



Comments APHAR Agenda No. 2-CF 14-0588 Griffith Park Crystal Ballfields Project and Agenda No. 3-CF-14-0589 Performing Arts Center Project

1 message

Joyce Dillard <dillardjoyce@yahoo.com>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 2:03 PM

Reply-To: Joyce Dillard <dillardjoyce@yahoo.com>

To: Adam Lid <Adam.lid@lacity.org>, The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>

Cc: Gerry Hans <gerryhans51@gmail.com>

The City cannot have it both ways-LA River ecosystem restoration and a built Griffith Park environment. Approve the Appeals overriding the decision of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners.

On or about May 28, 2014, US Army Corps of Engineers USACE approved the RIVER-Alternative 20 of the LA River Ecosystem Feasibility Study.

USACE LA River Ecosystem Feasibility Study, Volume I, states:

ES.3 Los Angeles River Study Area

The Glendale Narrows stretch of the river, in contrast, features a non-concrete bottom or natural bed (due to the high groundwater levels), which has robust patches of vegetation—important habitat for birds and other wildlife—and free-flowing water that supports aquatic species. In addition, this area offers an opportunity to connect to existing large habitat areas of importance. It is situated along and within Griffith Park, the eastern terminus of the Santa Monica Mountains, and includes connections to key tributary confluences—the Verdugo Wash, which connects to the Verdugo Mountains, and the Arroyo Seco, which connects to the San Gabriel Mountains and another USACE Feasibility Study area further upstream on the Arroyo Seco. The area also directly connects large open spaces either used as publicly-accessible parks with habitat areas or intended for this future use: USACE Headworks Feasibility Study area, California State Parks' Bowtie Parcel, the Taylor Yard, Río de Los Angeles State Park, and Los Angeles State Historic Park (formerly known as the Cornfields), which allows a west bank connection to Elysian Park. Three of the five key opportunity areas of the City's Plan are located within the Study area: River Glen, Taylor Yard, and Cornfields/Chinatown, and restoration within the study area would assist with the goal of transforming the river corridor into the "green spine" of the City. Existing habitat and perennial surface flow in the ARBOR reach provide a base for restoration and maintain the most diverse assemblages of wildlife on the river today. Alternatives for restoration are thus focused in the ARBOR reach, from Griffith Park to downtown Los Angeles

And

***Final Array Comparison: Resource Significance
Habitat Connectivity***

With regard to regional habitat connectivity, all alternatives would improve habitat connectivity (both aquatic and terrestrial) to the Santa Monica Mountains at Griffith Park. In addition, the restoration at the Arroyo Seco confluence provided by Alternatives 13 and 16 creates a nodal connection to the San Gabriel Mountains. Alternative 20 would provide restoration of regional aquatic habitat connectivity through tributaries by restoring the Verdugo Wash confluence to provide a nodal connection to the Verdugo Hills. Alternative 20 would also connect to the Elysian Hills through the Cornfields site restoration.

And

1.1 PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

1.21.1.2 Need

*Despite its degraded condition, the ARBOR reach has the greatest potential for restoration along the River because it includes the Glendale Narrows, one of the few reaches in the River with a non-concrete bed and natural flows fed by underground sources. **This portion of the River also has connections to the Verdugo Wash and Arroyo Seco tributaries that can eventually link to significant habitat areas, as well as to Griffith Park, the eastern terminus of the Santa Monica Mountains. Habitat within the Glendale Narrows area continues to be nourished by treated effluent discharges, which supplement the remaining natural flows in the River.** Although wildlife use is primarily by species adapted to urban environments, habitat continues to degrade due to both the establishment of invasive species, such as giant reed (*Arundo donax*), and inflows from storm drain runoff. The existing habitat and perennial surface flow in the ARBOR reach provide a base for restoration and support the most diverse assemblages of wildlife on the River today. **This reach is adjacent to state and local parks and natural areas.** Some of the railroad facilities have been abandoned or removed from the channel corridor, providing opportunity for widening the channel while maintaining existing flood risk management levels. The ARBOR reach, therefore, provides the backbone for restoring significant habitat and reconnecting the River to other vital habitat areas. Expansion of riparian and marsh habitat along this portion of the River and at the confluences of key tributaries is a first step in putting the portions of the once vast riverine ecosystem back together*

And

3.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3.5.6 Significant Ecological Areas

*The City of Los Angeles, through its General Plan, established Significant Ecological Areas that include a wide variety of ecological communities (City of Los Angeles 1995). **Within the study area, Griffith Park is the only Significant Ecological Area. This park, located at the east end of the Santa Monica Mountains along Reaches 1-4, supports coastal scrub, chaparral, riparian, and oak woodland habitats. The area also includes the Hollywood Reservoir. Griffith Park is considered an important habitat island for migrating birds, as well as a reservoir for native species. Though the highly urbanized cities of Burbank and Glendale separate Griffith Park from the Verdugo Mountains, Griffith Park is an important extension***

of the Santa Monica Mountains and offers the nearest natural habitats to the Verdugo Mountains, which are adjacent to the much larger expanse of native habitats in the San Gabriel Mountains. Birds and larger mammals in particular utilize this area as a corridor. The Department of Recreation and Parks manages a portion of Griffith Park as a bird sanctuary.

