



Long Road to Smooth Streets

BY JAMES BALES, TRANSPORTATION CHAIR



Rowena Avenue now sports a silky smooth surface and shiny semi-straight lines after repaving.

In early June, 2004, Councilmember LaBonge requested the Board step into action to immediately identify and prioritize 2 miles of roadway that was in dire need of re-paving. The Board convened what has become our Transportation Committee to study our neighborhood's streets. Within two weeks the Committee walked and drove the streets in our district, reported and discussed their findings and came to a resolution, which the Board supported,

recommending the re-surfacing of portions of 13 of our streets filled with potholes and cracks along with suggestions for re-paving 12 additional areas. Because of the severe budget crisis much street re-paving work has been suspended. However, we are happy to report that the Board's recommendations for re-paving Tracy Street (between St. George Street and Talmadge Street), Rowena Avenue (between Hyperion Avenue and St. George Street) and Edgemont Street (north of Los Feliz Boulevard) have been accomplished with much more to be done in the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

To see all the streets listed, please go to our web site, www.ggpnc.org. You can see all the work the Transportation committee has done and may want to join in our efforts.

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No Restaurant at the Observatory

BY BERNADETTE SOTER, CHAIR, PROS COMMITTEE

In March 2004, our community learned that the City was considering a plan to establish a privately owned luxury restaurant near the Griffith Observatory in Griffith Park, on the site of the defunct snack bar made famous in the film, "The Terminator." A preliminary feasibility study had been made that proposed two ambitious, highly visible configurations: 1) A 6000 sq. ft., 220 seat facility with cantilevered deck. 2) A 10,000 sq. ft., 220 seat facility with a cantilevered deck and a lower level banquet hall. The study also proposed that the City pay \$2.5 million to \$4.5 million to finance the restaurant's construction, with the operator eventually returning the funds from its profits.

The Parks, River and Open Space Committee (PROS) of the GGPNC joined forces with the Hollywood United Neighborhood Council, the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council, the Los

Feliz Improvement Association, the Oaks Homeowners Association, the Sierra Club and numerous friends' groups, neighbors and park-users to voice our objections to the plan. This involved meetings, personal communications and correspondence with the Recreation and Parks Commission and CD4 Councilmember Tom LaBonge.

Our reasons for opposing the plan were numerous: the irrevocable loss of open space, noise and light pollution issues, particulate damage to Observatory telescopes from grilling, liquor service at the top of mountain roads, woefully inadequate parking, taxpayer-subsidized competition with existing restaurants, objection to the idea being put forth independent of the Griffith Park Master Plan process, and our fundamental disagreement with prioritizing money and resources for such a purpose in the middle of a Citywide budget crisis.

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