

Exhibit C
Comment Letters



**We create special places. We plant, care, inspire.
We are a voice, a teacher, a steward.**

November 16, 2016

TO: Members of the Planning Commission

RE: Vision for the Parks Master Plan

The Vision is thoughtful and professional. The framework/platform merits your consideration. That said, the Vision falls short of what we need. The Vision is so cautious that we risk going backward in the face of our other community challenges. Please revise the Vision to include:

- A. Community Parks: A large park (a flagship park) for each district/ high school attendance area, the Centerpiece of the Neighborhood, that will improve the identity, community spirit, beauty, architectural interest, and property values of each district in Fresno.
- B. Regional Parks: Enlarge Roeding park to 400+ acres. Build a regional park in SE Fresno with 400 + acres. Improve Woodward Park to realize its potential. Create a regional soccer facility with practice fields.
- C. Linear Parks: Create a system of greenways/linear parks – the Valley Arboretum – to be a signature amenity, provide accessible nature, restrain sprawl and connect downtown Fresno with the zoo; Kearney Park; Sunnyside and the San Joaquin River.
- D. Path to a great park system: set forth the land requirements and cost range to have a park system that ranks with the top park systems in the state and nation.
- E. Theme, a mascot, and a message: to inspire the park staff, City Council and the community to get enthusiastic about updating the Parks Master Plan.
- F. A strategy to provide a meaningful staff presence at each park.
- G. Ways to leverage the strategic assets in Fresno that will help us to build a park system of international stature: soil, topography, the San Joaquin River, a dedicated PARCS and DARM staff, the San Joaquin River Parkway Conservancy and Trust, the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, the Chaffee Zoo, the AAA baseball stadium, the Eaton and Sugar Pine Trails, Woodward Park, Fresno Fair Grounds, the SaveMart Center, Fresno Art Museum, Saroyan Theater, High Speed Rail station, nearby national forests and national parks, Fresno State, K-12 schools, the ingenuity of our agriculturalists and master gardeners, abundant potential park sites, low land costs and low labor costs.
- H. Expand existing school sites and parks to increase open space and remove blight.
- I. Landscape easements on industrial, ag lands, and properties next to trails and freeways to create useful greenways and forests.

Let's ignite the community spirit of Fresno with the Vision for our Parks Master Plan!

Sincerely,

Lee Ayres

Chief Executive Officer