

In October 2016, the County of Los Angeles purchased the San Pedro courthouse property from the State of California. In November 2016, the Board of Supervisors selected a developer and ordered the Department of Public Works to enter into exclusive negotiations to develop the property. My understanding is that escrow is expected to close on the purchase of the property this week.

For 44 years, the courthouse was a central part of downtown San Pedro, and I look forward to seeing the next phase of its development. What the developer has proposed is a mixed used project that will consist of cultural, retail and residential uses. I believe that, while this proposal should be considered, it should be far from the only option residents have to choose from.

For many years, I have worked with San Pedro residents and business owners to transform its downtown area into a vibrant, thriving area. The development of the San Pedro courthouse property is a key aspect of this vision, and I applaud the significant efforts by the County to this point. However, it is just the beginning of the discussion.

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The exclusive negotiations with the County are expected to occur over the next six months. The developer is also required to engage in a community input process within this timeframe. This process should not be merely a presentation of what the developer conceived. It should be a robust, transparent discussion that takes into account the full potential this development could have, not only for San Pedro, but the surrounding communities as well.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Deputy of Public Works work with the developer, in close partnership with key stakeholders, to create a transparent, robust community engagement process around the development of the San Pedro courthouse property, taking into account the full range of ideas and options, and report back in 30 days with a comprehensive plan for doing so.

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