LA River Ecosystem Feasibility Study Draft APPENDIX G Habitat Evaluation (CHAP) states:

6.2 BASELINE: FIFTY YEAR FUTURE WITHOUT PROJECT

*The habitat evaluation team discussed a reduction in the number of fish and wildlife taxa present within the project area over time. However, in this case, it was the consensus of the habitat evaluation team that the current highly urban landscape conditions would prevail over time. **Despite intense development pressure along certain areas of the river corridor, large swaths of existing open space (especially at Griffith Park) were expected to be conserved, consistent with long-established land use policies.** Furthermore, it was assumed that native species are already severely depressed, to nearly the maximum extent, given the impacts from urbanization.*

Therefore, it is assumed that the fish and wildlife species currently identified in the Study area, even under continued pressure from such stressors as invasive species, homeless encampments, horseback riding, and other urban uses, would likely prevail in the future. Thus, there were no adjustments made to the species list over the 50-year period.

And

6.2.1 Baseline: Future Without Project Methods

Adjusting Species, Habitat or Functions

The habitat evaluation team met to generate projections for the 50-year future without project conditions. The rationale used by the habitat evaluation team, including logic and decision points, is included as follows.

*1. Potential non-viable wildlife populations – The habitat evaluation team discussed the possibility of reducing or modifying the species list, **however the team concluded that the current taxa, which are adapted to the highly urban environment surrounding the River, would most likely persist. It was assumed at the time of discussion that despite development pressure on the River, large open space areas, such as Griffith Park, were expected to be conserved due to high demand by the residents and established land use policies.***

*7. Proximity to Other Natural Areas – The Study area is in close proximity to other **natural areas, most notably Griffith Park, which is the eastern terminus of the Santa Monica Mountains (Figure 6.2.1-5). It was expected that these substantial nearby open space areas and habitat connections would persist in the future.***

LA County General Plan 2035 has proposed Significant Ecological Areas, included is Griffith Park. Reports are attached and can be found at:

ruling_on_june_20_matters-7-14-14.pdf

Joyce Dillard shared from Dropbox

View on www.dropbox.com

Preview by Yahoo

REPORT_CARD_INFRASTRUCTURE_2010_2011.pdf

Joyce Dillard shared from Dropbox

View on www.dropbox.com

Preview by Yahoo

<http://planning.lacounty.gov/sea/proposed>

The LA County Draft EIR General Plan 2035 states:

5. Environmental Analysis
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES
Metro Planning Area

*The Metro Planning Area contains the **eastern terminus of the Santa Monica Mountains in Griffith Park**, as well as the south face of the eastern reach of the Verdugo Mountains (San Rafael Hills). This part of the Verdugo Mountains is a largely natural area which is not included in any SEA, but which figures importantly in connecting the Altadena Foothills and Arroyos SEA with the Verdugo Mountains SEA. **The Metro Planning Area contains a large reach of the Los Angeles River, most of it channelized, but natural habitat has developed in the Glendale Narrows section which lacks a concrete bottom.***

And

5. Environmental Analysis
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES
Metro Planning Area
SEAs and Regional Wildlife Linkages

Griffith Park SEA** is the eastern terminus of the Santa Monica Mountains, and is located in the Metro Planning Area. With much urban development interspersed with some natural areas and interruption by two freeways, the Santa Monica Mountains is connective here to the Santa Monica Mountains SEA. **Griffith Park SEA** is two miles distant from another urban SEA, the Verdugo Mountains SEA that is in the San Fernando Valley Planning Area. **This gap in connectivity is crossed by the Los Angeles River, which has a riparian natural habitat in this area because the concrete channel has no concrete floor in the Glendale Narrows. Trees and other native plants are able to grow here, and the area is naturally restoring itself. This area has great potential for connectivity in providing links to the two mountain

ranges and the Los Angeles River.

Consideration must be given to the PACIFIC FLYAWAY, and its relationship to the Public Health and Welfare including infectious diseases.

City of Los Angeles FRAMEWORK ELEMENT states:

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Objective 6.2

Maximize the use of the City's existing open space network and recreation facilities by enhancing those facilities and providing connections, particularly from targeted growth areas, to the existing regional and community open space system.

*6.2.2. Protect and expand equestrian resources, where feasible, and maintain safe links in major public open space areas such as Hansen Dam, Sepulveda Basin, **Griffith Park**, and the San Gabriel, Santa Monica, Santa Susanna Mountains and the Simi Hills.*

City of Los Angeles GENERAL PLAN states:

CHAPTER 6 OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION

GOAL 6A

An integrated citywide/regional public and private open space system that serves and is accessible by the City's population and is unthreatened by encroachment from other land uses.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Objective 6.1

Protect the City's natural settings from the encroachment of urban development, allowing for the development, use, management, and maintenance of each component of the City's natural resources to contribute to the sustainability of the region.

Policies

6.1.4 *Conserve, and manage the undeveloped portions of the City's watersheds, where feasible, as open spaces which protect, conserve, and enhance natural resources*

Hollywood Community Plan Update was set aside by the courts (BS138580).

Please note the deficiency in the city infrastructure in the Department of Public Works Infrastructure Report Card 2010-2011 and lack of execution for the Public Health and Safety of its citizens.

