

MINUTES

**City of Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Monday January 22, 2018**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Los Angeles Equestrian Center, 480 Riverside Drive, Burbank, CA 91506**

	Present	Absent
Joe Salaices Chair,	X	
District 1 Vacant		
District 2 Jeffrey Rewald		X
District 3 Jill Haber	X	
District 4 Lynn Brown	X	
District 5 Melanie Coto		
District 6 Mary Benson	X	
District 7 Dale Gibson	X	
District 8 Kevin Atkins		X
District 9 Vacant		
District 10 Todd La Vergne	X	
District 11 Larry Watts	X	
District 12 Stacia Crane	X	
District 13 Gene Gilbert	X	
District 14 Vacant		
District 15 Vacant		
Mayor's Office: Scott Perez		X

1)Welcome and Introductions

2)Call to order. Pledge of Allegiance. Welcome Public Officials.

3)Public Comment. There was extensive discussion concerning bicyclists using Mariposa Bridge, trails between Victory Bridge and Tunnel 6, no bike signs and enforcement of ordinance prohibiting bicycles on City Park trails. Member Salaices gave a lengthy explanation of the relevant facts, including which public body has jurisdiction to enforce ordinances in the grey areas at issue involving LA County Flood Control District, Army Corps of Engineers and City of LA. He also explained that the City Attorney is evaluating a particular citation enforcement action. City wants to only bring cases where it

unquestionably has jurisdiction. Member Salaices also will arrange a meeting between Ranger Joyce, the public and himself in the near future.

- 4) Fred Agoopi, from Los Angeles County Animal Control made an extensive presentation concerning his department's role before and during emergency situations such as the recent fires and mudslides. He urged the public to consult the County's Emergency Survival Guide which is available on the County's website. He described the County's microchip clinics and free trailer inspections by the CHP. Mr. Agoopi stressed the need of contingency planning, the importance of trailer training horses, not releasing large animals during an emergency and the need to evacuate sooner rather than waiting to see what will happen. He described the volunteer horse evacuation team program and the need for volunteers and how they will be trained. He also explained procedures once animals have been evacuated to a shelter and their reunification with owners.

Member Benson raised the issue that the City of LA no longer has a large animal evacuation capability and the need for an inter-agency agreement between the City and the County.

Assistant Chief Surgey Tomlinson LAFD stated that he has been designated as the LAFD's primary liaison with the LAEAC. He next addressed emergency procedures planning for equines and other large animals. He stressed the importance of having an emergency plan, even if it is modest. He stressed the grave dangers created when the public blocks roads within a fire zone and the resulting risk to the public and firefighters. He reviewed the importance of being informed, both before and during an emergency. Like the LAFD, the public needs to be sensitive to weather forecasts and remember to keep updated as the weather can change rapidly. He also explained how to keep informed by registering with Notify LA and Alert LA. He also emphasized the need to anticipate evacuation orders and to evacuate sooner rather than later as later may mean evacuation routes are blocked, either by falling trees, power poles, vehicle, etc. He said one should never simply release a horse on its own during an emergency situation as this presents a risk to both the horse and humans. Both Mr. Agoopi and Chief Tomlinson intend to continue to work with the LAEAC and return in the future to address the committee.

- 5) The Chair recognized ETI current President Tom Kirsch and former President Linda Fullerton. They described the history of ETI, an IRS 501 (c)(3) organization, and some of the activities it currently engages in and sponsors. It has grown from about 4,000 members 50 years ago to over 10,000 at present and offers equestrian activities for both youth and adults. More information is available at [ETInational.com](http://ETInational.com)
- 6) Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Committee voted to send a comment letter to North Valley Area Planning Commission regarding their approval of a 24-hour gas station located at 11331 Osborne Street, Lakeview Terrace. Due the exigency of this matter, the Executive Committee was authorized to draft and send the letter on behalf of the LAEAC.
- 7) The Chair recognized Mary Benson to discuss National Trails Day on June 2, 2018. Option 1: Organize a massive equestrian trail maintenance project in Hanson dam area.  
Option 2: Oversee multiple "take a hike" walks or rides on local trails within City of LA Parks & dedicated trails.
- 8) The Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2017 LAEAC meeting. The minutes were approved.
- 9) There was no discussion under this item.
- 10) The Chair announced the next LAEAC meeting will be on March 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at Los Angeles Equestrian Center.
- 11) Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.