



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

Los Angeles Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

Re: Alcohol Beverage Policy Board Report 23-085

Dear Commissioners:

The proposed change to the alcohol beverage policy would be a major policy decision with significant ramifications. We are therefore grateful that you have delayed action in order to hear from stakeholder groups such as ours. After carefully considering the policy that is now before you, we must oppose it in its present form. We would, however, be willing to consider a revision that addresses the concerns detailed below.

As drafted, this policy would allow for an unlimited number of outdoor events at Griffith Park and other sensitive locations, with no restrictions on the type of alcohol served, and with no built-in accountability measures to allow for appropriate revisions. We do not believe RAP leadership intends such a significant departure from current practice; as such, we propose the following revisions to bring written policy in line with both policy-maker intent and the wishes of numerous park stakeholders.

1. Griffith Park and the city's other regional parks deserve special consideration. After all, the prospect of unlimited alcoholic events does not suit a large urban wilderness area and recreational destination for families across Los Angeles. We urge you to work with stakeholder groups and RAP's urban ecologist to set parameters appropriate for the regional parks, either individually or collectively, before approving any new policy.
2. Currently, outdoor events with alcohol are limited to one event per park per year. The new policy would abolish these limits. That means any park or recreation center, large or small, could host outdoor parties without restriction as to number or frequency. We believe there ought to be a reasonable limit somewhere between one and unlimited.
3. Changing the frequency, location and type of alcohol allowed (cocktails vs. beer & wine) is a significant policy decision that may have unforeseen impacts. We would therefore recommend that any such policy change be enacted on a pilot basis, so that you can gather data and input from staff and stakeholders. We suggest a pilot of 1 – 2 years, with commission approval required before making any such policy permanent.
4. In line with our pilot recommendation, we also believe regular reporting is essential to ensure both transparency and trust in the new policy. Therefore, we request regular (not

*BOARD MEMBERS: Chair – Michelle Crames; Vice Chair – Karen Thornton; Secretary – Chris Laib;
Jane Carlson; Aaron Chung; Alex Crow; Jason Greenwald; Alex Phillips*

less than once per year) reporting on revenue figures, safety incidents and number of events per park. This request applies both to the venues that would be subject to the new policy as well as those that are treated separately from the policy, such as the Griffith Park Visitor Center and Friendship Auditorium.

Once again, we believe any new policy requires the changes described above in order to balance the revenue-generating intent with important safety concerns and the needs of existing user-groups, not to mention the potential for additional car-trips in and around our parks. Griffith Park and other regional parks – not to mention smaller parks and recreation centers across the city – deserve a policy that is worthy of RAP’s mission statement:

“Our mission is to enrich the lives of the residents of Los Angeles by providing safe, welcoming parks and recreation facilities and affordable, diverse recreation and human services activities for people of all ages to play, learn, contemplate, build community and be good stewards of our environment.”

Thank you for considering our comments on the proposed alcohol beverage policy.

Sincerely,



Michelle Crames
Chair, Griffith Park Advisory Board

cc: RAP: Jimmy Kim; Matthew Rudnick; Brenda Aguirre; Stefanie Smith; Tracy James; CD4:
Mehmet Berker, Jennifer Hull