



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Performing Arts and Ball Diamond Projects in Griffith Park

1 message

rangeranne@ca.rr.com <rangeranne@ca.rr.com>

Thu, Aug 7, 2014 at 1:39 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

August 07, 2014

Dear Adam,

I am a retired Senior Park Ranger and worked in Griffith Park for 22 years. I am opposed to the Performing Arts Center project in the Old Zoo area and the proposal to construct ball diamonds in the Crystal Springs Picnic area.

If a fair and impartial EIR was done related to the construction of the Performing Arts Center in the Old Zoo area, I believe that the impact to wildlife and the habitat in the area would be obvious and appropriately documented. It would not be good.

Rangers conduct nature hikes in Griffith Park, including the Old Zoo area where school children have the opportunity to see wildlife in its native habitat. To construct a building in this area is counterproductive to our interpretive programs.

I went to the Old Zoo as a child and have fond memories of my visits. The old cages and pens are a part of Griffith Park's history and should be left untouched by new construction nearby.

I provided security at many of the Symphony in the Glen concerts in this area during my career. The use of a temporary stage was appropriate for the event. People enjoyed picnicking on the grass, often under the trees, waiting to hear the concerts. When the event was over, the stage was removed. The wildlife in the area was not permanently impacted.

I also worked weekends in Griffith Park and often patrolled the Crystal Springs picnic area. The area was heavily used, often by low income families, who could not afford expensive weekend outings. To take away picnic spaces and up to 49 trees would heavily impact these families by reducing the number of picnic spaces available for them to use. It would also be a loss of wildlife habitat for birds and mammals.

I understand that it is being proposed to relocate some of the trees from the picnic area to other areas in the park but I can tell you from experience that the trees would probably die just as many did when our department relocated trees after the construction of the new veterinary hospital at the back end of the L.A. Zoo.

One of my favorite trees, the giant native Sycamore, which would be removed, was most likely there when Native American tribes lived in the area long ago. This tree is considered a City of Los Angeles Heritage Tree and it is mindboggling to think that it will be cut down.

It is my intention to notify descendants of the Native American tribes who lived in this area and with whom I worked, and let them know what the City is trying to do with Crystal Springs.

There is already a ball diamond in the picnic area that is rarely used. Why not negotiate with the college who controls the field and let Little League teams use the field. Better yet, build the fields at North Atwater Park or at the Ferraro Soccer Fields. There is plenty of room there.

I realize that projects like to Performing Arts Center and the addition of ball diamonds in the City would be a good thing but **not** in an area where wildlife and habitat is impacted. The City of Los Angeles is a big city and there has to be alternate locations for these projects that would not impact the environment.

Sincerely,
Retire Ranger Anne