



## Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council

March 9, 2021

**Subject:** REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAYLOR YARD PASEO DEL RÍO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH TEAM

**On December 16, 2020 the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) produced an outreach document titled “REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAYLOR YARD PASEO DEL RÍO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH TEAM”. The purpose of the document was to announce to the public of funding for outreach for community engagement and outreach for the Paseo Del Rio project.**

**In the introduction section of the document it stated the following “The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) requests proposals from Community Engagement and Outreach (CE) teams that may be made up of non- governmental organizations (NGOs), nonprofit organizations (NPOs), and/or private consultant companies to assist with community engagement and outreach to local residents, stakeholders, neighborhoods and community groups “supporting” the “planning efforts of the Taylor Yard Paseo del Rio Project (Project).”**

The use of the word “**supporting**” is not acceptable considering that MRCA is a public agency that must follow all city, county, state and federal laws to remain non-bias, transparent and open to all opinions in the creation of Paseo Del Rio project. The statement “**supporting**” the “**planning efforts of the Taylor Yard Paseo del Río Project (Project).**” Is not supportive of all opinions and gives the impression that MRCA only wants to give public funding through grants to only organization that will support the Paseo Del Rio project.

In recent outreach and community engagement efforts funded through MRCA there have only been “supportive” focused outreach with more focused being done on the final phase of Paseo Del Rio and not the negative effects that residents will suffer during all the phases before getting to the final phase. The terms “**mitigate**” and “**acceptable**” used in the description of contaminates found in the Paseo Del Rio park have given the false illusion to the public that the land maybe safe to build Paseo Del Rio park. The public was also told at a few non-profit outreach events that there were “**acceptable / safe levels of lead on site, we know that there are no safe levels of lead.** If MRCA did not only allow for “supporting” groups to apply for the grant funding, we may have had a group that would bring the other side of the opinion to the table on the creation of Paseo Del Rio park. Unfortunately, this is not the only grant or public document that MRCA has released stating and requesting to only “**support**” MRCA projects.

### **Requested actions to be taken to cure:**

MRCA current process on selecting outreach and community engagement needs to include “supporting” and “non-supporting” groups with equal funding. There should be a townhall meeting where the public can hear both sides pro and cons of the creation of Paseo Del Rio Park. It shall be left up to the public if the risks out weight the benefits of building Paseo De Rio.

Authored by Vincent Montalvo

