CAPITOL OFFICE:
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4039
FAX (916) 327-2188

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2445 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 200
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101
TEL (619) 645-3133
FAX (619) 645-3144

California State Senate

SENATOR
CHRISTINE KEHOE
THIRTY-NINTH SENATE DISTRICT

STANDING COMMITTEES:
- APPROPRIATIONS, CHAIR
- BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
- ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
- GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE
- NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER
- TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING

JOINT COMMITTEES:
- ARTS
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
- FAIRS, ALLOCATION AND CLASSIFICATION
- FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
- LEGISLATIVE BUDGET
- RULES

MEMBER:
- LEGISLATIVE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER CAUCUS, CHAIR
- LEGISLATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

October 17, 2012

The Honorable Lorie Zapf, Chair
Land Use & Housing Committee
202 C Street MS10A
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Chairwoman Zapf and Committee Members:

In 2007 I carried SB 373 that saved the city about $1.5 million in processing costs and converted approximately 6,600 acres of open space to dedicated status. In January, when the City Council voted to sponsor follow-up legislation this year to protect the remaining eligible parcels, we wanted to protect the maximum number of canyons throughout the city.

I was privileged to carry SB 1169 this year as enabling legislation that allows the City of San Diego to convert up to 10,000 acres of city-owned land determined in 1992 to be eligible for dedication, providing the maximum protection for the parcels. Now, after Real Estate Assets has made a final review of the parcels, only another 5,900 acres are on the draft list.

The original list of city-owned parcels was approved by the City Council in 1992. Due to budget constraints, the city was not able to convert the parcels to dedicated status using its normal process. Fortunately, the City Charter allows the State Legislature to establish a process to dedicate the land. The city has until December 31st of this year to vote on the final list.

Designated open space can be sold or traded or developed with only 5 votes of the Council. While dedicated open space can only be used for another purpose if two-thirds of the voters elect to do so.

San Diego Canyonlands, the Sierra Club and community planning groups support moving forward with the maximum number of acres possible. I urge the Council to protect our urban canyons and open space and direct staff to return with a complete list.

Sincerely,

Christine Kehoe

CHRISTINE KEHOE
Senator, 39th District