Framework Element Policy No. 3.3.2 is the monitoring aspect of CEQA for the General Plan. It reads:

3.3.2 *Monitor population, development, and infrastructure and service capacities within the City and each community plan area, or other pertinent service area.*

The results of this monitoring effort will be annually reported to the City Council and shall be used in part as a basis to:

- a. Determine the need and establish programs for infrastructure and public service investments to accommodate development in areas in which economic development is desired and for which growth is focused by the General Plan Framework Element.*
- b. Change or increase the development forecast within the City and/or community plan area as specified in Table 2-2 (see Chapter 2: Growth and Capacity) when it can be demonstrated that (1) transportation improvements have been implemented or funded that increase capacity and maintain the level of service, (2) demand management or behavioral changes have reduced traffic volumes and maintained or improved levels of service, and (3) the community character will not be significantly impacted by such increases. Such modifications shall be considered as amendments to Table 2-2 and depicted on the community plans.*
- c. Initiate a study to consider whether additional growth should be accommodated, when 75 percent of the forecast of any one or more category listed in Table 2-2 (see Chapter 2: Growth and Capacity) is attained within a community plan area. If a study is necessary, determine the level of growth that should be accommodated and correlate that level with the capital, facility, or service improvements and/or transportation demand reduction programs that are necessary to accommodate that level.*
- d. Consider regulating the type, location, and/or timing of development, when all of the preceding steps have been completed, additional infrastructure and services have been provided, and there remains inadequate public infrastructure or service to support land use development. (P42, P43)*

Joyce Dillard
P.O. Box 31377
Los Angeles, CA 90031

Attachments
AppGHabitat (USACE)
8_Griffith_Park_SEA_Spring_2012_GP (LA County SEA)
Criteria_Table_8 (LA County SEA)
ruling_on_june_20_matters-7-14-14
REPORT_CARD_INFRASTRUCTURE_2010_2011

3 attachments

 **AppGHabitat.pdf**
22336K

 **8_Griffith_Park_SEA_Spring_2012_GP.pdf**
202K

 **Criteria_Table_8.pdf**
80K



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Re: I oppose Crystal Springs Ball Fieldx and Old Zoo Performance Stage

MESSAGE

George Grace <gmmnet1@mindspring.com>
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 10:14 AM

Dear Mr. Lid,

I just visited the webpage where public comments for the appeal are supposed to be posted. My comment (see below) and others opposing construction of the ball fields and performance stage have not been posted. When will the webpage be updated to show all comments?

George Grace
323-660-2483

From: George Grace
Sent: Friday, August 08, 2014 1:52 PM
To: Adam.Lid@LACity.org
Subject: I oppose Crystal Springs Ball Fieldx and Old Zoo Performance Stage

August 8, 2014

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members,

Development interests continue to chip away at the remarkable natural features of Griffith Park. Building ball fields at Crystal Springs Picnic Area and construction of a permanent performance stage at the Old Zoo are the latest examples. What will be next?

I don't support further development in the Park, and oppose both building ball fields in the Crystal Springs Picnic Area, and constructing a permanent performance stage at the Old Zoo.

Sincerely yours,

George Grace, Founder, Griffith Park Natural History Survey



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

PUBLIC COMMENT - Council File (#14-0588 or #14-0589)

1 message

Kathleen Hobson <kathobson5060@gmail.com>
To: "Adam.Lid@LACity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Sun, Aug 10, 2014 at 1:50 AM

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members,

PUBLIC COMMENT - [Council File #14-0588-Crystal Springs ballfields or #14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

Position: Against

Please leave this natural park alone. Go elsewhere in the city for any new developments. Let the Park stay a Park. This should be a no brainer.

The comments below are all very valid.

- A major reduction in the size of Crystal Springs Picnic Facility including area available for group and individual picnicking, free play and relaxation
- Eviction of a significant quantity of picnickers and recreationists; compression and marginalization of those in the space remaining, without proper outreach
- Removal of up to 49 trees, including many native "protected" species, and the shade, coolness and beauty they provide
- Loss of habitat for wildlife (mammals and birds) that have incorporated Crystal Springs into their habitat
- Destruction of the Crystal Springs asphalt loop road that provides a safe place for small children to bicycle and families to use rented pedal-surries
- Destruction of a Crystal Springs' centerpiece tree, a giant native sycamore that is a City of Los Angeles "Heritage Tree." Trading views of trees and greenery, for hundreds of linear feet of barrier fencing hung with banners
- Trading views of trees and greenery, for hundreds of linear feet of TALL barrier fencing often hung with banners

