

February 15, 2006

Honorable
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Urban Parks in Infrastructure Bonds

Dear _____:

I am writing to urge you to include funding for urban parks in any infrastructure bonds this year. The Governor and Legislature should include significant funding for urban parks in any infrastructure bond, and guarantee that underserved communities receive their fair share of those public benefits.

California faces an historic opportunity to improve the quality of life enjoyed by our residents for generations to come. Strategic infrastructure investments will enhance the economic competitiveness of the state, increase social equity, and improve the environment. Infrastructure plans should be guided by statewide interests, but tailored by region to meet particular needs and priorities. According to a survey by the Public Policy Institute of California, 64% of Californians believe that poorer communities have less than their fair share of well-maintained parks and recreational facilities.

Urban parks, open space and related human health issues are a critical component of any state, regional, and local infrastructure plan for livable, just communities. Urban parks promote the core values at stake in building public infrastructure: providing children the simple joys of playing in the park; improving health and recreation; equal access to public resources; democratic participation in deciding the future of the community; economic vitality for all with increased property values, local jobs, small business contracts, and affordable housing; spiritual values in protecting people and the earth; the environmental benefits of clean air, water, and ground; and sustainable regional planning.

Again, I urge you to include significant funding for urban parks that reaches underserved communities in any infrastructure bond.

Sincerely,

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