

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(17) Nay(0) Abstain(2) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 07/16/2019

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 07/23/2019

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 19-0783

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council previously passed a resolution calling for Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to find a way to open Rowena Reservoir to the public during daylight hours as a park. Since passing that resolution, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks has expressed their strong support for this plan. The LFNC Public Works & Beautification Committee completed a survey regarding the Rowena Reservoir. The Committee also took into account the LADWP's presentation last Fall, and information from stakeholders, to compile a comprehensive assessment of the impact of opening Rowena to the public. LADWP would need to work with the community to solve a few logistical challenges that must be addressed before it can be opened: PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT FOR FULL CIS



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- COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT -

Council File: 19-0783

Title: Rowena Reservoir Complex / Council District Four/ Open to the Public / Passive Recreational Use

Position: Support

Summary:

The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council previously passed a resolution calling for Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to find a way to open Rowena Reservoir to the public during daylight hours as a park.

Since passing that resolution, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks has expressed their strong support for this plan,

The LFNC Public Works & Beautification Committee completed a survey regarding the Rowena Reservoir. The Committee also took into account the LADWP's presentation last Fall, and information from stakeholders, to compile a comprehensive assessment of the impact of opening Rowena to the public.

LADWP would need to work with the community to solve a few logistical challenges that must be addressed before it can be opened:

- **Equipment.** There is equipment on-site that would still need to be fenced-off.
- **Retrofitting.** Study must be done to ensure the footpaths are safe.
- **Environmental studies.** Study must be done to assess the impact on waterfowl.
- **Trash pick-up.** Trash and recycling pick-up must be planned for.
- **Traffic studies.** Our survey indicates opening Rowena will actually have a positive impact on car congestion in the area, but we still are calling for additional study.
- **Water safety.** Similar protections should be in place as we find in other

public properties with open water.

- **Coordinating with Recreation & Parks.** LADWP working with R&P to manage the surface could be a potential solution to many logistical issues.
- **The original design of the reservoir.** The reservoir was not originally intended to be a park, but this does not mean it cannot become one.
- **The status of Rowena as an operational reservoir.** Other reservoirs are open-water and open to the public, so making the surface footpaths of this underground reservoir public should be possible.

The benefits of opening the Reservoir as a park during daylight hours are numerous¹:

- **A vast supermajority of respondents, 89%, want the Reservoir to be opened to the public during daylight hours.**
- This even includes **a supermajority, 71%, who live immediately around the reservoir.**
- This confirms what we have seen historically, with perennial petitions from the public to open it up.
- Survey data shows that most people near Rowena are currently driving several miles to get to parks. **Opening it to the public would reduce miles driven by at least 14,150 annually.**
- This would **prevent, at minimum, 11,500 pounds of CO2 from being emitted into the atmosphere.**
- Biking and walking to the reservoir would have **a public health benefit, with respondents burning at least 270,000 additional calories annually** walking and biking to the Reservoir.
- Since these numbers are based on conservative assumptions, the actual health, congestion, and carbon emissions improvements are likely to be substantially higher.
- Opening the reservoir to the public is aligned with the City of Los Angeles's Resilient LA Plan for green space.
- Opening the reservoir to the public is aligned with LADWP's stated goals for community outreach.

There be it resolved that the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council supports Councilmember Ryu's motion that LADWP begin studying the issues associated with opening the site to the public, and working with our community to solve them, so that the site may be safely used as a park during daylight hours.

APPROVED

July 16th, 2019

17 Yay 0 Nay 2 Abstention 0 Absent