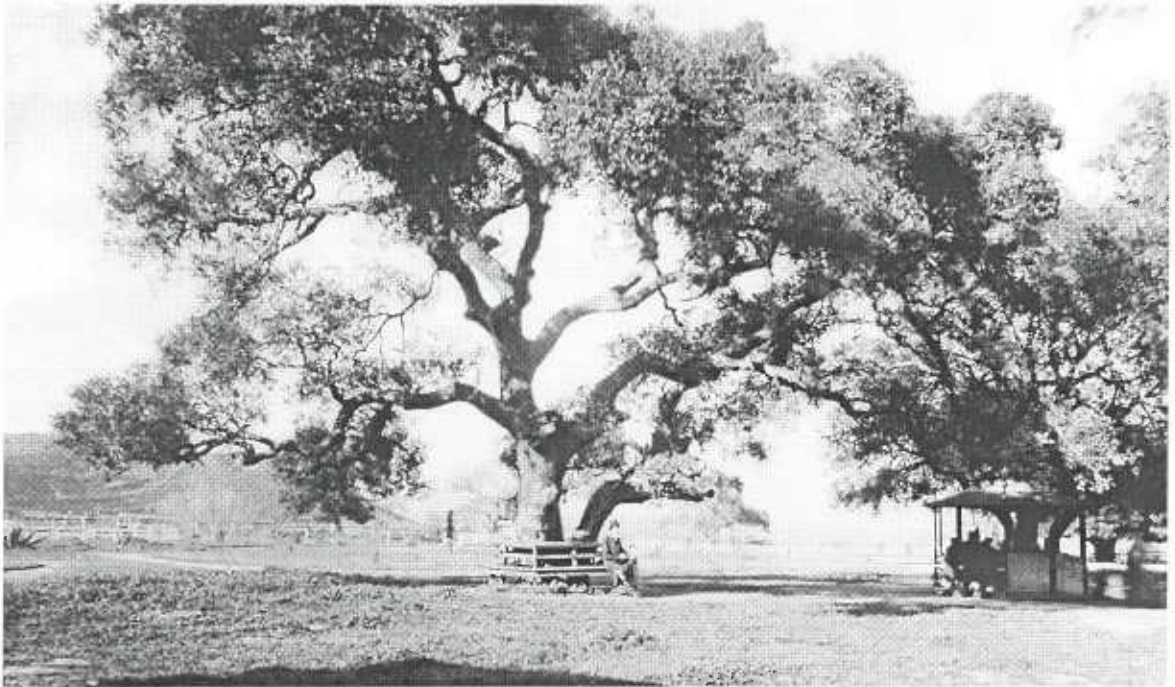
07/12/2014

Sincerely,
Kathleen Hobson
1752 Riverside Drive, Glendale, Ca, 91201

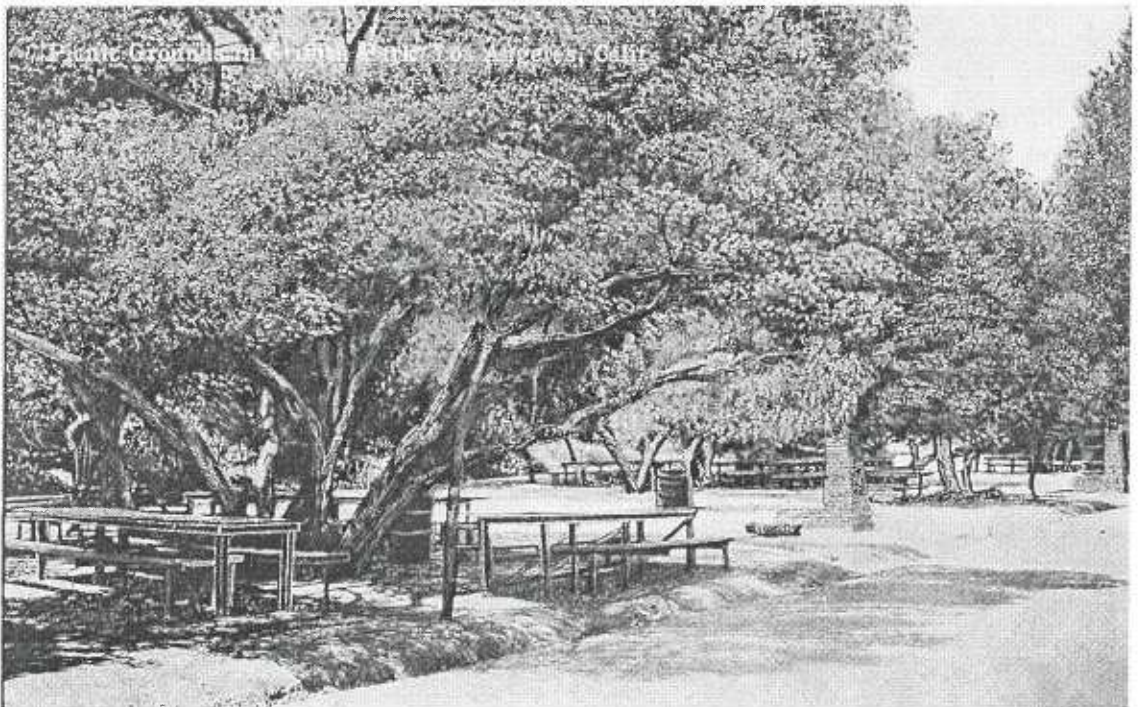
Baseball Fields in Crystal Springs Picnic Area CF #14-0588

I support the appeal.

Marian Dodge



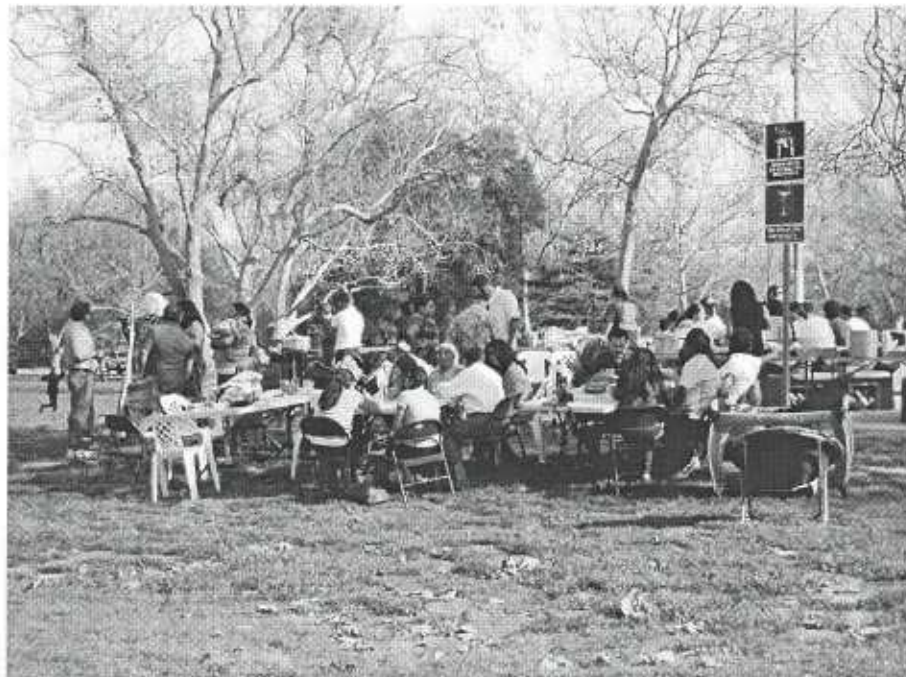
Large oak in Crystal Springs picnic grounds in Griffith Park



