

**MEETING MINUTES
LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Monday November 17, 2025
6:30 pm
Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Drive

Stefanie Smith, Chair Department of Recreation and Parks	X	
Mayor's Representative, Scott Perez		X
District 1 Karen Pavliscak	X	
District 2 Rene Karapedian	X	
District 3 Brian Walsh	X	
District 4 T. Hagans	X	
District 5 David Ramey, DVM		X
District 6 Mary Benson	X	
District 7 Geronimo Bugarin	X	
District 8 Kevin Atkins		X
District 9 Vacant		
District 10 Todd Lavergne	X	
District 11 Larry Watts	X	
District 12 Stacia Crane	X	
District 13 Gene Gilbert	X	
District 14 Vacant		
District 15 Sabrina Silver	X	
Dept. of Recreation & Parks Joe Salaices	X	
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Item 1. Call to Order and Roll Call. Member Benson as Chair called the formal meeting to order at approximately 6:45 and the Secretary called the role of members present as reflected above.

Item 2. Approval of Minutes. This item was tabled until January 26, 2026 meeting.

Item 3. Recognition of Guests and Visitors. The Chair acknowledged the following guest speakers: Doug Walters, Director of Sustainability, Bureau of Sanitation; Commander Yvonne Rodriguez, Director of Field Operations, Animal Services and Lt. Steven Lewis, Emergency Operations Coordinator, Animal Services.

Item 4. General Public and Neighborhood Council Comments on items not on the agenda. There were no Neighborhood Council comments and no public comments.

Item 5 Horses and Bureau of Sanitation. The Chair recognized Director Walters of BOS, who gave an overview of the efforts of BOS to focus on sustainability goals generating energy from waste, converting waste into valuable resources, including compost. He stressed the importance of everyone contributing to the effort. He described the importance of maintaining biodiversity. There were a number of questions and from the committee and the public relating to the disposal of horse waste, both from residential barns and commercial and public stables.

Item 6. Status of RFP Process for City Equine Facilities. The Chair asked Joe Salaces to give an overview of the RFP process that will take place over the next several years in connection with the 20 year concessions to operate equestrian facilities at LAEAC, Hanson Dam and Stoney Point. The current concessions at LAEC and Hanson Dam expire in November 2026 and January 2028 respectively. Stoney Point is on a month to month basis currently. The FRP process involves two phases over a 12 to 18 months period. RAP is looking proposals from interested parties that include proposed maintenance and renovations. Once proposed contracts have been negotiated they will require City Council approval at a public hearing.

Item 7. Large Animal Emergency Evacuations. The Chair next asked Cmdr. Rodriguez and Lt. Lewis to give an update on efforts by Animal Services to improve procedures for responding to the needs of large animals during disasters such as the January 2025 wildfires. She explained that Animal Services realizes there is a need to modify its standard operating procedures during such events. This includes advance training of volunteer and improved communications with RAP as well as with the public and first responders.

Lt Lewis described the community animal response teams program or Cal Carts. Cal Carts is an umbrella organization for community groups operating in the state of California. Local CARTs provide community education, emergency sheltering, evacuation, animal health care, and reunification of animals affected by disasters and are integrated with county emergency operations.

There were a number of public comments, many of which were critical of changes from past emergency events that Animal Services didn't communicate to the public or volunteers, including volunteer horse haulers. Rodriguez pointed out the scope of the January fires was truly unprecedented. This contributed to the need for changing some procedures. She assured the public that Animal Services is evaluating modifications to its emergency procedures in response to lessons learned in January.

Item 8. Motion Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Logistics of Parade Participation. Upon a motion duly made answering seconded and following discussion it was

RESOLVED, that LAEAC participate in the Chatsworth Holiday Parade on December 14, 2025.

The Chair next asked for volunteers to organize the logistics involved in LAEAC participating in the Parade. In response, Geronimo Bugarin and Larry Watts volunteered.

Item 9. District Updates

District 1 - Installation of flashing lights at horse street crossings and horse traffic signs at various locations continues.

District 2 - No report.

District 3- No report.

District 4- Described tunnel 7 repairs.

District 5- No report.

District 6- The Olympic equestrian events have been moved from Sepulveda Basin to Santa Anita race track.

District 7- Lost another horse facility to multi-family housing.

District 8- No report.

District 10- No report.

District 11- Will Rogers State Park has reopened for public access after being closed for 10 months due to the Palisades Fire. Polo field is in good shape, some trails still closed but there are plans to return horses in 2026.

District 12- Looking for equestrian entries for Chatsworth Holiday Parade and Festival on December 14, 2025. Many volunteers turned out clean-up Stoney Point.

District 13- There will be a major expansion of the Paddock Riding Club.

District 15- There may be change of representative for CD-15 .

Item No. 10. Motion to Adopt 2026 Meeting Schedule. Upon a motion duly made and seconded and following a brief discussion it was

RESOLVED, the 2026 schedule of LAEAC regular meetings attached to the November 17, 2025 Agenda is adopted.

Item 12. Next meeting. January 26, 2026, Los Angeles Equestrian Center, 480 Riverside Drive, Burbank, CA 91506 at 6:30 p.m.

Item No. 13. Adjournment. Upon a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at about 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts,
Secretary

Attachment



Governing Board
President, Chris Wilson
Vice-President, Lorrie Lathrop
Treasurer, Anyssa Luna
Secretary, Alejandro Rojas
Peter Bernal
Sammy Lozano
Isabel Luna
Fa'auliulito Meni-Trood
Rob Russell
Vacant Community Interest Seat

1840 S. Gaffey St., Box 45, San Pedro, CA 90731 * Board@harborcitync.com * www.HarborCityNC.com

September 16, 2025

LA City Councilmember McOsker
638 S. Beacon St. Room 552
San Pedro, Ca 90731

Re: Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee - Equestrian Facility Support Letter

Dear Councilmember Tim McOsker,

On behalf of the Harbor City Neighborhood Council and its nearly 40,000 residents, we wish to express our support for the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee's request to either include equestrian programming at Ken Malloy Park or a set-aside of 10 acres within the *Phillips 66 Redevelopment Project* also for developing an equestrian program.

As you know, equine programs provide a wide-range of therapeutic and assisted-therapy benefits that enhance physical, emotional, and social well-being by fostering positive relationships with horses. For individuals with physical disabilities, therapeutic riding improves balance, coordination, and strength. Equine-assisted therapy, on the other hand, helps individuals develop emotional regulation, improve communication skills, and reduce stress, making it beneficial for mental health and personal growth.

According to the California Horse Power Coalition, equine businesses and organizations generate \$11.6 Billion for California's economy and over 132,000 jobs across racing, competition, recreation, equine therapy, and animal-wellness sectors. It is clear that the equine industry is more than just an impressive economic driver for the state; it is an integral part of California's culture.

For these reasons, we urge support of equestrian programming either within Ken Malloy Regional Park or the proposed *Phillips 66 Redevelopment Project*. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Harbor City Neighborhood Council