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JON KIRK MUKRI
GENERAL MANAGER

May 17, 2007

Mr. Albert Landini
Associate Zoning Administrator
Office of Zoning Administration
City Hall, 7th Floor
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Landini:

On behalf of the Department of Recreation and Parks, I would like to offer a few thoughts regarding Case No. ZA 2006-10405(ZV), the variance requested by Wolfgang Puck Catering and Events LLC to serve alcoholic beverages at catered events at Griffith Observatory. The Department supports the request made by Wolfgang Puck.

Department officials have met several times with representatives of neighborhood groups since the March 13, 2007, hearing. We have come to a greater understanding of the concerns expressed by our neighbors with regard to events at the Observatory, particularly those at which alcohol may be served. In response, we have worked with them to formulate guidelines that address many of the most pressing issues. The following is a summary of some of the most significant issues addressed by our proposed guidelines:

- How and When Events are Permitted. All rental requests must be filed directly with the Observatory as specified in defined procedures. Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria: a) linkage with Observatory educational mission and purpose; b) level of disruption to public operation; c) impact on other Griffith Park venues and nearby neighborhoods; d) degree of required event support by Observatory staff; and, e) the Observatory calendar and schedule availability for the proposed event. The Observatory Director will make a determination regarding the request and will forward to the General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks, for final approval. Decisions of the General Manager are final. To avoid impact to public operation, it is the Observatory's expectation that most rental or filming usage – except for that of the classroom and public conference room – will fall into the Standard Rental Use category (i.e., when the building is not being used for public operation, which is essentially Mondays and selected weekday mornings).

- Attendance at Events. No event will have more than a maximum 1,800 total participants (participants include both attendees and all required event staff).
- When Alcohol May Be Served. Hours of alcohol service will be specified in the rental agreement, as will the manner and nature of service. Alcohol service, if applicable, will conclude by 10:00 p.m. and events at which alcohol is served will conclude by 10:30 p.m. Exceptions to the 10:00 p.m. cut off of alcoholic service and the 10:30 p.m. event ending time may be granted only by the expressed advance written approval of the Department of Recreation and Parks General Manager. If an event at which alcohol is served occurs during public operations, service and consumption of alcohol must take place out of public view. Alcohol may never be served as part of regular operations of the Café at the End of the Universe.
- How Many Alcohol-Serving Events Are Permitted. There shall be no more than 26 significant events per year (and no more than three in a particular month) at which alcohol is served, where a "significant" event is defined as occurring anywhere in the building other than the classroom or conference room.
- Parking and Noise Restrictions. All applicants for rental use must define a detailed traffic and parking plan. As Observatory parking is extremely limited, the Observatory is located in a park adjacent to residential areas, and the park roads are not designed for commercial traffic, any proposal for more than 200 attendees should include multi-passenger vehicles. Such vehicles should be as quiet and non-polluting as technologically possible. Amplified sound shall be permitted only if the sound cannot be detected from the neighborhood below.
- Plan Approval. The applicant shall apply for Plan Approval one year after the first qualifying event takes place at the Griffith Observatory.

I hope this information is helpful to you in your deliberations. I would be happy to discuss this matter with you further.

Sincerely,


 KEVIN W. REGAN
 Assistant General Manager

KR:MP

cc: Councilmember Tom LaBonge
 Renee Weitzer, Council District 4
 Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks
 Vicki Israel, Superintendent, Griffith Region
 Dr. Krupp, Director, Griffith Observatory