

PARKS, RIVER AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) COMMITTEE REPORT
GGPNC Board Meeting September 15, 2009
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Chair, PROS Committee

12A. LADWP Griffith Park Festival of Lights 2009

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is holding a public meeting to reveal its plans for the 2009 Holiday Light Festival. According to the announcement, the LADWP will be *“discussing the festival, as well the ‘walking only’ nights and other enhancements to the festival.”*

Thursday, September 17, 2009

6:30 p.m.

Griffith Park Ranger Station Auditorium, 4730 Crystal Springs Dr

Griffith Park

RSVP (213) 367-4417

In recognition of the contribution manmade emissions are making to global warming, since 2006, the GGPNC has advocated that combustion engines be removed from the event and that it become instead a pedestrian friendly and environmentally responsible. The article recapping the council’s efforts in this regard received a great deal of response from the public. The PROS Committee is putting the final touches on an online opinion poll that will appear on the GGPNC web site, asking the public to weigh in on this reform.

12B. 2009 Greek Theatre 2009 Season Extension

The Greek Theatre Season ends on October 31, but as contractually permitted, the General Manager of the Recreation & Parks Department may extend the season without public review. This occurred in 2007. As a result of park closures in the aftermath of Griffith Park’s catastrophic fire of May 2007, the General Manger extended the venuw’s season to November 15th so it could reschedule concerts cancelled by post-fire closures.

This year, one again, the Greek’s season has been extended to November 15th. The Greek maintains that its ticket sales are down 38%, which is in line with diminished attendance at concert venues in Los Angeles and across the U.S. To date, the extension has resulted in two new confirmed event bookings during the two week window. At the behest of Greek Theatre area residents, the Los Feliz Improvement Association has submitted a request to the Recreation and Parks Department to review the Greek’s financials germane to the extension.

12C. Drought-mandated watering restrictions in City parks.

At the GGPNC’s July 20 Board Meeting, the Board approved a Community Impact Statement asking that the restrictions be adjusted to prevent wholesale die-off of our municipal Park’s green assets. On July 24th, this Community Impact Statement was filed:

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 out 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 Phase III water restrictions.

To date, the restrictions have been only partially adjusted. Sports fields and golf courses are exempted from the two-day-a-week-only watering restrictions, although their irrigation still must be completed by 9 a.m. daily. Picnic areas and trees have not been exempted from the original restrictions and are still experiencing visible stress and are at-risk of dying.

12D. Griffith Park Fire Season response.

In light of drought and heat, LADWP watering restrictions, and events such as the Station Fire and other fires in the greater Los Angeles area, the Recreation and Parks Department is placing additional emphasis on fire safety in Griffith Park

- Daily brush patrols by Park Rangers
- Rapid response to complaints about smoking and campfires in the Park, including increased ticketing of smokers
- Programs to remove transients from fire-prone areas

Tips are welcome. To make a fire or fire-safety report, call 323-644-6661.

12E. Griffith Park River Supply Conduit Project.

Currently, the lower lanes of the Riverside Drive/Crystal Springs Dr artery into Griffith Park is closed with traffic re-routed in both directions to the upper road. To accommodate the LADWP Light Festival, a construction moratorium will begin on November 23 with both roads open to traffic.