

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

FEBRUARY 5, 2026

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS
FROM: JIMMY KIM, General Manager
SUBJECT: VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS



The following communications addressed to the Board have been received by the Board Office, and the action taken thereon is presented.

<u>From</u>		<u>Action Taken</u>
1. Palisadian comments regarding the New Rec Center Turf Fields	#9982-689 – 9982-696	Referred to General Manager
2. Diane Naegele comments regarding Board Report 26-018	#10037	Referred to General Manager
3. Todd Wade comments regarding Board Report 26-018	#10037a	Referred to General Manager
4. Chria Hazlitt comments regarding Board Report 26-018	#10037b	Referred to General Manager
5. Faye Lee comments regarding Board Report 26-018	#10037c	Referred to General Manager
6. Thor Tandberg comments regarding Board Report 26-018	#10037d	Referred to General Manager
7. Jeff Williams comments regarding Board Report 26-018	#10037e	Referred to General Manager
8. Jordan Koren comments regarding Board Report 26-018	#10037f	Referred to General Manager
9. Marc Dauber comments regarding Board Report 26-018	#10037g	Referred to General Manager
10. Oswaldo Busquets comments regarding Board Report 26-018	#10037h	Referred to General Manager

11. Lori Shapiro comments regarding Venice Flying Carousel	#10038	Referred to General Manager
12. Carol Levy comments regarding Venice Flying Carousel	#10038a	Referred to General Manager
13. Sonya Reese Greenland comments regarding Venice Flying Carousel	#10038b	Referred to General Manager
14. Shelly Janger comments regarding Venice Flying Carousel	#10038c	Referred to General Manager
15. Julie Magorien comments regarding Venice Flying Carousel	#10038d	Referred to General Manager
16. Robin Rudisill comments regarding Venice Flying Carousel	#10038e	Referred to General Manager
17. Christina Krause comments regarding Venice Flying Carousel	#10038f	Referred to General Manager
18. Mark Galanty comments regarding Venice Flying Carousel	#10038g	Referred to General Manager
19. Laddie Williams comments regarding Dogs Off Leash at Oakwood Park	#10039	Referred to General Manager
20. Lydia Ponce comments regarding Dogs Off Leash at Oakwood Park	#10039a	Referred to General Manager
21. Gary Pearl comments regarding Dogs Off Leash at Oakwood Park	#10039b	Referred to General Manager
22. Mara Marini comments regarding Public Safety at Runyon Canyon	#10040	Referred to General Manager
23. Anonymous comments regarding Pickleball at Westwood Recreation Center	#10041	Referred to General Manager
24. Lisa Baca comments regarding Pony Rides at Griffith Park	#10042	Referred to General Manager

25. Luiz Olmos comments regarding Pill-Up Bar Installation at Toberman Park	#10043	Referred to General Manager
26. Maribel Flores comments regarding Drug Activity and Public Safety at Spring Street Park	#10044	Referred to General Manager
27. George the Great comments regarding Graffiti at Echo Park	#10045	Referred to General Manager
28. Helen Fallon/Venice Neighborhood Council comments regarding Designating Oakwood Recreation Center Park as a People-Only, No-Pet Park	#10046	Referred to General Manager
29. Jennifer Borow comments regarding the RFP for Stoney Point Ranch	#10047	Referred to General Manager
30. Guy Smith comments regarding a Situation that Happened at Rustic Canyon Park	#10048	Referred to General Manager
31. Tara Montgomery comments regarding Public Safety at Whitnall Dog Park	#10049	Referred to General Manager
32. Michael Howard comments regarding Dogs Off Leash at Poinsettia Park	#10050	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Rosa Cartagena, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To:

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 7:45 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 1:07 PM Lynn MackCostello

wrote:

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

As engaged residents of the Pacific Palisades community, we are writing to urge the Los Angeles City Officials, Los Angeles City Recreation & Parks, Council District 11, and the Palisades Park Advisory Board to take immediate steps to safeguard the health and environment of our neighborhood.

