



Griffith Park Advisory Board

Community Stewards of LA's Largest Park & Great Urban Wilderness

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles

www.laparks.org/griffithpark/advisory

August 2, 2002

LA Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

Every day, Griffith Park draws countless visitors from near and far. For many, it is a vast urban wilderness and an essential regional park. For others, however, it is simply a freeway bypass. Given the resulting traffic congestion and urgent safety concerns, we have been heartened to see the speed and seriousness with which Recreation & Parks staff have engaged experts to study and recommend improvements for road safety and active transportation access.

After conducting a thorough study, including the pilot closure of an interior park road often used as a cut-through route, the engineering firm Kimley-Horn has presented an impressive array of findings and recommendations. Their data-driven approach and thoughtful analysis align with the Griffith Park Advisory Board's mission statement, which advocates a significant reduction of private vehicles in the park.

As such, we support the RAP staff proposal to permanently close Griffith Park Drive to vehicular traffic from Travel Town to the compost facility, with the exception of limited access for vehicles authorized by the City of Los Angeles.

This closure – the first of six Kimley-Horn recommendations – would effectively extend a successful pilot program that has received a groundswell of community support from a wide array of user groups; cyclists, equestrians, hikers, runners and others have welcomed the increased access to active recreation and the reduction in cut-through traffic.

Importantly, this closure does not deny access to any park amenity (though in some cases it requires a slightly longer drive), and Kimley-Horn finds that it has not led to an increase in traffic on other roads inside the park. In fact, Kimley-Horn reports that the pilot has led to reduced vehicle counts on nearby roads such as Zoo Drive and Crystal Springs Drive.

BOARD MEMBERS: Chair – Jason Greenwald; Vice Chair – Michelle Cramés; Secretary – Chris Laib; Aida Ashouri; Aaron Chung; Alex Crow; Gene Gilbert; Alex Phillips; Karen Thornton

We hope the permanent closure of this section of Griffith Park Drive will be seen as a necessary and important first step in beginning to better address traffic congestion and safety issues within Griffith Park. We salute the excellent work by Kimley-Horn and the lightning-fast action by RAP staff, and we look forward to supporting further roadway safety improvements and traffic mitigation proposals in partnership with RAP, Council District 4 and park stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and curves, positioned above the printed name.

Jason Greenwald
Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

cc: RAP: Jimmy Kim, AP Diaz, Matt Rudnick, Cathie Santo Domingo, Darryl Ford, Stefanie Smith
CD4: Helene Rotolo, Xanthe Scheps