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**GREATER GRIFFITH PARK  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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March 20, 2008

Barry A. Sanders, Esq.  
President  
Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners  
Department of Recreation and Parks  
City of Los Angeles  
1200 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Room 762  
Los Angeles, California 90017

Autry National Center  
Proposed Expansion in Griffith Park

Dear Sir:

We have been advised by the Autry National Center that it is seeking to expand its facility in Griffith Park, a part of our neighborhood council area.

To facilitate the Autry's request it has prepared a draft Environmental Impact Report. This was made available to us and to the public. We commented on that draft by our letter to your staff of October 18, 2007. We understand that a substantial number of our stakeholders and other citizens of the City of Los Angeles provided your staff with extensive comments. We also understand that your staff is now considering the responses of the Autry to the public comments and hopefully the modifications to the EIR required by such comments. Your staff has informally suggested that it will shortly complete its review and will promptly proceed to a presentation of a final EIR and other matters related to the proposed expansion, including an amendment to the current lease, which provides for a nominal rental.

As you undoubtedly know, our function as a neighborhood council is prescribed by the City Charter.

The Charter requires that procedures be adopted to provide "notice to neighborhood councils as soon as practical and a reasonable opportunity to provide input before decisions are made."

Neighborhood councils have boards which meet once a month. Our neighborhood council follows that procedure. Moreover, we have an established committee system which does much of the work in analyzing matters to be considered by the board. Those committees also meet monthly. In this particular case we have three committees involved in considering either the entire project or a particular part of it.

We are very sincere in our desire to perform our function as a neighborhood council and to provide you with the most well considered advice we can. This requires adequate time for both our three committees and the full board to review very substantial and complicated documents. (The draft EIR was in two volumes; the text volume numbered over 300 pages, the appendix volume was at least 150% as large.)

The proposed expansion, both because of the permanent nature of the proposed improvements and the possible effect on the park, requires careful consideration by us and by the public at large.

The issues involved can be very technical. We and two other neighborhood councils are so concerned about the traffic effect of the project and the technical nature of the analysis of that aspect of the proposed project that we have funded an independent review of the transportation section of the draft EIR. This was submitted to your staff (and released to the Autry and the public) on February 20, 2008 ("Minagar Report").

We have raised with your general manager our concern about the proposed schedule which manifestly does not permit our neighborhood council or other neighborhood councils (or a large part of the public) adequate opportunity to consider either a redrafted EIR (which we believe is appropriate) or a final EIR (which we understand the Autry is pressing on your staff). We have asked him to guarantee a schedule allowing us and the public at least 60 days to review and to comment on any proposal to come before you. We have had no response.

#### A. Request for Reasonable Schedule of Review.

By action of the board of our neighborhood council, we ask:

1. The department to take no action on an EIR or any other matter relating to the proposed expansion of the Autry National Center in Griffith Park until a date no earlier than 60 days following the delivery to us of the document to be acted upon so that we may have adequate time to consider our advice to the department as contemplated by the City Charter; and

2. The department to consider and to address all matters raised by the Minagar Report commenting on the transportation section of the Autry's draft EIR.

We understand that this 60-day period is longer than the usual 72 hour posting adopted by most commissions under the Brown Act. However, we believe that neighborhood councils, under the Charter, have an unusual responsibility and an unusual right to have adequate time to perform their function, and this particular proposal has such importance to the City and to our community that it is necessary for us to have this time. Moreover, we note that the Autry took about 90 days to respond to the comments received to the draft EIR and that your staff has yet to complete its review, more than 60 days following the Autry's current submission.

We should say in passing that we are not unmindful of the Autry's natural desire to move as promptly as possible now that it has formulated its plans and desires. However, our attempts to facilitate the achievement of its desire for speed by asking for drafts of its submission for a final EIR and for its draft of lease amendment have been refused. That is the Autry's right. But it is our right to be fully informed.

At the end of the day both your department and we must be concerned about the interest of the City of Los Angeles more than accommodating the desires of one of the department's tenants.

B. Request for Information Regarding Fairness of Rent.

One of the principal issues in any amendment of the current lease is the fairness to the City of the rent. We have asked your staff for its analyses of the propriety of the one dollar a year rent, especially in these days of difficult revenue for the City. Your staff has said it is necessary to consider the request.

We request of you that the department provide us promptly with any and all analyses of the propriety of extending the term of the lease with the Autry and the value of the benefits to the City from the original lease and any extension of its term.

Because your staff has suggested that the commissioners may refer this matter to the Board of Referred Powers, we are sending a copy of this letter to that Board's chair.

Thank you for your prompt and favorable attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Charley Mims, President

By Kenneth E. Owen  
Chair, Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation Committee

cc: The Hon. Janice Hahn  
Jon Kirk Mukri