

21 June 2021

TO: The Observatory Civic Association (OCA), in collaboration with the Goringhaicona Khoi Khoen Traditional Indigenous Council.

### **Letter of Support**

The Environmental Monitoring Group would like to extend our support to the OCA in collaboration with the Goringhaicona Khoi Khoen Traditional Indigenous Council positions against the commercial development on the Liesbeek River Valley on the River Club Site within the 'Two Rivers Urban Park' (TRUP).

The threatened destruction of the River Club site is a matter of great importance to South Africa's democratic processes, heritage and environmental sustainability. The proposed development undermines a number of key principles:

- The disregard for democratic processes which took place around the issue
- The flagrantly racist colonial attitude towards the cultural and heritage significance of the site for the Goringhaicona Khoi Khoen people
- The environmental impact is directly counter to climate change adaptation plans as it will contribute to more frequent flooding. It threatens biodiversity, in particular the Western Leopard Toad (WLT) which an endangered species and its only known breeding area is the Raapenberg wetlands; Cape Clawless Otters which live in the area and a rare plant species *Moraea aristata* currently limited to a single subpopulation near the Liesbeek and is on the verge of extinction.

We need to fundamentally change the way we relate to each other and the environment. It is only by enhancing people's relationships with the environment and with each other that we can hope to end inequality, establish participatory processes and build social justice related to the use and management of natural resources.

Only once this has changed, can we create a humane, ecological society free from oppression and hierarchy, characterised by justice and equity for all life.

EMG fully supports OCA in this struggle against the development.

Yours sincerely,



Mandy Moussouris  
Director  
+27 21 448 2881  
[www.emg.org.za](http://www.emg.org.za)