

July 14, 2025

City of San Diego Mayor, Councilmembers, and staff,

I am writing on behalf of the Southeastern San Diego Community Planning Group (SSD CPG) regarding budgeting and CIP support for four projects within the SSD communities. These projects are:

- a. Mt. Hope Rec Center at Dennis V. Allen Park;
- b. Mt. Hope Improvements (0.53 miles of sewer main line and affiliated trail from Mt. Hope to Federal Blvd. pocket park);
- c. Logan Heights Junk Yard conversion to park/green space; &
- d. Ocean View Blvd. beautification and green infrastructure.

On July 8, 2024, the SSD CPG unanimously approved these as our top four priority capital improvement projects. This was reaffirmed at our July 14, 2025 meeting.

Additionally, the principle of "equality vs. equity" must guide budget decisions. When identical cuts across all neighborhoods are implemented, the reality that some communities start from a position of decades-long infrastructure deficit is ignored. Areas like Districts 4, 8, and 9 have waited generations for amenities that other neighborhoods received long ago. True fiscal responsibility means protecting investments in historically marginalized areas even during budget constraints.

Furthermore, the SSD CPG strongly supports a practical reform to project management, which is returning smaller Capital Improvement Projects to the departments that will ultimately manage these assets. First, when Parks & Recreation or Stormwater departments transfer project oversight to Engineering & Capital Projects, unnecessary administrative burdens and expenses are created. Second, the established connection to the communities where they work more directly with residents is lost. These changes can help achieve both cost efficiency and enhanced community trust. Please consider these practical changes which would better serve both our city's fiscal health and its commitment to equitable development.

We look forward to seeing how this project develops and appreciate the attention it is receiving.

Sincerely,

Amie Gutierrez
Chair, Southeastern San Diego Community Planning Group