



Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573

Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573

friendsofgriffithpark.org

August 6, 2014

Re: #14-0589-Performing Arts Center

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and honorable members,

We would like to bring your attention to misinformation submitted into the above council file:

Communication from the Public 07/31/2014, from Symphony in the Glen, Ms. Barbara Ferris, who stated, **“Additionally, it should be noted that the “Griffith Park Natural History Survey” is not a scientific study but a volunteer driven project generated largely by the Appellants.”**

The above statement is not true. Please be advised that Griffith Park Natural History Survey (GPNHS) is comprised of well-conceived, professional scientific studies and are not “volunteer-driven”. Furthermore, two appellants never had involvement with GPNHS at all, while most of the completed work pre-dates the third appellant’s formation (Friends of Griffith Park). Therefore they are not “generated largely by the Appellants”.

The Griffith Park Natural History Survey (GPNHS) originated in late 2006 largely through actions taken by Mr. George Grace, then serving on the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group. A Steering Committee comprised of four individuals was formed to raise private funds and began to enlist various scientists to engage in survey and studies of the fauna and flora of Griffith Park. Reports have been produced for nearly all the completed work, roughly ten different endeavors. Some work has even been accepted into respected scientific journals, such as The Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences and Journal of Insect Conservation, while other work is pending journal publication.

The Rare Plant Survey was a very large undertaking and clocked hundreds of hours of expert survey time. The Wildlife Connectivity Study, conceived in 2011, is responsible for the discovery of Griffith Park mountain lion, P-22, detected by a remote camera in February, 2012. The bat survey in 2008-9 was hugely successful in confirming many bat species and their distributions.

The expense for these studies has been tens of thousands of dollars and borne by the generosity of private donors and responsible community organizations. More recently, Friends of Griffith Park has taken over much of the fundraising responsibilities and now solicits support for the studies.

The results have established a new basis for sound ecological management decisions. GPNHS surveys and work set the basis for The Wildlife Management Plan which was adopted by the City with the passage of the Griffith Park Vision by the Commission in early 2014.

List of important work done since its beginning in late 2006:

- Large Mammal Survey
- Herptile Survey
- Initial Carnivore Study of Griffith Park (published, Bull. So. Calif. Academy of Sciences)
- Bird Survey and annotated list produced
- Bat Survey (submitted for publication)
- Rare Plant Survey (and comprehensive plant database, published Fremontia)
- Butterfly Survey (published Journal Insect Conservation; field guide produced)
- Mushroom and Lichen Survey (ongoing)
- Fern Dell Wildlife Survey
- Old Zoo Area Survey
- Wildlife Connectivity Study (ongoing)

Partial list of science team:

- Dan Cooper, Harvard University, Masters Degree at U.C. Riverside, President, Cooper Ecological Monitoring. Principal investigator and scientific advisor for GPNHS, Author, "Important Bird Areas of California".
- Stephanie Spehar, Ph.D. Anthropology at New York University, Professor University of Wisconsin
- Martin Byhower, bird surveys, President, Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society, Teacher, Director, Birding Southern California
- Paul Mathewson, Masters Degree at Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin, J.D at University of Wisconsin
- Stephanie Remington, Masters Degree at Cal State Polytechnic, California bat expert and technical bat field work pioneer
- Miguel Ordeñana, Master Degree, Ecology at U.C. Davis, wildlife biologist and educator at Natural History Museum
- Erin Boyston, Ph.D. Zoology at Michigan State University, carnivore expert with USGS co-oping with Wildlife Connectivity Study
- Timothy Bonebrake, U.C. Berkley, Ph.D. Biology at Stanford University, butterfly expert, associate professor at University of Hong Kong
- Gary Lincoff, Mycologist and teacher, New York Botanical Gardens, author various books, including Audubon Field Guide to North American Mushrooms

We take great pride in continuing a seven-year record of science in and for Griffith Park.

Sincerely,



Gerry Hans
President