

**LOS ANGELES
EQUINE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

1st District: Julian Sandoval
 2nd District: Nick Pool
 3rd District: Jill Haber
 4th District: Lynn Brown
 5th District: Melanie Coto
 6th District: Mary Benson
 7th District: Dale Gibson
 8th District: Todd LaVergne

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



Eric Garcetti
MAYOR

Chair: Joe Salaiques,
Department of Recreation and Parks

9th District: Brady Westwater
 10th District: Kevin Atkins
 11th District: Larry Watts
 12th District: Mary Kaufman
 13th District: Gene Gilbert
 14th District: Vacant
 15th District: Vacant

MINUTES

City of Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday September 30, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Los Angeles Equestrian Center, 480 West Riverside Drive, Burbank, CA 91506

	Present	Absent
Joe Salaiques Chair,	X	
District 1 Vacant		
District 2 Jeffrey Rewald		X
District 3 Jill Haber	X	
District 4 Lynn Brown	X	
District 5 David Ramey		X
District 6 Mary Benson	X	
District 7 Dale Gibson	X	
District 8 Kevin Atkins	X	
District 9 Vacant		
District 10 Todd La Vergne		X
District 11 Larry Watts	X	
District 12 Stacia Crane	X	
District 13 Gene Gilbert	X	
District 14 Vacant		
District 15 Vacant		
Mayor's Office: Scott Perez	X	

- 1)Member Gibson welcomed the attendees and asked committee members to introduce themselves.
- 2)Member Gibson acted as Chair and called the meeting to order at about 6:45 and conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3)Public Comment. The Chair announced that public comment with respect to the Griffith Park ATS Feasibility Study will be welcomed following the discussion of agenda item 5, and called for public comment on any other subject. There were none.
- 4)The Chair next recognized Andrew Bossom who gave a presentation on property insurance available through the California Earthquake Authority (CEA) and the new California Wildfire Fund (CWF).

The CEA was created following the 1994 Northridge earthquake which caused over \$20 billion in residential damage, only half of which was covered by insurance. Because insurance companies in California were required to offer earthquake coverage, large losses in connection with earthquakes led to many companies to write fewer homeowner policies. In 1995 the legislature created a basic, no-frills "mini policy" that any insurer could sell to comply with the mandatory offer law. The mini policy provided homeowners basic coverage for the roof over their heads, eliminating costly extras like swimming pools and patios. Then in 1996, the legislature created the CEA, a not-for-profit, publicly managed, privately funded entity. Residential property insurers could offer their own earthquake insurance or become a CEA participating insurance company. Today CEA provides two-thirds of the residential earthquake insurance policies sold in California. Bossom noted however that only 10% of homeowners have earthquake coverage. He also said it is available for renters. CEA earthquake policies are intended to help rebuild or repair your home, replace your damaged personal belongings, and help with additional living expenses if you have to move out while repairs are made. More information about CEA can be found at <https://www.earthquakeauthority.com/>

The CWF provides at least \$21 billion to investor owned utilities to cover wildfire caused damages. Ratepayers will pay \$10.5 billion into the CWF through a 15-year extension of an existing charge on monthly bills that was set to expire in 2021. The new CWF law should stabilize the state's electricity markets to protect ratepayers from skyrocketing costs while requiring Pacific Gas & Electric Co. to pay victims for wildfire claims in 2017 and 2018 and prioritize overall utility safety. Bossom noted that unlike earthquakes, wildfires can be prevented. If utility equipment continues to spark increasingly destructive wildfires, the CWF could be quickly depleted. But individuals must also

reduce the risk of wildfire damages by safety precautions, including brush clearance on their property.

- 5)The Chair next recognized Member Lynn Brown who reported on the recommendations that a number of equestrians (ATS Committee) had recently met to discuss a questionnaire concerning a possible Aerial Tramway System (ATS) that has been circulated in connection with the pending Griffith Park ATS Feasibility Study. She noted those participating in the discussion focused on the historic and unique characteristics of the park, including many miles of horse trails that afford park users a wilderness experience in the midst of America's second largest city. She noted that this has a significant positive economic impact on many businesses located in the area surrounding the park.

Member Brown explained there were concerns expressed by those who reviewed the ATS Feasibility questionnaire that a 2018 report commissioned by Council District 4 to study possible alternate ways to access the Hollywood Sign and the Griffith Park Observatory prepared by Dixon Resources had identified the Martinez Arena as a potential location for an ATS station and parking lot. Martinez Arena is the only public riding arena within Griffith Park. The only equestrian access to Griffith Park and the Martinez Arena from the north is over Mariposa Bridge and through tunnels beneath Highway 134. The horse trails then pass by Martinez Arena. Using Martinez Arena as an ATS station and parking area would, among other things, cut off equestrian access to Griffith Park from the north to many thousands of the public, would have adverse economic consequences for the surrounding community and eliminate the only public riding arena in the park. Brown said that in view of the foregoing concerns of the ATS Committee, she had drafted the letter that had been circulated with the agenda for the LAEAC to consider.

The Chair next recognized Joe Salaces who made several observations. He explained the origins of a potential ATS in the park arose from that fact that many thousands of visitors to the Hollywood Sign and the Observatory currently do so via narrow roads from the south that are through residential neighborhoods. This creates substantial traffic and parking problems and generated many complaints by local residents. An ATS from the north to those venues is only one of many scenarios for improving access to those venues. The current ATS Feasibility Study was not initiated by the Dept. of Recreations and Parks, but by a City Council resolution.

The Chair recognized Member Brown who not the Dixson Report had incorrectly assumed that the Martinez Arena was underutilized by the riding community.

The Chair recognized Member Watts who noted that no decisions have been made to even construct an ATS in the park, let alone place an ATS station at Martinez Arena. He explained that there will be substantial continuing community outreach, not only to the equestrian community, but to residents and businesses, including those residing and located on the south side of the park. In that regard, he said the idea of an ATS in the park did not arise in the abstract, but from a genuine and serious problem that deserves to be cured or at least lessened. It he also noted that it may be possible to solve the problem in a way that actually improves safety for park users, including equestrians. He suggested it would important for the horse community to be part of the process, which will be long. He said citizens can follow the process by monitoring the city council for this matter: CF 18-0057.

The Chair next called for public comment. Several brief comments addressed the safety issues that an ATS in the park could cause for equestrians and the importance of Martinez Arena to the equestrian public. There were several favorable comments voiced regarding the ATS Committee's concerns and the proposed letter.

Following public comment the Chair invited a motion concerning the proposed letter. There upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, the proposed letter concerning the ATS heretofore circulated be sent on behalf of the LAEAC.

6) Tabled.

7) Member Rewald reported no new funding applications have been received in addition to those previously discussed..

8) Committee Reports:

Documents- No report.

Trails- No report.

Planning and Land Use- No report.

Emergency Equine Evacuation Committee- No report.

9) Action on July 2019 minutes was tabled.

10) There were no announcements

11) The LAEAC will meet next at Los Angeles Equestrian Center, 480 West Riverside Drive, Burbank, CA 91506 on November 25, 2019 at 6:30 p.m..

12) Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts, Secretary