



August 4, 2017

Senator Josh Newman
State of California
State Capitol, Room 4082
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: City of Fullerton SB 714: Oppose

Dear Senator Newman:

On August 1, 2017, the City Council considered Senate Bill 714 (SB 714) and after hearing public and City Council comments, voted to oppose SB 714. Respectfully, the City Council requests that you reconsider moving forward with this legislation because it does not reflect the decades of planning, cooperation, and effort by the community of Fullerton to achieve a positive outcome for West Coyote Hills. In particular, there was great concern expressed by members of the public and the City Council that SB 714 specifically preempts local control for an area entirely within the City of Fullerton.

In April 2014, the City Council approved a "Path Forward" plan for the West Coyote Hills property that dedicated 370 acres for open space, allowed for acquisition of additional property for open space, set forth numerous other public benefits, and permitted the private property owner to move forward with a limited and responsible development plan. This "Path Forward" plan is a product of dozens of public meetings, environmental studies and assessments, and community input. SB 714 ignores the extensive public participation process that has occurred in the City of Fullerton over the last three decades and, as written, eliminates local control.

The City Council disagrees with your legislative intent to hand over management and operations of the property to the State Coastal Conservancy. Most disappointedly, the City was not consulted prior to the decision to involve the State Coastal Conservancy with this property and we believe that this creates a dangerous precedent for the State to take over local projects. The West Coyote Hills property is a valued asset and it is inappropriate for a State Agency to take over jurisdiction of this property after years of active community and regional participation.

SB 714 is a legislative overstep that is a direct assault on our local control of this property. While we appreciate efforts to secure State funding for the acquisition of open space, the Fullerton City Council and our community do not support this attempt to circumvent the public process and public comments that led to the adoption of a "Path Forward."

Accordingly, the City of Fullerton opposes SB 714 and requests that you do not move forward with this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Whitaker".

Bruce Whitaker
Mayor, City of Fullerton

CC: Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva

