

PROS COMMITTEE 4/6/09 MEETING REPORT

Presented GGPNC Board Meeting April 21, 2009

1. Griffith Park River Supply Conduit Improvement Lower Reach, Unit #3

On April 6, Anselmo Collins, Dave Christensen and Sabrina Tsui, from the L.A. Dept of Water & Power RSC unit presented meeting attendees an abbreviated PowerPoint on this 3-year project to replace DWP water pipes 50 ft beneath Griffith Park. These pipes transport water to areas of the City south of the Park. Of issue to stakeholders will be the project's impact on the Park itself, Park events and local traffic. Committee members asked and discussed questions regarding:

- a. Periodic road closures/detours & their projected impact on recreational access & special events in Griffith Park (in 2009 and for the duration, no March of Dimes Walk, L.A. Half-Marathon, Say No To Drugs Walk, Jane Goodall Earth Day, etc.) in Griffith Park...however Light Festival remains.
- b. Demolition and reconstruction of curbs, culverts/retaining walls, fencing, tree removals and other potential impacts on the historic fabric of Griffith Park as a Landmark. The Committee indicated the importance of preserving the WPA/CCC design overlay, "Park Style," as an important aspect of Park and civic history (firefighters, FDR, etc.) particularly in light of the growing interest in these programs and questioned the need to install a proposed installation of a permanent 12-foot chain link fence along Crystal Springs Drive.
- c. Impact of lane reductions on traffic entering and exiting the Park at Los Feliz Blvd and from the 5 Freeway including 5 Freeway commuters who shortcut through the Park.
- d. The PROS Committee suggested and is requesting to the Council that the GGPNC website have a page updating rolling closures and detours throughout and into the Park for the duration of project. The DWP project manager has seen the wisdom of this idea and has agreed to supply us with continually updated info in plain prose. We suggested that this information also be sent for posting to web sites frequently visited by area residents such as LFIA, FHRA, Oaks, and Hollywood United NC and Atwater Village NC.

2. Greater Los Angeles Zoo Prop O Parking Lot Renovation

MWH Americas Project Managers and Zoo and Bureau of Engineering staff presented a progress report on the environmental renovation of the Zoo's asphalt lot that is being financed with Prop O Clean Water Act funds. The renovation will result in:

- GP's first permeable surface parking lot which, because water can percolate through instead of run-off and be lost, is a greener solution than asphalt and will help keep automotive and other contaminants out of the nearby Los Angeles River. The GP Master Plan Working Group has voted to recommend that as they are renovated, all GP parking lots follow this environmentally responsible model.

- An increase in the tree canopy shading the parking lot and, already evident, a border of bio-swales landscaped with drought

The GP Master Plan Working Group has voted to recommend that as they are renovated, all GP parking lots follow the Zoo lot's environmentally responsible model.

- PROS Committee was asked to comment on the preliminary design and viewed it through the prism of Griffith Park as a landmark. The general reaction was that:

1. Some design details seemed more appropriate to a commercial theme park and were incompatible with the natural California plants already installed which it are

more suitable to the Park, especially now that is an historic landmark. The Committee requested that the designers reference the Park's historic framework.

2. When replacing current light fixtures, dark-sky lighting solutions which have been developed to counteract the adverse effects of light pollution and are less wasteful and harmful to human health and natural ecosystems, should be considered and, if possible, incorporated into the final design.

3. NBC Universal, Universal MTA and Oakwood Apartments expansions:

Communities United for Smart Growth (CUSG) is a coalition of homeowners and neighborhood groups examining the cumulative impacts of simultaneous expansion developments near and adjoining our council area at the eastern on end of the Santa Monica Mountains. In March, CUSG spoke to PROS about the expansions—only one of which will add approximately 1.5 million square feet of high rise building on an MTA commuter lot next to an historic adobe--and which, together, will dramatically increase density, subtract open space and heighten traffic congestion in this region. From a recreation standpoint, they will negate the envisioned connectivity between Basin and Valley walking and equestrian trails and bikeways along the L.A. River.

On a related note, In December 2008, the PROS Committee filed with the City's Department of Planning a written EIR Scoping response to Forest Lawn's plan to develop the balance of their Hollywood Hills cemetery property. Much of this land is wild and most of it is contiguous to Griffith Park. In addition to Forest Lawn-Griffith Park specific concerns, we cited our reservations about the cumulative impact of these now FOUR simultaneous proposals, which the City is viewing in a vacuum. No one is examining their cumulative impact except the CUSG coalition which has received support from several neighboring councils and are seeking that of others.

PROS is suggesting that the GGPNC send a brief letter of concern to Councilmember LaBonge regarding the cumulative impacts of the NBC Universal, Universal MTA, Oakwood Apartment expansions on regional open space and recreation, including the negation of the envisioned connectivity between L.A. City basin and valley pedestrian and equestrian trails and bikeways along the L.A. River.

PROS also suggests that the GGPNC's Transportation and Planning & Zoning Committees review these projects and is willing to participate in a joint meeting at which their regional impacts on traffic, density and recreation can be discussed.

4. FoLAR L.A. River Clean-Up, Saturday May 9th from 9 a.m. to noon

This is the fifth year that the GGPNC has adopted the Los Feliz Bridge site on the L.A. River in Griffith Park. Request for \$1500 in funding to underwrite outreach and enhance hospitality at the Los Feliz Bridge site in Griffith Park for FoLAR's Annual Grand Limpieza and for volunteers from the Board to staff the site.

5. LADWP 2009 Light Festival in Griffith Park

Request to send a letter to LADWP Board, Management and Councilmember LaBonge restating the GGPNC position adopted in 2006 that the DWP Light Festival eliminate combustion engines and become a pedestrian and bicycle event appropriate for a Park.

6. New Greek Theatre Sound Monitoring System.

March 26, 2009 attended a Community Outreach Meeting at the Greek Theatre where it was announced that, in response to residents complaints regarding excessive concert noise, the Greek Theatre has procured and will sound install a Grozier Sound Monitoring System that will measure sound levels during performances. The Hollywood Bowl has such a system. With the ability to precisely monitor sound levels it is hoped by residents that the Greek Theatre will be able to enforce the decibel code at concerts.