



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Why is "Friends Of Griffith Park" working against the city?

1 message

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**Zack Stratis** <zackstratis@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 6, 2014 at 3:33 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org, "tom.labonge@lacity.org" <tom.labonge@lacity.org>

Dear Adam,

I joined Friends of Griffith Park more than a year ago. And while I believe some of their programs are beneficial, please know that I SUPPORT the ball parks and Shakespeare Theater projects! They must go forward!!! They serve community!!

The letter Friends Of Griffith Park sent out (below) is quite unfortunate. Why do they persist? Is it because the leaders of Friends Of Griffith Park live right in the park? What is their real agenda? Does it serve all of Los Angeles or only those who live in the park?

There are other community members who have initially supported this group who now stay clear or are afraid to contradict the agenda of Friends Of Griffith Park. I have been told never to speak against them!

I wish this group would ONLY focus on accomplishing things that are productive and not put so much energy into opposing public projects - especially ones that have been approved.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Yours,

Zack Stratis

**Zack Stratis (Sat Guru)**

Cell: [323.841.5698](tel:323.841.5698)

Home: [323.660.1558](tel:323.660.1558)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Friends of Griffith Park** <announcements@friendsofgriffithpark.org>

Date: Wed, Aug 6, 2014 at 2:52 PM

Subject: Help support our appeals going to hearing!

To: [zackstratis@gmail.com](mailto:zackstratis@gmail.com)

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Dear Friend of Griffith Park,

**We need your help!**

On Monday afternoon, two appeals will be heard which were filed jointly by Friends of Griffith Park, the Griffith J Griffith Charitable Trust, and the Sierra Club Griffith Park Task Force. The first is regarding placing two Little League sized fields in the Crystal Springs picnic area. The second is building a permanent stage in the Old Zoo area, which necessitates much additional construction for ADA (disabled) compliance, including a 4-section bridge and lighted concrete pathways.

Your comments are needed to support both appeals. The hearings are one after another at City Hall, room 1060, at the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging, and River Committee meeting, Monday, August 11th at 2:00.

Please speak up to sustain the park's habitat, wildlife, natural aesthetics and to support the historic user groups in Griffith Park.

**Crystal Springs** is a highly successful picnic area currently. On weekends the picnic area is packed to capacity. There is already one ball field in that area which is usually locked and unused. Now, the City approved two more, and will be removing up to 49 trees to do it. Crystal Springs is NOT the right place!

Our appeal claims that the EIR for this project is insufficient, especially in that it did not consider alternatives to placing the ball fields at Crystal Springs where they will impact picnickers, largely Latinos, who come there for family gatherings. [Appeal is Council File 14-0588](#)

**The Old Zoo** is within the "wilderness area" of the park, per the Historic-Cultural Monument. It's part of a rich wildlife area with rare plants and special-species wildlife, well documented by scientific work. A Performing Arts Center, at a cost of \$5 million, has been approved, without even an EIR completed! An inadequate and shortened environmental review process, Mitigated Negative Declaration, was used instead. [Appeal is Council File 14-0589](#)

You can read the appeals (05/02/2014) and the City's rebuttals (07/31/2014) by going to the above links and looking in the upper right hand corner for the relevant files.

If you cannot attend, please send a Public Comment in as soon as possible, before

August 9th. Send two different emails, one for each Council File.

email both to: Adam.Lid@LACity.org

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

body of email:

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable committee members,

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

POSITION - [Please state FOR the appeal]

**[Add your personalized comment.]**

DATE

Sincerely,

NAME

**POSSIBLE POINTS TO MAKE:**

Ballfields:

- ♦ 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

Performing Arts Center at Old Zoo:

- ♦ This project deserves a full EIR before going forward
- ♦ Alternatives should be considered
- ♦ The wildlife and their habitat needs to be considered and impacts mitigated
- ♦ This is a historic site within the wilderness area of the park

Thank YOU!!

advocacy • support • education • service

For over a century, Griffith Park has been L.A.'s great urban wilderness where we come to connect with our natural heritage and history. Friends of Griffith Park is a non-profit charitable group that promotes the enlightened stewardship of Griffith Park so it can survive and thrive for another hundred years. As a 501(c)(3) organization, memberships and donations are deductible to the full extent of the law.

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