Crystal Springs Picnic Grounds in Griffith Park. c.1917



Heritage sycamore in Crystal Springs Picnic Area, 2013



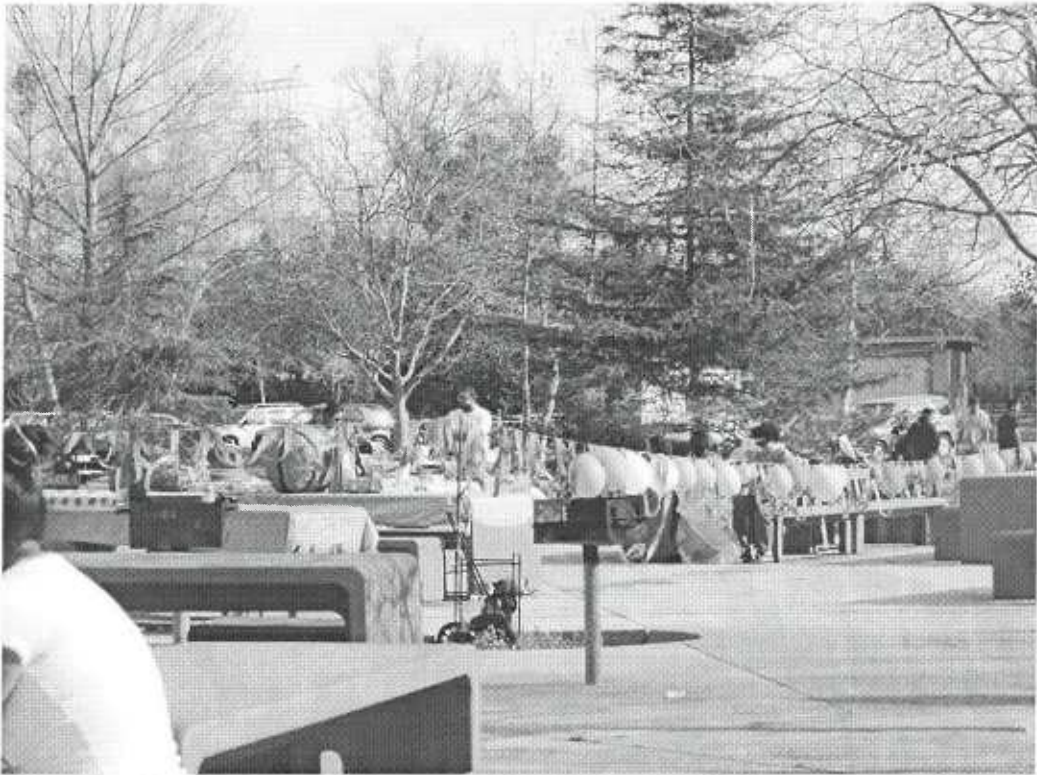
This large multi-generation group sat in the grassy area of Crystal Springs, 2012.



This family creatively hung hammocks between the mature trees so they could relax while they watched their kids playing on the playground apparatus. 2012



Other families created their own picnic areas with blankets of the grass. 2012



The group reservation area is heavily used throughout the year.
This group has the piñatas ready to hang. January, 2012.



This family gathers under the shade of mature trees. April, 2012



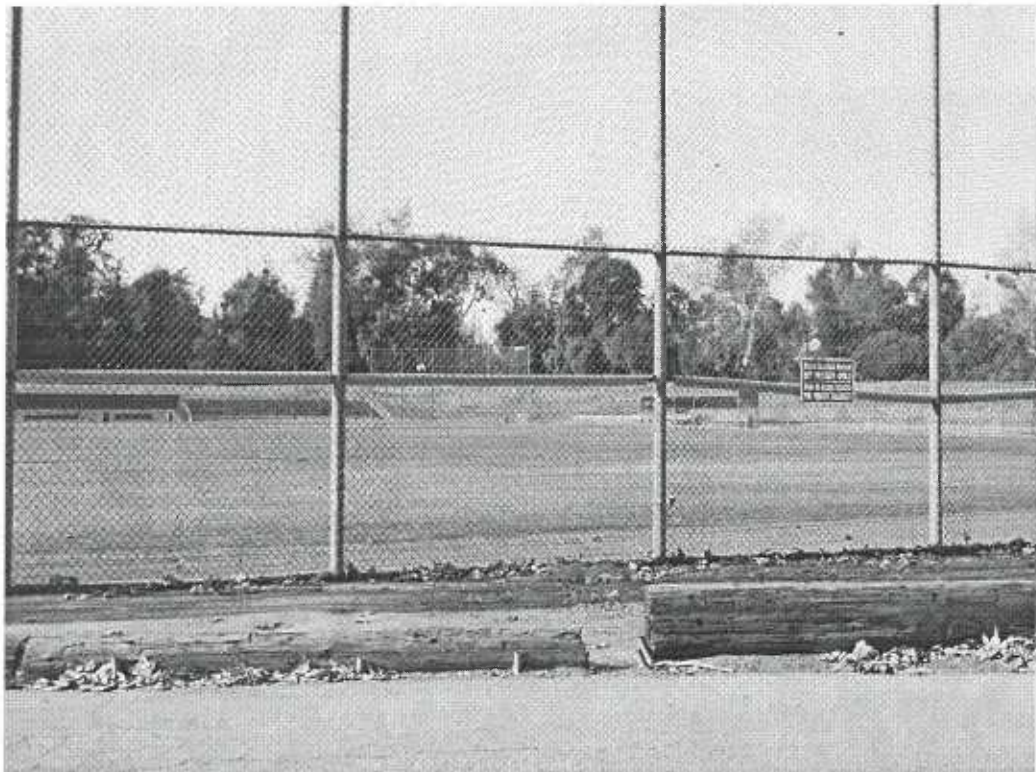
The shade of the big tree defines this family's picnic space. 2012