We express our strong opposition to the proposed replacement of natural grass at the Field of Dreams with artificial turf. Instead, we advocate for the use of modern, drought-tolerant natural grass. Additionally, we ask the LA Department of Recreation and Parks to replace the recently installed artificial turf at the Outdoor Fitness Area with a safe, non-toxic natural surface that enhances community health and sustainability.

Our primary concerns are as follows:

Protect Shared Green Space: Replacing our natural grass fields with plastic artificial turf threatens the vibrant green spaces that serve as vital gathering places for our community. These areas are more than athletic fields; they foster connections among families and friends. Whether it's children playing sports, neighbors enjoying picnics, or hosting community events like Summer Movies in the Park, preserving real grass is essential for maintaining our community spirit.

Injury and Environmental Risks: Artificial turf consists of synthetic materials that may contain toxic chemicals, such as PFAS, known as "forever chemicals." Moreover, injury rates for athletes on artificial turf are significantly higher, leading to increased risks of lower extremity injuries, concussions, and abrasions, compared to natural grass surfaces.

Heat and Water Conservation Concerns: Artificial turf absorbs and retains heat, reaching temperatures between 160°F and 200°F, resulting in hazardous conditions for athletes during peak heat. Despite claims of being a water-saving solution, artificial turf requires considerable potable water for maintenance, often surpassing the needs of drought-tolerant natural grass.

Natural grass, on the other hand, cools the surrounding area and supports our neighborhood's climate resilience, which is crucial as we face extreme weather conditions.

Honoring the Spirit of Our Community: The Palisades Recreation Center and Field of Dreams are beloved community assets that should reflect our values of health, sustainability, and stewardship. An organically managed natural grass field is a perfect representation of the future we aspire to create for the next generation.

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Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to your support in preserving the natural beauty and health of our community.

Lynn
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

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wrote:

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

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Meredith
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: NO TURF in my park: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 7:45 AM

To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 1:51 PM Tori Nourafchan

wrote:

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

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Tori
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To:

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 7:46 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 2:43 PM Sarah Natalini

wrote:

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

Do the RIGHT THING and STOP CAVING to the lies that artificial turf is safe, wise, or healthy.
It's a TOXIC PLASTIC CARPET.

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Sarah
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

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To:

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On Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 10:19 PM Michael Geller

wrote:

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

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Michael
California

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Support Needed: Protect Natural Grass at Our Local Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To:

Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 7:33 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 3:07 PM Charlene Hopey

wrote:

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

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Charlene
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1 message

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Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 1:12 PM

To:

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On Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 12:52 PM Meredith Nelson

wrote:

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On Tue, Jan 27, 2026 at 10:30 PM Anne LaForti

wrote:

RAP Commissioners LA City RAP,

Letter to Santa Monica Officials — Opposition to Artificial Turf at Future Great Park

As a Pasadena resident who cares deeply about the ecological health of our region—from Pasadena to Santa Monica—I urge Santa Monica City Officials, the Recreation & Parks Department, the City Council, and the Great Park planning team to halt plans to install artificial turf in the future Great Park and instead adopt drought-tolerant, organically managed natural grass.

We strongly oppose replacing natural turf with plastic artificial surfaces at the Great Park and request these immediate actions:

- Commit to modern, drought-tolerant natural grass for all major play and event fields.
- Remove any existing artificial turf at public sites and replace it with safe, non-toxic natural surfaces where feasible.
- Prioritize soil remediation, efficient irrigation, and organic maintenance practices funded through public/private partnerships.

Key concerns

- Protect shared green space: Natural grass fields are central community gathering places—sites for sports, picnics, festivals, and family events. Artificial turf would degrade the park's usability, comfort, and community character.
- Health and environmental risks: Artificial turf contains synthetic materials that can include toxic additives such as PFAS. Research links turf to higher rates of lower-extremity injuries, concussions, and surface abrasions compared with natural grass.
- Heat and water impacts: Artificial turf retains extreme heat (reported surface temperatures can exceed 160–200°F), creating unsafe conditions during hot weather. Contrary to water-saving claims, turf often demands significant potable water for cleaning and cooling; drought-tolerant natural grass with modern irrigation typically uses less water while cooling the surrounding

environment and enhancing climate resilience.

