

June 17, 2013

Los Angeles City Council 200 North Spring Street, Room 395 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: <u>Forest Lawn Memorial-Park, Hollywood Hills Development Agreement (Council File</u> No. 12-0816)

Dear Honorable Councilmembers:

We are pleased to be before the City Council with the proposed Development Agreement for the Forest Lawn Memorial-Park, Hollywood Hills project. As you may recall, the City approved the EIR and entitlements for the project last year, and recommended approval of the Development Agreement. We respectfully ask for your approval of the Development Agreement, so that we can begin construction this fall.

Forest Lawn is non-profit and non-denominational, and we have been serving the Los Angeles area for over 100 years. Cemeteries are a public benefit use, and this project is critical given the dwindling supply of interment spaces provided by all cemeteries in the Los Angeles region.

In addition, over the past 20 years, Forest Lawn has donated nearly 200 acres of Forest Lawn's property to Griffith Park. As requested by Councilman LaBonge, an additional approximately 135 acres of land adjacent to the Hollywood Hills Memorial-Park will be donated to the Griffith Park for permanent conservation as a public benefit in connection with the Development Agreement. In addition to other benefits, we will also provide continued free use of Forest Lawn assembly facilities for local non-profit organizations.

We are proud of the strong support that this project has received from the community, including Councilman LaBonge and many religious and community leaders, the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council, Friends of the Los Angeles River and Northeast Trees. We respectfully request your approval of the Development Agreement for this important project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darin B. Drabing

President & CEO

cc: Councilmember Tom LaBonge

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