Kids painted Easter eggs on a blanket in the shade of the trees. 2012



The Heritage sycamore shades this family's picnic, bouncy house and slide. 2012



While the baseball field in Crystal Springs is locked and empty. 2012



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

In regards to appeals Council file 14-0588

1 message

MaryJane Mitchell <mitchelldesigns@ymail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 9:22 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Sir,

I am writing in regards the appeal Council file 14-0588 that will be heard this Monday, August the 11th. This appeal is regarding placing two Little League sized fields in the Crystal Springs picnic area.

As someone who spends a great deal of time in Griffith Park I think the ball fields should not be built in the Crystal Springs area.

For years this area has been a popular picnic area for families. Many of these families do not have a backyard to barbecue and so they go to the park. On weekends and holidays the area is packed with picnickers and families celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or other special occasions.

Children ride their bikes safely on the asphalt road that now loops through Crystal Springs. I understand this road will be demolished. The project will also remove 49 trees, including many native "protected" species and will install hundreds of feet of tall, linear fencing barriers that will now be hung with banners.

I believe that Griffith Park was given to the people of Los Angeles, according to the wishes of Colonel Griffith. He did not say that the park was up for grabs for the few to be turned into ball parks at the expense of the majority of people losing their park and picnic areas.

One other thing I want to mention is the fact that, once again, animals and birds will lose their habitats in and around Crystal Springs. When will man decide to look at the big picture instead of the small, selfish one sided one?

MaryJane Mitchell
A Friend of Griffith Park



Reference: File # 14-0588 and 14-0589

1 message

Miguel <ordenana@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 5:09 PM

To: "adam.lid@lacity.org" <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Dear Mr. Lid and Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

I would like to express my concerns regarding the Old Zoo permanent stage and Crystal Springs Youth Baseball Fields. However, first I would like to remind you that this argument is not Shakespeare vs. no Shakespeare, ADA access vs. no ADA access to free Shakespeare, Youth baseball vs. No Youth baseball. At the first hearing, I believe the supporters of these projects made it seem as if they were up against a group of old stubborn local residents against baseball and Shakespeare. As a result, project supporters kept preaching to the choir and provided poor arguments against the real issue, which has to do with the locations of these projects and long term effects that reach well-beyond the dimensions of the proposed constructions.

Ecological Value of Griffith Park:

One argument that was used many times was Griffith Park's size and the history of use in these locations.

Griffith Park is definitely a big park and the biggest municipal park in the country. However, L.A. as a whole is not only park poor but in even worse shape with regards to wildlife habitat and connectivity for local species.

Therefore, Griffith Park is a delicate and rare habitat oasis with many endemics that I am afraid most people in Los Angeles have a poor grasp on. One big reason for this lack of knowledge about L.A.'s natural history is because the city of L.A. does not have a biologist on staff and our park rangers are so under-staffed that they have no environmental outreach programs.

Fortunately, local biologists, like myself, have stepped up to the plate and surveyed this understudied park in order to support more informed and responsible management of the park. One of the most important results of these studies is providing information about species and human impacts that are nearly impossible to notice based on casual observations, especially by non-scientists. Please do the responsible thing and use objective scientific surveys and responsible environmental stewardship to guide your decision making.

Old Zoo Permanent Stage:

The Old Zoo picnic area seems like another altered green space that is meant for picnic use. Yes the Old Zoo used to have many visitors visit it in the past and has many picnickers visit it during the day. However, the removal of zoo animals and reduction in daily visitation to this area has given the surrounding habitat the opportunity to recover. Daily picnics or passive recreation allows for human-wildlife sharing of habitat because most of the species of concern are nocturnal. Therefore, even heavy daytime use is something wildlife are used to avoiding. Consistent human activity at night during an entire season is a little disruptive but year-round nocturnal disturbance effectively disrupts any hopes of ecological balance and coexistence.

I would like to stress that the stage does not go up against just any random barren canyon, trail system or habitat type. The stage's "footprint" reaches into critical habitat that many sensitive species depend on for habitat because the footprint reaches well beyond the dimensions of the stage. Trained biologists have detected gray foxes, a very sensitive species dependent on riparian and woodland habitat in 2009. We expanded our research throughout the entire park and have only documented gray foxes in only two other patches of habitat.

