



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2021

The Honorable Carlos Del Toro
Secretary of the U.S. Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon. Room 4D652
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Del Toro:

I am writing regarding the Defense Fuel Support Point (DFSP) ball fields located at 2981 N. Gaffey St. and 3181 N. Gaffey St., San Pedro, CA 90731, as well as 26800 S. Western Ave., Lomita, CA 90717. The San Pedro Athletic Complex (SPAC), San Pedro Girls Softball Association (SPGSA), and Lomita Little League (LLL) – three local nonprofit organizations serving my congressional district and neighboring communities – were recently informed the Department of the Navy will drastically increase the cost of the fee for the organizations to use the fields. The organizations are now in danger of losing access to the fields because they would not be able to afford the larger fee.

The DFSP fields provide a vital setting for outdoor recreation to the residents of San Pedro, Lomita, and the surrounding communities. For nearly fifty years, the SPGSA has maintained and developed the field at 2981 N. Gaffey St. at no cost to the Navy. Similarly, the SPAC has been tasked with ensuring the DFSP field at 3181 N. Gaffey St. remains safe and accessible to local youth throughout the year. The contributions of these organizations have been essential to promoting active lifestyles amongst local youth in the Los Angeles Harbor region. Without the leadership of these organizations in maintaining these very necessary green spaces, our disadvantaged youth would be without three safe, accessible fields.

I understand the Secretary of Defense's June 19, 2020 memorandum stating the Department of Defense (DoD) will no longer provide non-reimbursable support of any nature to non-DoD entities; however, I strongly urge the Department of the Navy to consider the outsized impacts this decision will have on the health and wellbeing of youth in communities disproportionately burdened by lack of access to parks and outdoor recreation. Maintaining affordable access to the three DFSP fields is essential to combatting youth obesity, addressing environmental injustices, and promoting active lifestyles.

These facilities are also valuable because of the opportunity they give to our young athletes, many of whom come from low- and middle-income families, to advance their skills to potentially secure athletic scholarships for college. For many of these kids, sports scholarships offer an avenue to a college education that otherwise would be out of reach.

On behalf of the children and families of San Pedro and the Los Angeles Harbor region, I am requesting the Department of the Navy to provide a resolution that would allow the SPAC, SPGSA, and LLL to continue using the DFSP fields at their current fee. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Nanette Diaz Barragán

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Member of Congress

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