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3 pages + 1 = 4

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8/5/2014

TO: Norman Mundy

FROM: Alyce Heath, sag-affra, aka Alyce Schwartz, Asst Prod. Acct. - Payroll, Local 871, Civilian Volunteer LA Sheriff's Mounted Posse, Altadena, CA

First and foremost: Griffith Park is a public park, Crystal Springs is a public area in this public park. Prop. K funds should not be used to take public land away from the public. If the ballparks are built, they will be built to Little League (TM) specifications. They will be reserved by the Little League (TM) for most of the year for Little League (TM) games and will only be used by the people who have paid to belong to the Little League (TM). When would "J.Q. Public" ever be able to use this public land that is part of this public park? For an hour on a Wednesday, maybe? Sheesh.

If I could speak to all the people who are currently using Crystal Springs (and not just the ones I see the couple of times I've been able to drive over and talk), this is what I would say:

SAY GOODBYE TO CRYSTAL SPRINGS PICNIC AREA

THIS MAY BE THE LAST TIME YOU, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL STAND ON THIS PUBLIC LAND.

There is a project that was started in 2009 called Proposition K, or, as it became known: the Little League (r) Baseball Fields. The plan is to build two Little League (r) regulation size for boys and girls to play baseball. What will happen is that 30-40 of the trees you are looking at now will be killed: cut down, uprooted and thrown away. The picnic tables you are looking at now will be put "someplace else". The grass and foliage you are looking at now will be replaced. You, the public, will never, ever be able to have a picnic here, never be able to celebrate a birthday, an anniversary, a quinceaños, a bar mitzva or bah mitzva, a family reunion, or even just sit on the grass and enjoy the scenery - unless you plan to play baseball....and assuming you can find a date not already taken by Little League (r). Look around you. Instead of all these people you see enjoying this space now and every day - especially the weekends - there will a group of Little League (r) baseball players, their mothers or fathers (or both), some umpires (and maybe some Little League(r) staffers) playing baseball.

Little League (r) Baseball, Inc. is a non-profit based out of Williamsport, Pa. According to its most recent federal tax filings, it turned a \$2.8 million profit in fiscal 2012 on \$24.5 million in revenue. It finished the year with \$78.5 million in assets. The Little League (r) World Series generates an additional \$6.1 million in non-broadcast revenue, according to tax filings. Some of that comes from nearly two-dozen major corporate sponsors, including Honda, Hilton, Chiquita Bananas, Gatorade and New York Life. Little League (r) is a registered name and when that name is applied to anything, the implication is that whatever that anything is, it belongs to the Little League (r).

Do you want your access to public land in a public park taken away from you by big business? Do you want nature to be destroyed by big business? I don't. I say let the Little Leaguers(r) take the time to drive to fields that already exist. Let them find land that's not already being used by thousands of people, let them find land that doesn't have trees (flora and fauna) that have existed undisturbed for many many years.

If you don't want to be shut out of this public land do something. Fill out a petition. Call City Hall. Call Griffith Park. Call the radio stations, the TV stations, the newspapers, blog it. Let the others around you know that if we just sit here and don't speak up, we won't be able to ever sit here again.

How did I get into this? Here's the history: I attended a couple of meetings last year (which I only heard about because I'm a horseback rider and there's a group of people who keep up with what's going on in Griffith Park that might affect the equestrians). Apparently there was a Prop K back in 2009 for building 2 "Little League" ballparks

in Griffith Park. I use the quotes because the name "Little League" was attached to this project from the beginning and every time anyone referred to the project they said "Little League". This is one of my concerns, the Little League is a private profit making company and once you let private money making companies dictate what can and cannot be done on PUBLIC LAND I believe you start down the road of no return. I question how much money the Little League has spent towards getting into Griffith Park.