The Old Zoo picnic area opens directly into Spring Canyon, which has one of the only natural water-sources and riparian habitat in the park. Arboreal salamanders and sensitive bat species have been documented at the Old Zoo and depend on riparian habitat. Foxes and other sensitive species are very sensitive to human activity, which includes noise and light pollution. Light pollution interrupts nocturnal behavior especially the navigation of nocturnal flying animals. Noise pollution interrupts wildlife communication. Both types of pollution also displace

shy wildlife species, diminishing the ecological value/use of scarce habitat types. These potential impacts have a much larger impact if they have a consistent presence over a long period of time. There is no way to detect these issues without special research equipment and carefully designed surveys by trained professionals. I know you know deep down that a few walks through the proposed site and anecdotal observations of coyote sightings or howling during a summer performance is not sufficient information to make a truly educated decision. Also, it may be possible to request that Shakespeare in the park construct temporary ADA bridges for use during their performance season. Traveling and temporary performances such as Cirque du Soleil provide these amenities to their audience. I know because my grandfather has been in a wheelchair since the 70s and I've escorted him to many of these temporary shows and performances. Please do the responsible thing and hold off on any PERMANENT developments until an objective and professional wildlife and habitat survey has been completed.

Crystal Springs Ball Field:

As you can imagine, night and noise pollution as a result of year-round night games is also a potential problem if youth baseball fields are built. However, the bigger issue again is the larger context of the location and the potential displacement of both wildlife and under-served communities from L.A.'s inner-city. Crystal Springs is altered but in another critical location that extends beyond Griffith Park. Our project, the Griffith Park Connectivity Study has been monitoring equestrian tunnels along the 5 and 134 freeways since 2012. There is concrete evidence that there are less than a handful of safe corridors left for wildlife to connect to the Los Angeles River, which is a corridor in itself and outlet to the Verdugo Wash. Wide ranging, primarily NOCTURNAL mammals (e.g., deer, bobcats, coyotes, pumas) depend on this connectivity to avoid dangerous vehicles, find mates, and find enough food. I am sure you are aware of the connectivity issues facing the Griffith Park mountain lion. Although you aren't sealing up one of the tunnels you are adding a great deal of noise and light pollution directly in front of one of these critical tunnel crossings at night when most of these species are active. Unlike isolated parks such as Ferraro Fields, North Atwater, Toluca Lake, and Echo Park, Griffith Park is not only of value to wildlife within the park but also for wildlife in connected natural areas. Therefore, converting a couple soccer fields or picnic area that has no value to regional habitat connectivity is different than converting habitat in Griffith Park. Also, don't forget about a bat species called the Greater mastiff bat that I documented in Griffith Park after it was thought to be extirpated from Griffith Park for over a decade. Griffith Park is the only place this species has been found in the L.A. Basin mostly likely because it requires both access to rocky cliff faces and access to a large body of water (i.e. L.A. River). The hoary bat, a migratory bat that only roosts in trees

I also want to reiterate that you will be displacing many families from Griffith Park. Like Griffith Park, visitors come from all over the city to enjoy Crystal Springs. I spoke with a grounds-keeper from Toluca Lake ball fields and he doesn't see how it is possible for the fields to remain clean and usable if they are open access.

Therefore, I expect these fields to eventually become permit-only voids of space and a big tease for low income families like mine. My family would drive all the way from south LA and many other areas of the city to Crystal Springs and we'd have to limit our activities to catch even though there was an empty field next to us. Again Griffith Park is big and you may be able to further pack displaced families into other already congested picnic areas but please look at the bigger implications of what you are doing.

I know this is a very urban city so wildlife education is sadly not in many conversations. However, I know you all are either parents or have a deep passion for L.A. youth. Therefore, I beg you to pay more attention to another huge crisis, which is connecting inner-city with local wildlife and getting Angelenos comfortable in nature. My family was very supportive and I almost nearly fell through the cracks, not due to a lack of baseball or P.E. but due to a lack of environmental education. I spent countless hours hiking around Griffith Park with my mom but we had no idea what we were looking at with regards to the local natural history. Although these projects may seem small in scale, I hope you realize that you are setting a precedent with regards to future development in Griffith Park. What legacy would you like to leave behind for future generations?

Please act ethically and responsibly and reevaluate your decision. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Miguel Ordenana

P.S. I grew up just off of Los Feliz Blvd/Griffith Park Blvd. intersection and my 10 and 12 year old half brothers and I have and still enjoy using the very accessible Silver Lake Rec, Elysian Fields, and Glassell Park for both

youth baseball and flag football with no issues at all. In fact, my 9 year old brother barely has enough players on his baseball team at the beautiful Elysian Fields and Silver Lake had to cancel their Flag Football program due to a lack of interest. However, I do believe L.A. does need more baseball fields because baseball is crucial for child development. However, a couple of youth baseball fields directly inside Griffith Park is not the solution.



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Public Comment. - Council File #14-0588-Crystal Springs Ballfields

1 message

Al Moggia <almog@dslextre.me.com>

Fri, Aug 8, 2014 at 4:13 PM

To: adam.lid@lacity.org

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and and honorable committee members:

POSITION: FOR APPEAL

Crystal Springs with its trees, lawn areas, and convenient parking makes Crystal Spring a popular picnic area serving a large number of people that include many lower income immigrant families. There is no other picnic area in Griffith Park that affords the functionality and natural beauty. Its almost unimaginable that the city would consider placing two Little League ballfields in addition to the existing large adult ballfield in Crystal Spring, in effect creating a ballfield complex. Many people consider this project a legacy project.

