

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

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Recreation and Parks

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## **COMMENTS REGARDING NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) for the Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan**

This comment is being submitted on behalf of the estimated 50,000 annual visits to the Griffith Park Trails by a minimum of 2,000 horses and 30,000 park visitors by the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee (LAEAC), many of whom are our constituents. Please add LAEAC to subsequent notification lists as this project proceeds.

### AESTHETICS

LAEAC requests that the EIR clarify the statement on page 4-1 of the NOP: "Further, over time, vegetation would reestablish within key views." This should include a projection of the time it will take for natural recovery in a disturbed area to occur and whether the project will increase sedimentation transport during rain events or increase the reestablishment by non-native or invasive species in any disturbed areas.

### HYDROLOGY & WATER QUALITY

The EIR should evaluate whether the project will increase impacts upon any equestrian/hiking trails resulting from stormwater or runoff being channeled onto a trail or tunnel used for trail connectivity. The EIR should also evaluate whether the project will have an impact upon existing offsite drainage patterns from the park to a catch basin or the Los Angeles River.

### LAND USE & PLANNING

LAEAC requests that the EIR evaluate whether the proposed project will have any impact upon the City's Equestrian and Hiking Trails Master Plan adopted in 1968 and the 2010 Griffith Park



Map by CARTIFACT showing the parks' network of equestrian and hiking trails information.. LAEAC requests that the EIR include a detailed map of the trails (as shown in the 2010 map) be overlaid onto the project map so that one can accurately assess the impacts of the project upon trails. Skyline, Condor and Mineral Wells trails are mentioned in the NOP, but other trails may also experience impacts and since all recreational trails in the park and should which should be evaluated in the EIR. .

### RECREATION

Because horses being ridden on the bridle trails frequently react adversely to the sight, smell or sounds from animal exhibits, the EIR should address potential impacts arising from any predator exhibits placed close to the zoo's perimeter near the heavily used Condor, Skyline and Mineral Wells trails.

### NOISE

The EIR should consider the potentially significant impacts identified in the IS of permanent, temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of equestrian and hiking trails above levels existing without the project.

### TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC

The EIR should evaluate the impacts the projected increased traffic will have upon all equestrian trail road-crossings. These include those located between entrances to the park and zoo parking lots, such as Crystal Springs Drive at the Pony Rides, Crystal Springs Drive at Mineral Wells, SR-134 Victory exit at Zoo Drive and the equestrian crossing at Travel Town. The EIR should also consider impacts arising from any disruption of trail right of ways associated with reconfiguration of Crystal Springs Drive. Please consider that Mitigation may be needed to keep equestrians safe at these locations.

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

The impacts arising from any construction staging areas planned next to or outside the zoo perimeter upon equestrian/hiking trails that may be used for access by construction machinery or parking?

Respectfully Submitted,



Dale Gibson, President  
Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee

cc: LAEAC,

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