

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

**Chair: Susan Swan
Vice Chair: Don Seligman
Secretary: Kris Sullivan**



BOARD MEMBERS:

**Lynn Brown Ted Johnson
Chip Clements Chris Laib
Barbara Ferris Susan Lee
Laura Howe Lucinda Phillips**

Griffith Park Advisory Board

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February 5th 2016

To whom it may concern,

The Griffith Park Advisory Board was officially formed by the Department of Recreation and Parks over one year ago. Its mission*, as outlined in the Vision for Griffith Park, is to advise the Superintendent of Griffith Park, Joe Salaces, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Parks Commission on issues and concerns in Griffith Park, designated a Historic-Cultural-Monument in 2009.

The members of the GPAB have a passionate, deep, and varied relationship with Griffith Park, including but certainly not limited to golf interests; picnickers; equestrian and hiking interests; ecological and wilderness preservation interests; and also includes some members who had served on the Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group (2005-2011). The outcome of that GPMPWG, the Vision for Griffith Park, is a good roadmap and guide for objectives and goals.

In preparation for our January 28, 2016 regular meeting, the GPAB members carefully reviewed the Initial Study & Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Griffith Park Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan. At our Board meeting we reached several conclusions, and our recommendations follow.

1) We take exception to the statement on page 7 (of 99) item 1.2 "Project Goals and Objectives", "item 4": "Consistent with the Griffith Park Vision, the proposed project has the following objectives: 4. Provide a formalized viewpoint and photograph location for the Hollywood Sign, thereby reducing traffic and congestion in adjacent hillside neighborhoods that are not designed to accommodate visitor traffic to the sign, such as Hollywoodland along Beachwood Drive and in surrounding neighborhood roads."

At no time was the establishment of a formalized view point and photograph location for the Hollywood Sign ever discussed at the GPMPWG meetings nor was it ever included in the revised Griffith Park Master Plan nor the end product, the current Griffith Park Vision Plan. We would like that corrected in the MND.

2) Our Board, at its Jan 28, 2016 meeting, voted unanimously to oppose the establishment of such a formalized view point for the Sign inside Griffith Park.

3) We also unanimously voted to oppose the use of shuttles on Mt Hollywood Drive, and we recommend that it remain closed to ALL vehicular traffic. We reference page 67 of the VFGP Item E., "The decision made in the mid-1990s to permanently close Mount Hollywood Drive and Vista Del Valle Drive to motorized traffic opened up a new automobile-free-zone for bicyclists in the Park's interior. These paved roads are now used harmoniously by all of the Park's non-motorized users: walkers, runners, horseback riders and cyclists." We feel that this usage of the interior roads best serves the public need.

- 4) We also unanimously support the concept of multiple Hollywood Sign Viewpoints being established outside of the Park to the better enjoyment of tourists and visitors.
- 5) We voted unanimously to request that all shuttle staging lots should be outside of the Park.
- 6) We voted unanimously to support the Traffic Flow Plan itself, although the majority of the Board voted to oppose the use of Section 9 for the parking of shuttles.
- 7) A majority of the Board voted to recommend the consideration of a reservation system for access to the Observatory.
- 8) We also respectfully request that the Public Review Period for the MND be extended to 45 days.

Sincerely Yours,
On Behalf of the Griffith Park Advisory Board,

Susan Swan Chair**
Don Seligman Vice Chair**
Kris Sullivan Secretary**

* A Vision for Griffith Park, Page 11: "A Park Advisory Board be established to work with and advise Griffith Park's management on maintaining the Park with an Urban Wilderness Identity and oversee implementation of the goals and recommendations in this Visioning document

** Signed electronically