But the issue before the Arts, Parks, and Aging Committee is whether the EIR for this project is adequate. The EIR is insufficient on several matters. But to mention just one that stands out is the conversion of the circular drive that loops around around Crystal Springs. The proposed project calls for converting the drive loop from a circular drive to an in/out drive. This can only increase the traffic congestion that occurs during prime picnic days. In the 1970's several healthy sycamore trees were cut down to in order convert what was then a in/out drive into a circular loop drive. Its purpose was to relieve traffic congestion. So here we are today considering undoing what was thought to be necessary. The loss of the circular drive will not only create traffic congestion, but also impact the popular bicycle rental that rents the four wheel bicycle carts that can carry four people at a time. As it is now, bikes are ridden around the circular loop as many times as the riders like. If the drive is converted to an in/out drive by placing cul-de sacs in the ends of the drive, people riding on the drive can only ride to the end of the drive where they will have to turn around and ride back in the opposite direction, not nearly as enjoyable as continuously riding around the circular drive. The use of the circular drive in Crystal Springs provides safer bike riding situation than on the main road though Griffith Park, where traffic heavy and where there is little space between the curb and the moving traffic. The EIR discounts this important function of Crystal Springs that affects the enjoyment and pleasant experiences many families.

Again, this is just one of the issues with ballfields EIR.

The problems with the EIR arises from what often takes place in this city and that is when a council person put forward a project he or she wants, the city departments and agencies make sure the result of their work supports the outcome desired by authority above them.

August 8, 2014

Sincerely,

Al Moggia

Marian Dodge
2648 N. Commonwealth Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90027

August 8, 2014

Re: CF #14-0588 Baseball Fields in Crystal Springs Picnic Area

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Committee Members:

I support the appeal. Although an Environmental Impact Review (EIR) was completed for the proposed baseball fields in the Crystal Springs Picnic Area, the EIR was inadequate. It failed to adequately analyze alternative projects. It failed to address the significance of the impact. It failed to mitigate the loss of 49 protected tree including at least one Heritage Tree. It failed to consider the impact of the loss of habitat on wildlife.

This is not the first case in which the City has failed to adequately perform an EIR. Take for example the EIR that was completed by the City for the Hollywood Community Plan Update (HCPU). In the Statement of Decision, Case No. BS138369, BS138580, January 14, 2014. p. 3) Superior Court Judge Allan Goodman called the EIR

“fundamentally flawed and fatally so...its accompanying EIR, contain errors of fact and of law that compel granting relief to the community groups which challenge adoption of the HCPU...”

In spite of numerous letters and public comment specifically warning the City of flawed figures throughout the planning process, the City forged ahead with an EIR that they had to know was based on fantasy.

p. 18

“...the City's failure to recognize that the HCPU was unsupported by anything other than wishful thinking.”

p. 19

“Multiple objections to the continued use of these demonstrably incorrect SCAG population estimates repeatedly were made “for the record” by several groups – and ignored by the City...This conduct was itself a failure to proceed in the manner required by law... If an EIR fails to include relevant information and precludes informed decision making and public participation, the goals of CEQA are thwarted and a prejudicial abuse of discretion has occurred.”

p. 22

“An EIR must contain and analyze in depth a “range of reasonable alternatives... There must be a set or group of alternatives which would feasibly [sic] attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project.”

p. 23

“Public Resources Code... provides that the project itself cannot be an alternative to itself.”

p. 25

...[T]here has been an insufficiently-reasoned rush to completion of the EIR process, and that the process was administered in a way that is clearly contrary to well-established laws as interpreted by the appellate courts.”

p. 28

“When a public agency does not comply with procedures required by law, its decision must be set aside as presumptively prejudicial.”

The proposed project for baseball fields in the Crystal Springs Picnic Area should not go forward because its EIR is flawed and inadequate and will not hold up in court. The City should seriously consider alternative locations for ball fields in Griffith Park which will not destroy habitat and displace park users.

The City’s failure to comply with state law in the Hollywood Community Plan Update case cost the taxpayers \$1,750,000.

Sincerely,

Marian Dodge

Marian Dodge



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Re. meeting this Friday re. Ballfields and Permanent Stage construction at Griffith Park

1 message

Rebecca Waer <rebecca.waer@gmail.com>
To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Thu, Aug 7, 2014 at 3:52 PM

1.) Re. ball fields: Please reconsider this proposal. The report did not give serious consideration to alternative locations. Ballfields in Crystal Springs will impact picnickers, largely Latinos, who have will be displaced. And please actually reach out to the very people who use this space to tell them the ball fields are coming!

2.) Re. permanent stage: Our Appeal is a call for an EIR to be done, so that mitigation is properly considered.

Thank you,
Rebecca Waer,
Los Angeles resident in the 90068 zip code

Rebecca Waer
619.309.8586
rebecca.waer@gmail.com



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

1 message

Brown Lynn <Akalynnbrown@aol.com>

Thu, Aug 7, 2014 at 3:57 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Re: 14-0589-Performing Arts Center]

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Honorable Committee Members,

I am opposed to the building of a permanent Stage at the Old Zoo.

To build a permanent Stage is to create an attractive public nuisance. It will invite unauthorized performances, i.e. the Drum Circle, as well as other loud music and unsupervised activity which will disturb the area both day and night. It will also create a perfect place for graffiti. There is not enough oversight possible by Rangers or other law enforcement agencies to manage this. It has the potential for destructive anarchy most of the time.

This is a peaceful, and precious open space for people to enjoy both daytime and early evening and for the wild animals to use at night. To put a great deal of money to build a stage, build a parking lot and night lighting, as well as restroom facilities is counter productive. It will occupy a large area of what is now green open space, and devalue the quality of life for park users.

In the past, attendees have sat on blankets and picnicked while enjoying the performances. It was satisfactory then as it can continue to be now. The Concerts and the plays can continue, but at the end of the evening, people pick up their belongings and go home as they should, leaving the Park untroubled in the evening.

LYNN BROWN

Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group
Equestrian Trails Inc. Trail Coordinator