

PROS COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented at GGPNC General Meeting 7/21/2009

DYING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN CITY PARKS

In Griffith Park and in city parks systemwide, trees and greenswards are beginning to die of thirst and are in need of immediate advocacy to survive. Recreation and Parks is aware of the problem and is seeking relief from the new DWP watering restrictions that are its cause. Wednesday, July 8, the issue was discussed at a meeting of the Arts, Parks, Health & Aging Council Committee at City Hall. On the table was the Garcetti/LaBonge Motion *09-0369-S1 Phase III/Water Conservation Restrictions/Impacts on City Park Land*.

The department expressed its urgent concern about trees verging on the death process, picnic areas that are browning, sports fields that are balding, and golf courses that are drying up. These features are the infrastructure of the parks system and the core reason for its being; they represent a significant investment of public dollars, and should not be allowed to wither away because of the unintended consequences of well-meaning, but inflexible, regulations; once gone, the "heat island" effect of their loss is incalculable.

PROPOSED: a resolution supporting Motion 09-0369-S1 and Rec & Parks' request that the department's maintenance professionals be authorized to work with the LADWP to design water-saving programs that will preserve the parks

The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council recognizes that Los Angeles is in a drought. We support water conservation, but are deeply concerned that the irrigation restrictions mandated in our parks are causing trees, picnic areas, and sports fields to die of thirst. We support Council Motion 09-0369-S1 which calls for a review of the impacts of current water restrictions and the potential impacts of the Recreation and Parks Department's advancement to LADWP Phase III water restrictions.

REC AND PARKS BUDGET REDUCTIONS & NEW LADWP FEES

For the first time, the City's new budget requires the Recreation and Parks Department use a portion of its operating budget to pay the LADWP for the water and utilities used in the parks. The PROS Committee believes that this is an unfair burden to add to the department: many of our city parks serve as rent-free locations for LADWP power lines and the infrastructure required for the delivery of water to the city -- tanks, below ground conduits, etc.

In Griffith Park there are multiple DWP electrical towers, tanks, electrical and pump stations and other facilities. The Park is about to be excavated to a fifty-

foot depth to replace the 96" tall River Supply Conduit pipes that run beneath its entire length. Soon the emergency water supply currently stored at Silver Lake reservoir will be transferred to the Headworks area of Griffith Park, a 44-acre parcel near Travel Town which will permanently remove this acreage from recreational use.

The DWP's pays nothing to Griffith Park or any other park for the use of its lands. We believe that the LADWP should continue to provide water and utilities free to the parks in exchange for their for-profit and non-recreational use of these recreation lands. If not, the DWP should be required to pay market lease rates for the acreage they are currently using without payment to Rec and Parks.

PROPOSED: that the GGPNC write a letter to the Mayor, City Council Budget and Finance Committee, LADWP and Councilmember Tom LaBonge presenting this position and asking that the LADWP continue to provide water and power to our parks without payment from Rec & Parks.

OBSERVATORY FUNDRAISING CONCERT SPONSORSHIP

Griffith Observatory is seeking sponsors for its October 4, 2009 fundraising concert featuring a symphony orchestra, special guest Leonard Nimoy. and dinner under the stars. The proceeds will help fund programs enhancing schoolchildren's understanding of science.

PROPOSED: that the GGPNC sponsor a table at one of the levels indicated and donate the table to Friends of the Observatory (FOTO) with the stipulation that FOTO make the seats available to 8 FOTO volunteers who are not in a position to purchase a ticket to the event. This sponsorship donation will be the first time the GGPNC has contributed to Griffith Observatory.

Planet Level Sponsor: \$2000

Preferred location table for 8, picnic basket delivered to the table.

Star Level Sponsor: \$1200

Table for 8; opportunity to purchase picnic basket dinner

Prepared by:

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