

SoccerCity response to Times of San Diego request for comment on Councilman Chris Ward's remarks:

Thanks for including us.

Here is our perspective on this:

Councilmember Ward's prediction isn't surprising; conventional wisdom is that having competing ballot measures on the same topic causes both to fail. We have many reasons to believe this is the cynical strategy of the developers funding the SDSU West initiative, who would like nothing more than to see that land sit fallow, thereby reducing competition to their own nearby developments. This is an entirely self-interested effort disguised as a measure to help SDSU, made obvious by the fact that their measure doesn't even attempt to match the benefits provided by SoccerCity.

Unlike our opponents, we're not underestimating San Diego voters. We believe they're going to look closely and weigh the merits of the measures – and that once they do, they'll see SoccerCity is better for our citizens in every way, specifically: only SoccerCity will have MLS in a privately funded stadium that will also house SDSU Football; only the SoccerCity commits to paying fair market value for the land; only SoccerCity is acquiring the land and committing to fund the park construction; and only SoccerCity commits to funding the necessary traffic improvements around the site.

Our project was designed to bring San Diegans together. Their initiative was designed to divide us.