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May 3, 2019

Los Angeles City Council
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Health, Education, Neighborhoods, Parks, Arts, and River Committee

Honorable City Council:

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) APPEAL OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION (COUNCIL FILE NO. 19-0305)

On February 20, 2019, The Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners at its regular meeting approved the Griffith Park-Lake Hollywood and Upper Vista Outdoor Improvements Project (Board Report 19-039), and determined that the project was exempt from CEQA. On March 7, 2019, Department Staff filed a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the project with the Los Angeles County Clerk. However, On March 4, 2019, the Office of the City Clerk accepted an appeal of the decision to the City Council under Section 21151(c) of CEQA within the 35-day statute of limitation (ending April 8, 2019). Appellant Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan filed the appeal (Chatten-Brown & Carstens, LLP, Representative). The NOE and our supplemental response to the appeals are available at: <http://www.laparks.org/planning/environmental>.

The CEQA appeal seeks to have a broader environmental review based on traffic congestion, public safety, fire safety, and other issues of concern in the Hollywoodland residential area in Los Angeles. The Department of Recreation and Parks staff believes based on the review the appeal and the NOE that there is no substantial evidence that an exception to the exemptions for any cumulative impacts from other actions that may occur in Griffith Park.

Therefore, it is the Department staff's recommendation that the Health, Education, Neighborhoods, Parks, Arts, and River Committee recommend that the City Council:

- 1) DENY the CEQA Section 21151 (c) appeal;
- 2) DETERMINE that the Griffith Park-Lake Hollywood and Upper Vista Outdoor Improvements Project (Project) is categorically exempt under CEQA after considering the Notice of Exemption on file and the response included in this report;



- 3) ADOPT and CONCUR in the February 20, 2019 action of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles as to the Project; and
- 4) DIRECT Department Staff to file a new Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles City Clerk and with the Los Angeles County Clerk.

Department staff hereby submits the attached report for consideration of the response to each point raised in the appeals.



Sincerely,
MICHAEL A. SHULL
General Manager

Attachment:
Staff Report