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March 15, 2016

Sacramento City Council  
Sacramento City Hall  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Del Paso Park**

Dear Mayor Johnson and Members of the City Council,

The Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) is a coalition of environmental and civic organizations with a combined membership of more than 12,000 citizens throughout the Sacramento Region. Our mission is to achieve regional and community sustainability and a healthy environment for existing and future residents. ECOS was asked to review rehabilitation plans for Renfree Field and its potential impact to the adjacent Del Paso Park.

The ECOS Land Use Committee has completed its project review and discussed with neighborhood representatives their concerns. While ECOS understands that some investment and rehabilitation in Renfree Field may be necessary, there is concern about the loss of open space and that the proposal is in the form of a lease agreement rather than a direct City project.

The proposed conversion of an open space area to overflow parking is troubling. A historical review shows this area was once a large continuous park but has slowly been transformed over the decades into its current patchwork form. The area in question is one of the few open spaces remaining and the loss of open space and habitat would be a sizable blow to this part of Sacramento.

Currently this area is used by the neighborhood and surrounding communities for hiking, horseback riding, birding and other activities that promote enjoyment of the outdoors.

The neighborhood representatives' desires to maintain open space and trails, develop historical interpretive areas, and to improve habitat must be carefully considered and not discounted. Alternatives to the current proposal should receive public input before any action regarding a lease agreement is considered.

ECOS opposes the utilization of Del Paso Park open space for overflow parking and requests that further study of alternatives be undertaken prior to any decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brandon Rose".

Brandon Rose,  
ECOS Board President

Cc: City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Commission  
Charles Duckworth, Friends of Del Paso Park (duckphoto@yahoo.com)