



California Transportation Commission Meeting, May 29th, 2008, *San Diego Ca.*
RE: Agenda Item #37, Excess Land Property #DD 980541-01-01, 118th Street and Doty Avenue,
City of Hawthorne
From: Viviana Franco, *Executive Director*, From Lot to Spot

I would like to stress the following four (4) points in order to ask the CTC to consider a stay or rejection of this Director's Deed.

1. The CTC has the authority to set this issue aside in order to discuss the possibility to preserve this property for public use.
 - The City of Hawthorne (like many small cities along the 105 freeway) is cash strapped but has indicated that they are willing to work with From Lot to Spot to preserve this lot;
 - CalTrans has formed similar public/private partnerships with community based organizations around the state, for example, Bordertown Skate Park in Oakland, CA, El Sereno Community Garden and Park
2. This property sold for \$300,000 – this accounts for only **2% of the State's total returns.**
3. The CA Streets and Highways Code requires that Caltrans first offer the property for sale or exchange to public agencies operating parks or recreational areas.
 - On February 26th 2008, From Lot to Spot asked to meet with Caltrans staff and the City of Hawthorne to discuss ways to preserve this lot for public use;
 - Caltrans staff ignored FLTS's requests to meet with the City and Caltrans to preserve the lot as a public park and put the property up for auction.
4. There has been overwhelming, continuous support for this project in this low-income, park-poor community.
 - Not only from local community, but from several local elected officials including Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Assemblymember Curren Price, the City of Hawthorne and environmental groups such as the Verde Coalition, Northeast Tress and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps
 - City of Hawthorne Resolution to support FLTS efforts
 - This is a rare opportunity, with unique circumstances

We are asking the Commission to please grant a stay of or reject this Director's Deed for 90 days and direct staff to meet with the City, FTLs, stakeholders and other public agencies operating parks and recreational facilities to discuss opportunities and strategies to preserve this property for public use as authorized by CTC regulations. We are not asking the CTC to forgo the sale of this property, we are simply asking for time. This is an opportunity to step back and set aside some time to reevaluate the unique circumstances of this case more thoroughly.

CTC now has the opportunity to have a profound and positive impact on this community. Giving the community and the City a chance to preserve this lot for public use is giving the community an opportunity to create a vibrant, public space that will be a catalyst for it's revitalization. You have the power to rewrite the courses of this community's future.