

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

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Draft

Los Angeles Equine Advisory
Committee

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Traci Park
Los Angeles City Councilmember District 11
Ad Hoc Committee chair for the 2028 Olympics and Paralympic Games

Comment in support of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Selection of Galway Downs as the Venue for all Equestrian Related Events (CF 15-0989)

Dear Councilmember Park:

The Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee (LAEAC) recommends the City Council approve the change of venue for equestrian events from Sepulveda Basin to Galway Downs in Temecula. The venue is a 90-minute to 2-hour bus ride away from downtown.

Galway regularly hosts FEI (International Equestrian Federation) rated events and is the only venue on the West Coast capable of hosting LA's Olympic-class equestrian events with existing infrastructure. Equestrian sport is one of the very few sports where men and women compete on equal terms all the way up to Olympic level. It is also the only sport that involves two athletes: horse and rider. The relationship and mutual respect built up between the two is the key to a successful partnership.

The LAEAC further recommends that a portion of the projected \$26 Million that was formerly estimated to be the cost of a one-and-done venue be used to fund existing equestrian programs for developmentally disabled youth, disadvantaged youth and the expansion of the Department of Recreation and Parks "PlayLA" equestrian program.

Los Angeles can then focus on developing both human and equine athletes for the future and offer the opportunity for competition in equestrian sports to those who could otherwise not afford to do so.

Please feel free to contact me for additional information or any questions at 818-720-7062.

Sincerely,

Mary Benson

Mary Benson, President
Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee
LAParks.org/equine

cc: Karen Bass, Mayor
City Council
Robert Kellerhaus, Galway Downs
Jimmy Kim, RAP