TESTIMONY FOR PUBLIC HEARING

May 5, 2015

Alan Kobayashi
412 Richmond Street
El Segundo, CA

Good evening. My name is Alan Kobayashi and I am a new resident of El Segundo, having moved into the city seven months ago, a decade of residing in Marina Del Rey and Playa del Rey. I also come to as a brand new golfer, having just done three lessons here at The Lakes, three weeks ago. And a dozen sessions at the driving range.

I listened to the presentation last week about the Top Golf proposal to build their project on the area occupied by the current driving range and putting green. And while the presentation laid out the expected costs and revenue to the city, it did not speak to impact on the quality of play or character of the immediate area or of El Segundo.

From the presentation and some of comments at the meeting, it seems that it is expected that Top Golf will be creating a standalone enclosed venue which will serve groups of people who will have limits placed on them in terms of time, not buckets of balls. And where F & B, food and beverage, are an integral part of the experience.
This kind of venue is the antithesis of "The Lakes" as it exists now and for all golf courses in the SoCal area now. I enjoy being able to hit a bucket of balls, and concentrate on improving my game. And have found myself doing this twice in a day on occasion. It seems that the TopGolf project will not encourage this kind of golf. It also seems to me that the golf course will suffer from not having a driving range within easy reach. I think that without the symbiotic relationship of golf course and driving range that the course itself will become less and less attractive over time.

In closing, I would suggest that instead of the TopGolf, which if done would be a long-term fundamental and permanent change to the character of The Lakes, that we look into upgrading the driving range and the clubhouse. This could include bringing in a private company to improve the driving range, adding cages, etc. And as it has been suggested, revamping or replacing the clubhouse.

Thank you for your attention.

###