

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,

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