



WE ARE AYSO

September 3, 2021

Honorable Mayor Farrah Khan:

cc: Vice Mayor Tammy Kim, Councilmember Larry Agran, Councilmember Mike Carrol, Councilmember Anthony Kuo

As the largest youth soccer organization in Orange County, AYSO Section 11 are pleased to provide this letter of support for the Orange County Soccer Club (OCSC) and their proposal to operate Championship Soccer Stadium at Irvine's Great Park per the recently released RFP.

We believe OCSC is both well qualified and well positioned to manage the stadium in a manner that optimizes the use of the facility. OCSC is uniquely positioned to both maximize revenues for the City of Irvine, and to establish the Championship Soccer Stadium as a gathering place for the whole of the soccer community in Irvine. As the highest level of professional sports in Irvine, as the highest level of soccer in Orange County, and as they represent Orange County on the national soccer stage, OCSC will ensure the stadium remains one of the region's top athletic venues.

In addition to OCSC's seventeen (17) regular season home games, the club will continue to attract the highest level of professional and amateur soccer teams to Irvine. No other entity in or around the city is as well connected on the domestic or international soccer scene as OCSC. They boast partnerships with significant teams from Japan and Scotland, do business regularly with teams throughout the United States, and as part of OCSC's Youth Soccer Network work every day with youth soccer organizations such as AYSO, here in Irvine and across Orange County. OCSC's management of stadium operations will ensure more opportunities for these soccer partners to come, stay and enjoy Irvine.

Through the OCSC Community Foundation, the club is building miniature soccer pitches (safe playing areas) in underserved communities throughout the county, providing free soccer curriculum to local schools (including providing virtual soccer clinics in and around Irvine through the Covid period) and supporting organizations like Second Harvest Food Bank and Camp Pendleton. As an extension of the club, this charitable arm of the organization serves to increase community access to the stadium by way of clinics and special events.

Today, OCSC accounts for more than 700 room nights for local hotels annually through its USL Championship League games, a number that could be significantly increased if OCSC managed stadium operations and was able to encourage more participation at the stadium by both nearby youth clubs and visiting international clubs. Just as importantly for the local economy, OCSC employees and fans are part of the Irvine community. They live in and around the Irvine

area. OCSC players live in Irvine. They eat in Irvine restaurants, spend money in Irvine stores and send their children to Irvine schools.

OCSC has essentially managed the stadium, as it relates to game day operations, for nearly five years since the day the stadium opened. No one has a greater interest in ensuring Championship Soccer Stadium is a first-class operation than OCSC – their brand and ability to attract the region's top talent depend on it. With the expertise, the incentive, and the support of the local soccer community behind it, we believe OCSC is the best operator for the Championship Soccer Stadium at The Great Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Van Otten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being the most prominent.

Gary Van Otten
Section Coach Administrator
AYSO Section 11