



Friends of Griffith Park
P.O. Box 27573
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573
friendsofgriffithpark.org

February 25, 2013

Ad Hoc River Committee
200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Councilmember Ed Reyes, CHAIR
Councilmember Tom LaBonge
Councilmember Jose Huizar

RE: Los Angeles River Recreational Zone Pilot Program, 11-1403

Honorable Councilmembers,

The Map on page 12 and the Overview Section, page 3, paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 5 listing pilot program locations neglect to mention that "North Atwater Park" is Griffith Park. This oversight is particularly conspicuous in paragraph 5 which says, "Except for North Atwater Park, the access parks are owned and managed by the MRCA."

1. We request that all mentions of North Atwater Park in the Draft be amended to read "North Atwater Park in Griffith Park." We ask additionally paragraph 5 the statement, "Except for North Atwater Park, the access parks are owned and managed by the MRCA," be amended to say, "Except for North Atwater Park in Griffith Park, which is owned and managed by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, the access parks are owned and managed by the MRCA."

Justification for this request: Griffith Park is the City's largest park and a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument in its entirety, with a special sense of place and authenticity that should not be fragmented. North Atwater Park is a part of Colonel Griffith's original grant of parkland to the City. 20th century city maps, Thomas Brothers guides and other documents, show the North Atwater area of the Park as Griffith Park. Additionally, in the Glendale Narrows area, much of the riverbed itself is in Griffith Park. It too, was part of Colonel Griffith's original grant. That North Atwater is Griffith Park has been verified also in recent years by academics and preservation professionals, and was demonstrated affirmatively in the application for Historic-Cultural Monument status that was approved by the City Council in 2009."

2. In order to protect the abundance of river wildlife, especially bird life, we request that boating regulations be imposed to restrict people from exiting boats at sandbars, islands and other habitat areas in the river bottom. Although MRCA has stressed that they desire to not attach too many rules and regulations to the pilot program, the PowerPoint says that "notification of policies and regulations will be achieved through posting on durable, mounted signage." We suggest posting, "Do Not Approach Birds and Wildlife", and "Do Not Stop at Sandbars, Islands, and Habitat Areas."

Justification for this request: This is typical practice along popular river boating routes, and ornithologists, if consulted, would agree.

We appreciate the opportunity to affect positive refinements to the Pilot Program.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hans
President