

**LOS ANGELES
EQUINE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA**

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Mayor Eric Garcetti and LA City Council
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

September 30, 2019

RE: Griffith Park Aerial Tramway System Feasibility ("ATS") Study

Griffith Park is the largest urban park in America. It is unique in that it is situated between Los Angeles, Burbank and Glendale. It has 56 miles of horse trails and supports a thriving horse community of trail users. It is also unique in that it has a large variety of wild animals and native plants giving it a rural experience in the middle of the second largest City in America. Every day, equestrians are riding from early morning into the evening. The Park and its trails are used by everyone. For these reasons, it is also identified as a Wilderness Park.

The equestrians only entry point, from the north, into the Park is over the Mariposa Bridge, through the equestrian tunnels to access the main trails at Martinez Arena. From there, past Martinez arena, all the trails become usable.

The equestrian community presence brings financial gain to all ancillary businesses...i.e. Tack stores, Feed stores, veterinarians, rental stables for the public, boarding barns for horse owners,. The Los Angeles Equestrian Center attracts the public for riding lessons and many other events attended by the public. Equestrian users supports the grocery stores, local restaurants and many businesses. The equestrian home owning public also has a huge effect on real estate values and prices and on the local economy. The business done in the equestrian area amounts to several million dollars annually as many equestrians shop and do business in the area after riding.

The Park is zoned Open Space and is a designated Historic Cultural Monument ("HCM"). The park's trail system is identified as an essential element of its HCM status. That trail system provides a quiet riding experience in a natural and safe environment. The primary access to the trail system for weekly thousands of equestrians, and the park's many users, particularly those entering the Park from Burbank and Glendale, is via tunnels beneath the 134 Freeway adjacent to

the Martinez Arena. The Martinez arena is not simply a primary access point to the trail system, it is the only public arena within the park and is regularly used by equestrians.

It is therefore critical to locate any transit hub/tram within the park so as to not adversely impact the trail system, the Martinez Arena or the experience of the thousands of hikers and equestrians who daily use the trails and arena. We are opposed to the placement of these facilities at Martinez Arena as that impacts the safe, peaceful, quiet trail experience in the Park.

Sincerely yours,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Gibson", is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Dale Gibson, President. Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee