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## Griffith Park Advisory Board

Judith Kieffer, Executive Director  
Los Angeles Parks Foundation  
11973 San Vicente Blvd., Suite 219  
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Dear Ms. Kieffer,

The Griffith Park Advisory Board (GPAB) appreciates your presentation to us at our July meeting, but as you heard during the discussion following, we have several misgivings about the paucity of hard information about the work that the LA Parks Foundation is planning for the Commonwealth Nursery site.

The Vision for Griffith Park, which was approved as the guiding template for the future of all areas of Griffith Park by the Recreation and Parks Commission in 2014, has several goals with respect to the Commonwealth Nursery area. Generically for all Griffith Park, it has a short term goal of beginning the restoration of historic features, as well as improvements and repairs to existing facilities, amenities and infrastructure. Specifically with respect to the Commonwealth Nursery Site, it supports its rehabilitation (using Prop K funding of \$1.6 million) for the creation of a Griffith Park Nature Conservancy for conservation best practices, education and environmental sustainability. The Vision also expects that any decision-making regarding expansions, destructions, or additions to Park facilities involve the Park Advisory Board.

In this light, it is remarkable that the Los Angeles Parks Foundation has proceeded for the last two years--the period when the Griffith Park Advisory Board as well as the Vision Plan has been functioning--with planning that is advanced enough to contract for the preparation of an EIR and CEQA with only the most recent and most superficial participation of the GPAB.

The Board is very concerned that what we have been able to learn to date from you is extremely sketchy, equivocal, and confusing. There have been conflicting and inconsistent details coming from the Parks Foundation over the last years, and none of this was cleared up by your most recent letter to us. Furthermore, there are rumors that the Park Foundation's full plans for the future of the Commonwealth Nursery site extend far beyond what you presented, a suspicion that is supported by the preparation of an EIR, now underway.

In an effort to learn precisely what is planned, please arrange for delivery to the GPAB any material related to the EIR or the CEQA. Before any further work is done on this project, whether projected or substantive, the GPAB has a right and an obligation to review and deliberate these plans so that it is in a position to advise the Department of Recreation and Parks.

In addition, please clarify the following:

1. Is the Parks Foundation proposing the razing/restoration/reconstruction of any other structures at the Commonwealth Nursery site in addition to the terrace and caretaker cottage restorations?
2. Is the LA Parks Foundation currently soliciting funds for additional structures that are proposed for the Commonwealth Nursery site?
3. Is the Parks Foundation currently planning for run-off water catch basins and other water recapture infrastructure at the Commonwealth Nursery site?
4. Is the Parks Foundation currently planning the return of any of the Commonwealth Nursery site to a natural wilderness environment status?
5. Is the Parks Foundation establishing its headquarters at the Commonwealth Nursery site on a more than temporary basis, and what are the financial terms of this occupancy?

Thank you for your kind consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Don Seligman\*  
Vice President

Susan Swan\*  
President

\*signed electronically

cc. Mike Shull, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks  
Councilmember David Ryu  
Joe Salaices, Superintendent of Recreation and Parks Operations for the Griffith Park Region

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**Griffith Park Advisory Board**  
Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles  
(323) 661-9465 Email us at: rap.griffithpark@lacity.org

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To Whom It May Concern

We commend the actions of Joe Salaices, Superintendent of Recreation and Parks Operations for the Griffith Park region (and everyone with the Department of Recreation and Parks) for their dedication and hard work in developing the Griffith Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan. This is a first step in addressing the public safety issues inherent in the attractiveness of the Griffith Observatory and environs to not only the general public but tourists as well, while recognizing the limitations placed on the Department of Recreation and Parks in addressing the cumulative traffic congestion related to that attraction on the surrounding neighborhoods as the Observatory is solely accessed via Los Feliz Boulevard.

The Griffith Park Advisory Board supports the implementation of Phase 1 in the Griffith Observatory Circulation and Parking Enhancement Plan, to wit: 1) Developing East and West Observatory Roads as a one-way loop; 2) Installation of pay stations for parking at the Observatory areas of the park; and 3) Use of the parking income to increase the number and frequency of the DASH buses connecting to the upper Observatory parking lot.

In conjunction with these three limited actions, the board has two short-term requests: 1) A pedestrian walking path ought to be installed prior to the phase-in of the 1-way loop between the Bird Sanctuary along upper Vermont Canyon Road and along East Observatory Road to the upper Observatory parking area to allow pedestrians to reach the Observatory without using street surfaces; and 2) To correct extremely unsafe current conditions, a reconfiguration of Western Canyon Road between West Observatory Drive and One-Mile Tree should be undertaken to allow parking only on the north/west side of the road, along with the installation of a pedestrian path on the east/south side of the road and crosswalks to allow for safe pedestrian movement to and from the Observatory.

Finally, the Board urges RAP and CD4 to collaborate closely with DOT to implement several proven traffic mitigation measures in the Los Feliz neighborhood streets (especially Los Feliz Boulevard, Franklin Avenue, Vermont Avenue, Western Avenue, Fern Dell Drive and Hillhurst Avenue) which are heavily impacted by the significant increase in traffic to and from Griffith Park, especially the Observatory areas. These should include but are not limited to coordinated traffic signals, left turn arrows, enhanced street lane markings at signals for dedicated left and right turn lanes, bus and lane turning pockets at key intersections. These measures have been proposed for many years but resisted by DOT, so enhanced political pressure by CD4 and RAP will be necessary to bring these about. We strongly believe that without a more global approach to the traffic issues in the adjacent neighborhoods on the south side of Griffith Park, no real solution to the traffic problems will be realized.

Sincerely yours,

Don Seligman\*  
Vice President

Susan Swan\*  
President

\*signed electronically

cc. Mike Shull, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks  
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