

PROS Committee Report: PROS Meeting 9/29/08, Cultural Heritage Commission Meeting of 10/30/08 and interim developments Presented at GGPNC Board Meeting, November 18, 2008

A. Toyon Canyon Stream Restoration Project at Griffith Park: Support letter for B of S Riverways/Streams Grant application.

November 18, 2008
Mr. Enrique C. Zaldivar, Director
City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
1149 S. Broadway Street
Los Angeles, CA 90015

RE: CALIFORNIA RIVER PARKWAYS AND URBAN STREAMS RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM REQUEST: TOYON GROUNDWATER DIVERSION PROJECT

Dear Mr. Zaldivar:

The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council wishes to add its wholehearted support for the Bureau of Sanitation's application for funding to implement the proposed Toyon Groundwater Diversion Project.

The envisioned project will not only enhance the enjoyment of recreationists who visit Griffith Park to experience its natural assets, it will improve water quality, aid in water conservation and help nurture and restore the Park's indigenous flora and fauna. *The Griffith Park Wildlife Management Plan* which this council supports, identifies Toyon Canyon post-closure as an excellent habitat for native ground-nesting birds and notes that the area and its environs are already frequented by large mammals.

We are pleased that the BOS is taking steps to fulfill the closure plan it developed in concert with the public calling for this area in the interior of Griffith Park to be restored as a "low intensity open meadow area intended for passive use recreational activities." We appreciate your efforts in trying to make this happen and if you require further to advance this worthwhile project please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Phillip Gasteier
cc: Councilmember Tom LaBonge

B. Griffith Park Historic Landmark Status

On October 31, 2008, the City's Cultural Heritage Commission voted to recommend to City Council that it designate ALL of Griffith Park an L.A. Historic Cultural Monument. The next step in the process, the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) composed of Councilmembers Reyes, Huizar and Weiss, is projected to take place in the next three weeks. If passed by PLUM the nomination then goes to the full L.A. City Council for a vote.

More than 100 people from all over the City were in the hearing room including more than half of the Board of the GGPNC. Credit goes to everyone who attended meetings and events on behalf the nomination, sent letters and helped raised public consciousness in countless ways. Support is still coming and remains welcome. Last week, Valley Vote (a coalition of 40 SFV groups, voted to support the nomination).

C. Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills Master Plan EIR Scoping Meeting.

Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills next to Griffith Park is embarking on a 40-year Master Plan to develop the balance of its undeveloped site as cemetary property. Approximately 50% of this land is currently naturally forested and abuts parkland. New structures (church, mausoleum, etc.) and 200,000 new interment sites are proposed by the owner.

The City Planning Department's EIR Scoping Meeting takes place tomorrow evening. The GGPNC should be looking at their Master Plan's potential environmental impacts on the Park's recreational viewsheds, natural watersheds, species, wildlife corridors, etc. and the potential to mitigate them through enlightened planning.

Wednesday, November 19th, 6 to 8 p.m.
Junior Achievement of Southern California Building
6250 Forest Lawn Drive, L.A. CA 90068

(Just past Travel Town overlooking the Headworks area of Griffith Park)

D. LADWP Festival of Lights in Griffith Park

Thanks to our Council's efforts, the Holiday Light Festival will be a pedestrian only, "vehicle free" event from November 25 through December 7. Visitors may park at the L.A. Zoo parking lot or the parking lots on the south side of the festival near the Merry-Go-Round, or the lots near the pony rides. Parking will be on a first-come basis. Walkers are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and to dress warmly to walk the route each way. It is also recommended that walkers have outerwear, as it can get chilly. Shuttles will assist in bringing guests from the remote parking lots to the route entrance. The Festival will be an automobile event from December 8 to December 30.

Submitted by Bernadette Soter
Chair, PROS Committee