



Office of the Mayor

KENNETH D. MIYAGISHIMA
MAYOR

CITY OF LAS CRUCES

February 11, 2008

Patrick H. Lyons
Commissioner of Public Lands
P.O. Box 1148
Santa Fe, NM 87504-1148

Dear Commissioner Lyons:

I am writing you to discuss some of the difficulties experienced by the City of Las Cruces when your Business Planning Lease Agent petitioned for annexation of state trust lands east of Las Cruces last January. I would like to discuss possible ways to address those difficulties.

The size of the annexation request was one problem since, under current law, we had a relatively short period of time to review and approve a complex and extensive proposal. Also, since the agent himself was adverse to any delay in the proceedings, there was simply not enough time to properly evaluate the impact of the master plan on traffic patterns, drainage, schools, conformance with open space and trails plans, or any of the other myriad implications of a proposal of this size.

To this end, I am requesting that the State Land Office work more closely with local governments and agencies throughout your land development and release process. We ask specifically that you not only work with the City of Las Cruces on this planning, but also work with other area agencies, including Dona Ana County, the local school district, and the BLM.

Specifically, we ask that:

1. local governments and agencies be treated as partners in the planning process for state lands, with full consideration of local comprehensive planning efforts and with the Vision 2040 regional planning process currently underway in Dona Ana County;
2. the State Land Office notify local governments well in advance when state trust land is being considered for business planning leases or release;
3. the State Land Office not enter into agreements for business planning leases or petition for annexation without extensive consultation beforehand with local governments and agencies;

We understand and appreciate the role and obligations of the State Land Office in terms of generating income from the state trust lands. We believe, however, that this income will be maximized if development and release are compatible with long-range planning and development priorities of the local community. This will ensure the actions of the State Land Office will have the most positive affect on our community and minimize future controversies.

The City of Las Cruces looks forward to working with you on these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Miyagishima', written in a cursive style.

Ken Miyagishima
Mayor