- Stewardship and legacy: The Great Park should reflect values of health, sustainability, and intergenerational stewardship. Organically managed, drought-tolerant natural grass best embodies that mission.

A viable alternative

Resilient, modern natural-grass solutions can include: soil remediation, a high-efficiency irrigation system, installation of durable hybrid drought-tolerant turfgrass (e.g., modern Bermuda cultivars suited for heavy use), and ongoing organic maintenance. These approaches support biodiversity, sequester carbon, reduce surface temperatures, avoid toxic chemicals, and are cost-competitive when evaluated over lifecycle maintenance and water use.

Call to action

Please adopt natural-grass designs for the Great Park's playing and multiuse fields and commit to non-toxic, sustainable surface standards across Santa Monica parks. I invite your office to engage with community stakeholders, local environmental groups, and experts to implement a natural, resilient solution that protects public health and regional ecology.

Thank you for considering this regional perspective in planning the Great Park.

Anne
California

--
City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: January 15, 2026 RAP Meeting Agenda Item 26-018

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 7:51 AM

To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 8:59 PM Diane Naegele
Dear Commissioners,

wrote:

On behalf of Rancho Women's Golf Club's 230 members, we heartily support of the recommendation to award "The Rancho" group the Rancho Park Golf Course Food and Beverage Operator. I hope this will jumpstart reopening of the clubhouse which has been closed since 2020. The Rancho has a proven track record at Penmar. The Rancho has been creative and has help build the bonding of not only golfers but the community at large.

I have been a patron of The Penmar for many years, and believe The Rancho will bring that same creativity and knowledge base to Rancho Park.

With much gratitude,

Diane Naegele
President
Rancho Women's Golf Club

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: January 15 Agenda Item 26-018, Rancho Park Concession

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Todd Wade

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 7:50 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 7:31 PM Todd Wade wrote:

I understand that The Rancho company has been selected to be the F&B vendor for Rancho Park. We have suffered for close to six years without a proper restaurant, or even proper bathrooms and other facilities, and it is way past time to end this problem. Please approve The Rancho so we can move forward to a better golf course.

Thank you.

Todd Wade
President - Rancho Senior Golf Club

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: January 15 Agenda Item 26-018, Rancho Park Concession

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Chria Hazlitt

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 7:47 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 10:49 AM Chria Hazlitt wrote:
Dear RAP Board and Commissioners,

As a Rancho Park Golf Club board member, I strongly support choosing The Rancho as the food and beverage operator for our beloved course. The clubhouse has been closed for almost six years now, losing untold amounts of revenue for the city, and causing great inconvenience to the golfing public. We need an experienced partner to work with the City and community to ensure a successful and timely reopening. Every golfer I know agrees that The Penmar is THE model for an on-course food and beverage experience. Please approve The Rancho so we can bring the pre- and post-round magic back to the crown jewel of the Los Angeles City Golf portfolio.

Sincerely,

Chria Hazlitt
Board Member
Rancho Park Golf Club

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: January 15, 2026 RAP Meeting Agenda Item 26-018

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 7:51 AM

To: Faye Lee

Cc: Diane Naegele

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 7:50 PM Faye Lee

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this letter in enthusiastic support of the recommendation to award "The Rancho" group the Rancho Park Golf Course Food and Beverage Operator. I hope this will jumpstart reopening of the clubhouse which has been closed since 2020. The Rancho has a proven track record at Penmar. The Rancho has been creative and has help build the bonding of not only golfers but the community at large. I believe The Rancho will bring that same creativity and knowledge base to Rancho Park.

Thank you,

Faye Lee, M.D.