- The plan is to destroy 30 - 40 trees in the Crystal Springs area (right next to Pote Field - built in 1950, a regulation sized ballfield that is available by permit only and is used primarily by Los Angeles City College and the Municipal Baseball Program. To a lesser extent, Pote is also used by Private high schools and other groups and for motion picture filming - Pote Field was named after Phil Pote, a baseball standout at Los Angeles City College baseball and a long-time Major League scout).
- In addition to getting rid of the trees, the picnic areas and the picnic tables will also have to be removed. I went by one Sunday and spoke to most of the groups that were using the area - definitely over 100 people (mom, dads, children, grandparents) and not one of them was aware that there was the possibility that next year they might not have this public space in this public park available to them. There were no signs indicating changes were in the air. During the meetings when those who want the ballparks discussed the picnic aspect of Crystal Springs, they'd say the picnickers could go elsewhere in the park. Well the park is a very busy place during the good weather months - the same months the ballparks, if built, would be used and all that public land would sit empty for many of those days while those hundreds of people would have to go to other areas of the park and squeeze themselves in - and I do mean squeeze.
- This Chrystal Springs area, used by these families, many of whom have been coming here for years, also offers bicycling opportunities - and with the the ballparks claiming the park land, the parking lots will be changed and bicycling around the area will no longer be available.
- In other words an public area in a public park that is utilized by hundreds of families for picnics, gatherings, birthday parties, graduation parties, etc. will be destroyed so that ballparks that can only be used by baseball players and only for baseball can be built. And, in my opinion, since they have used the title "Little League" and most of the speakers for this project were either children in the Little League, parents of children in the Little League or adults with some connection to the Little League, if these baseball parks are put in this public picnic area, the first person in line to make reservations for the parks will be someone from the Little League. And, as I understand it, Little League games are played Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, this person will tie up the ballparks in this public park on this public land for those days and, in my opinion, they'll probably want to reserve the days before the games to be able to prepare the fields for the games and then also reserve the park for the days after the games to repair the parks, the Little League will essentially book the fields built in this public park on public land (and weren't the Propositions created with public funds, this I don't know) for Little League use only

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So, after getting involved, here's what I say:

I am against any changes made to Crystal Springs. It has been open to the public for over 75 years as is and is a wonderful place for everyone the way it is now

It is the home of many trees - old growth native trees which are irreplaceable (some of which are Oak and I believe Oak trees are protected from destruction). Many of Griffith Park's wildlife make use of this corridor. With the area fenced off and trees destroyed, massive disruption will take place.

There is an equestrian trail that will be severely impacted by these changes. A bridge is being built so there will be many more horseback riders making use of the park once they can safely get over the Los Angeles River. Imagine their shock when they finally can get into the park - a park that was specifically created with the horse community in mind - only to find they have to now ride a trail that could well be treacherous.

There are companies that make use of the park as it is for events and the park gets an income for this

There are families who picnic here and have done so for many years. These people don't even know there are plans to destroy this area. Imagine their shock when they arrive with their children and grandparents and find baseball fields there instead - fields that will be locked and that they will never be able to use

And why do I say they will never get to use them? They are, after all in a public park and therefore should be available to the public. Well, ever since this project started back in 2009, it has been known as the Little League baseball field project. Little League is a trademark and can only be used by the Little League organization. These plans are specifically for the Little League and they will have the fields tied up for practice so not available for use by anyone else or getting ready for games so therefore not available for use by anyone else or for games being played and therefore not available for use. When the Little League is not there, the fields will be locked up so they won't be available for use. If someone calls to reserve the fields they will find there are no available dates.

There are ballparks all over this city but only one Griffith Park. Why should an elite group get precedence over everyone else. Let the baseball families who have this one desire drive to the other fields. If they want more fields, then build them themselves and not on the back of the city.

Leave Crystal Springs for the wildlife and the public who have many desires: picnicking, reading, relaxing, riding horses, riding bikes on the paved roads surrounding the area, having birthday parties. So many things go on in Crystal Springs, why change and allow only one thing take place?

Alyce Heath, sag-affra  
aka Alyce Schwartz, Asst. Prod Acct. - Payroll, Local 871  
Civilian Volunteer LA Sheriff's Mounted Posse, Altadena, CA

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
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Division**[www.cityclerk.lacity.org](http://www.cityclerk.lacity.org)

When making inquiries relative to  
this matter, please refer to the  
Council File No. 14-0588

July 31, 2014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

**PROJECT:** Final Environmental Impact Report for the Griffith Park Crystal Springs Ballfields Project (W.O. E170110B; State Clearing House No. 2013011012)

The project listed above will be considered by the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee of the City of Los Angeles City Council at 2:00 PM or shortly thereafter on Monday, **August 11, 2014**, in Room 1060, City Hall (10th Floor), 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Entrance to City Hall is from Main Street. Please allow time to pass through the security measures in place at the entrance.

If you cannot attend, but wish to have your opinion considered at the meeting, I must receive your mailed or faxed letter at the following address by no later than 8:00 AM, Friday, **August 8, 2014**:

Council of the City of Los Angeles  
Attn: Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee  
City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
FAX: (213) 978-1079

Sincerely,

Adam R. Lid  
Legislative Assistant  
Arts, Parks, Health, Aging and River Committee  
(213) 978-1076

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