

February 10, 2021

Mayor Craven and Members of the City Council
City of Camarillo
601 Carmen Drive
Camarillo, CA 93010

Dear Mayor Craven,

The United States Golf Association (USGA) promotes and conserves the true spirit of the game of golf as embodied in its ancient and honorable traditions. It acts in the best interests of the game for the continued enjoyment of those who love it and play it. The USGA is a 126-year old non-profit organization that not only governs the game through writing the Rules of Golf alongside the Royal and Ancient (R&A) but making sure that the game continues to flourish and be inclusive. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the benefits of a 12 hole golf course from data that we have collected over the years.

After doing some research with the USGA Museum in Liberty Corner, NJ, in the mid to late 1800s, every golf course had its own set of rules. These rules included how to play the game and the number of holes that made up the course. It wasn't until 1885, when the R&A Golf Association decided to conduct their first British Amateur, that a standardized set of rules was applied, which included having a golf course with 18 holes. Up to that point, a golf course was built appropriately for the size of the land. No rule stated a golf course had to be 18 holes.

As we may safely assume, many financial benefits come with owning and operating a 12 hole versus 18 hole golf course. The 12 hole golf course would be more cost-effective. Resources from water, chemical applications, and staffing would be significantly less. With the ongoing water shortages and drought conditions in Southern California and Ventura County, the "Greens at Camarillo" would allow community members to enjoy a sustainable 12 hole experience that can benefit the aging society and the more modern lifestyle on-the-go. Besides, golf courses are closing at an alarming rate around the country, and we do not want to see another valued golf course disappear.

With the success of properties such as TopGolf, these innovative ideas will be the future of golf. People want to enjoy the game but don't always have the time to do so. Whether it's family time, lack of energy, or other responsibilities. Finding time to get away and enjoying time with friends, whether it be old or new ones, the "Greens at Camarillo" will provide this opportunity. During COVID-19, many people have gravitated to golf to be outdoors, social distancing with friends, or just to getaway. It would be a miss to take away a sanctuary that golf courses provide.

Personally, as a former PGA TOUR winner and a proud native Southern Californian, I don't want to see this golf course go away. I genuinely love the idea of this property being re-imagined and morphed into something that will benefit all ages and all experience levels of current and future golfers.

On behalf of the USGA, thank you for taking the time to consider how valuable and essential this project will be to the community. Golf has become a haven for many people during these times, and I'm sure we can all appreciate that right about now.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Gore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason Gore
United States Golf Association
Managing Director – Player Experience