Director of Parks & Recreation
(760) 337-5185

cc: Abdel Salem, City Manager
Ken Skillman, City Engineer

EXHIBIT 17

EL CENTRO PARKS & RECREATION LETTER