

Communication from Public

Name: Jane Goichman

Date Submitted: 05/20/2019 08:57 PM

Council File No: 19-0305

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers Ryu, O'Farrell and Price: I urge you to deny the appeal of Recreation and Parks' decision to approve planting and irrigation along Mulholland in a location between Durant and Canyon Lake and to find this activity exempt from the requirement to prepare a full environmental review under CEQA. The area in question has had a tremendous surge in tourism over the past 5-7 years, probably largely due to the widespread use of smart phones and navigation systems as well as social media sites indicating that the "vista" area at the intersection of Canyon Lake and Mulholland is a prime spot to take photographs. I have lived in Lake Hollywood Estates since 1979 and can attest to the fact that until several years ago we had few visitors in the area, because even invited guests had difficulty finding it. There are only two entrances/exits to Lake Hollywood Estates, one from Barham Blvd. and one from Beachwood, the latter of which requires driving on Mulholland, a very narrow, curvy road. It is barely wide enough for two vehicles to pass and has several blind curves. We now have hundreds to thousands of visitors per day during much of the year, with the numbers increasing every few months. Mulholland is clearly marked with red curbs and no stopping signs. Nevertheless many drivers who come to see the Hollywood sign stop their cars when they or their passengers see the sign so that they can take photographs. Sometimes both passengers and driver get out of the car. The stopped cars block traffic so that visitors, residents and most significantly emergency vehicles cannot move forward if a car stops. When we residents ask the visitors to move along, because it is illegal to stop, the stopped car drivers either ignore us or call us names. Hence, beginning several years ago our community asked Councilman Ryu's office and Recreation and Parks to plant large trees along a portion of Mulholland to block drivers' and passengers' view of the sign. This suggestion came from our community, not from the city. Although the planting is certainly is not a total answer to tourist/traffic congestion in our area, it would be an important traffic management and safety step that the city can take. Not only will it help address the safety issue of cars stopping along Mulholland, but it might also decrease the current pedestrian traffic from the vista along Mulholland on a narrow quasi path, because the tree planting would also block the view of the sign

from the spots to which pedestrians now walk. Much of the pedestrian traffic spills onto the roadway itself, because the quasi path is not wide enough for more than one person in many spots (as noted above, Mulholland roadway is barely wide enough for two cars to pass). Therefore the spillover pedestrian traffic increases safety issues. Moreover, the endless foot traffic impacts this far western portion of Griffith park. Additionally, despite clear No Smoking signs, many of these pedestrians smoke and throw their cigarette butts on the ground or into the foliage, clearly increasing fire hazard in a high fire hazard area. Contrary to the claim by appellants, the planting of trees, requested by our community, is not part of a series of city actions promoting Hollywood sign view sites. Our community opposes, rather than favors, promotion of our area as a place to view the Hollywood sign. What we are requesting is a step akin to traffic management in an area where we have thousands of visitors on public streets. We have been impatiently waiting for several years for the trees to be planted to help address one aspect of the traffic problem. The appellants' arguments are misplaced. Your committee should recommend that the full council deny the appeal. Thank you. Jane Goichman

Communication from Public

Name: Jeanne Clark
Date Submitted: 05/20/2019 01:31 PM
Council File No: 19-0305

Comments for Public Posting: To Councilmembers, I am a home owner in the Hollywoodland neighborhood directly under the Hollywood Sign. I am writing to request that the City prepare an environmental impact report that addresses all projects/actions being taken as part of the Dixon study and related Council File #18-0057. I do not support the piecemeal project development of an International Tourist Destination (including but not limited to tree planting at Canyon Lake vista site/Mulholland or tour shuttles up Beachwood) in the R1 zoned neighborhood of Hollywoodland. The resulting pedestrian and vehicular traffic create public safety issues in our neighborhood due to uncontrolled traffic congestion and unsupervised visitors in our substandard, serpentine, hillside infrastructure that is located in a very high fire hazard severity zone. Routine gridlock negatively impacts ingress and egress in a neighborhood that is 80% surrounded by the high fuel wildland dangerously restricting community evacuation or emergency vehicle access. Smoking in this high fire area, especially among international visitors, is also a threat. From sideswiped cars to damaged hardscapes, residents have experience exponential rates of damage caused by the growing tourist traffic. It is rare for residents to not have to manage traffic snarls on weekends as the \$1MM in extra enforcement the City granted last year cannot address the scope of areas overrun with congestion. We must work together to address the public nuisance in our neighborhood and mitigate legal liabilities of increasing traffic and tourists. We request that the City immediately prepare an environmental impact report (or EIR); stop all piecemeal projects and expend more resources to control traffic and parking until the EIR is completed. I also request that this letter be filed as part of the public record.

Jeanne Clark
6040 Rodgerton Dr.
Los Angeles CA 90068

May 20, 2019

City Clerk
Room 395-City Hall
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles CA 90012
Attn.: Health, Education, Neighborhoods, Parks,
Arts and River Committee

RE: Council Item No. 19-0305

To Councilmembers,

I am a home owner in the Hollywoodland neighborhood directly under the Hollywood Sign. I am writing to request that the City prepare an environmental impact report that addresses all projects/actions being taken as part of the Dixon study and related Council File #18-0057.

I do not support the piecemeal project development of an International Tourist Destination (including but not limited to tree planting at Canyon Lake vista site/Mulholland or tour shuttles up Beachwood) in the R1 zoned neighborhood of Hollywoodland.

The resulting pedestrian and vehicular traffic create public safety issues in our neighborhood due to uncontrolled traffic congestion and unsupervised visitors in our substandard, serpentine, hillside infrastructure that is located in a very high fire hazard severity zone. Routine gridlock negatively impacts ingress and egress in a neighborhood that is 80% surrounded by the high fuel wildland dangerously restricting community evacuation or emergency vehicle access.

From sideswiped cars to damaged hardscapes, residents have experience exponential rates of damage caused by the growing tourist traffic. It is rare for residents to not have to manage traffic snarls on weekends as the \$1MM in extra enforcement the City granted last year cannot address the scope of areas overrun with congestion.

We must work together to address the public nuisance in our neighborhood and mitigate legal liabilities of increasing traffic and tourists. We request that the City immediately prepare an environmental impact report (or EIR); stop all piecemeal projects and expend more resources to control traffic and parking until the EIR is completed. I also request that this letter be filed as part of the public record.

Regards,

Jeanne Clark