



Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573
friendsofgriffithpark.org

March 7, 2016

Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee
Los Angeles City Council
City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4801

Subject: Council File 15-0002-S125, Resolution for Helicopter Regulation

Dear Chair Wesson, Vice Chair Huizar, and Councilmember Harris-Dawson,

We lend our full support to the proposed resolution for helicopter flight regulation. Further, the committee should be aware that helicopter tours conducted by private operators are increasingly becoming more of a noise pollution issue for citizens on the ground.

The Hollywood Sign and the Griffith Observatory are two of the heaviest viewed venues for these non-essential and unregulated tours. As many as 40 noise incidents occur per day on heavy tourist days, impacting the peaceful use of Griffith Park by hikers and creating noise pollution for nearby hillside residents. Most tour flight paths include travel well below 1,000 feet above ground level over rugged Griffith Park terrain. Safety at these low altitudes over Griffith Park is a concern, as well.

We encourage the City Council to fully support all four FAA petitions for helicopter flight regulations submitted by the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition, including:

Petition No. 01 (No. FAA-2015-5041) – Helicopter Minimum Altitudes – Require nonemergency helicopters to fly at least 2,000 feet above ground level, with exceptions.

Petition No. 02 (No. FAA-2015-5042) – Helicopter Hover/Orbit Restrictions – Require media helicopters to hover/orbit in one location for five minutes or less in any one-hour period, and tour helicopters to hover/orbit for three minutes or less, with exceptions.

Petition No. 03 (No. FAA-2015-5043) – Mandatory Media Helicopter Pooling – Require media helicopters to plan for pooling coverage during planned and unplanned incidents.

Petition No. 04 (No. FAA-2015-5044) – Shore Line Route – Require helicopters flying along the coastline to fly at least one-half mile offshore to reduce noise onshore.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hans
President

cc: Councilmembers Paul Koretz and David Ryu