

*Marian Dodge*  
2648 N. Commonwealth Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

August 8, 2014

Re: **CF#14-0589 Griffith Park Performing Arts Center for Children**

Dear Chairman O'Farrell and Committee Members:

I support the appeal. The Performing Arts Center for Children proposed for the Old Zoo area of Griffith Park is in a designated historic area in the Historic-Cultural Monument 942. The Old Zoo is also located in the Los Angeles County designated Significant Ecological Area. Therefore an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be completed, as required by state law, for this project, in order to fully evaluate the impact of the project and examine alternatives.

City Council needs to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to avoid a repeat of the ruling handed down by Superior Court Judge Allan Goodman on July 14, 2014 regarding the City's actions on the Hollywood Community Plan Update. (Case No. BS138580)

On page 13 of the decision the judge states that it

“makes it clear that Respondents [the City] expressly and unequivocally adopted the change to “overrule and supercede” this Court’s Judgement and Writ.”...Respondents appear also to have omitted from their consideration in adopting this questioned resolution certain provisions of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles, requirements of state law – as well as Respondent’s’ long-standing practice of including monitoring elements in other community plans.”

On page 15

[The Plaintiff] “La Mirada correctly (and generously) characterizes City’s action as a “semantic sleight of hand... It is *state law* that establishes the requirement for monitoring; the City Charter requires “substantial conformance...”

On page 16

“The Court elects to address this matter at this time because Respondents’ actions strongly indicate their view that they do not intend to comply with state law or the Orders issued by this Court...”

City Council must respect the requirements of state law and its own City Charter in order to avoid losing costly lawsuits in court. The loss of the Hollywood Community Plan case is just one example of such a loss. I urge you to surprise the judge and comply with state law.

City Council’s failure to comply with state law in this case cost the taxpayers \$1,750,000.

Sincerely,

*Marian Dodge*

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