Cheviot Hills Resident,

Member of the Board of the Rancho Women's Golf Club

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Support for the new proposed vendor at Rancho Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Thor Tandberg

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 7:50 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 7:41 PM Thor Tandberg

wrote:

My name is Thor Tandberg, and I served as President of the Rancho Park Golf Club for the past eight years. I also play Rancho Park at least 100 times each year.

I'm writing to express my strong support for selecting The Rancho to operate food and beverage services at the course. Since the clubhouse and restaurant closed in 2020, the post-tournament atmosphere and camaraderie have largely disappeared. Instead of staying on site for lunch and drinks, players pack up and leave. That revenue should stay at Rancho Park and benefit the City, not go to whatever fast-food stop golfers happen to hit on the way home.

At this point, Rancho Park needs more than a vendor. We can't afford to take chances. We need a proven operator with the creativity and experience to work closely with the City and deliver a successful reopening. I strongly encourage you to move forward with The Rancho and to maintain firm oversight of schedules and deliverables so the project stays on track from start to finish.

The Penmar has earned an outstanding reputation, and if this group can bring that same quality and energy to Rancho Park, it will be a huge win for golfers and the community. Please select The Rancho, and let's avoid losing more time and money on an unproven alternative.

Thor Tandberg
Past President, Rancho Park Golf Club

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: The Rancho Proposal/Selection

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: FJ Williams

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 7:48 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 11:29 AM FJ Williams

wrote:

My name is Jeff Williams and I am an avid golfer and Board Member at the Rancho Park Golf Club. I am very excited with the selection of The Rancho. Their success and experience at another RAP venue will be most valuable in starting the new era at the Rancho Park Golf facility. The Rancho proposal was most comprehensive and exciting to think of its impact for not only the golfing community but the broader community as well. I will look forward to hopefully a year from now when this transformation is complete. I support your approval of The Rancho and am willing to help any way I can.

Sincerely,

Jeff Williams

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: January 15 Agenda Item 26-018, Rancho Park Concession

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Jordan Koren

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 7:47 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 10:52 AM Jordan Koren
To Whom It May Concern:

wrote:

As a Rancho Park golfer and Board Member, I'm writing to express my full support of the selection of The Rancho as the F&B operator for Rancho Park Golf Course.

The now six-year closure of the clubhouse and restaurant has left a significant void for all stakeholders and the greater community is aware of the additional time needed before the clubhouse and restaurant can be reopened, hence the need to approve selection of The Rancho in an expedient manner.

The team behind The Rancho possesses the expertise, operational capacity and understanding of the community that they would be serving and I am confident that their selection would lead to a successful reopening of the clubhouse and restaurant. Please approve their selection.

Sincerely,
Jordan Koren
Rancho Park Golf Club Secretary & Board Member
--
Jordan Koren

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: January 15 Agenda Item 26-018, Rancho Park Concession

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Marc Dauber

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 7:48 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 10:56 AM Marc Dauber

wrote:

Commissioners - I am a member of the ad hoc advisory committee that has been working with the City on the Rancho Park Clubhouse as well as a Board member of the Rancho Park Golf Club. I am writing to express my full support for the selection of The Rancho as the operator of the food and beverage at Rancho Park Golf Course. This group is a proven operator of golf course food and beverage operations (i.e. Penmar Golf Course) and I believe will do an outstanding job of bringing life back to Rancho Park. Not only will it enhance the Rancho Park experience for golfers and people that live in the community, but will help restore the image of one of the crown jewels of the LA City Parks.

It has been over six years since the clubhouse and restaurant has been closed. Frankly, it is an embarrassment to the City. This is an opportunity to bring pride back and make Rancho amazing again - not to speak of the millions of dollars that it is expected to generate for the City. At best, it will be another year before they are open based on the construction that is required.

Please don't delay this any longer. Let's approve this group and get on the way to giving the community back a place to enjoy and be proud of. Thank you.

Marc L. Dauber

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: January 15 Agenda Item 26-018, Rancho Park Concession

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Rancho Treasurer

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 10:09 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 9:59 AM Rancho Treasurer

wrote:

As a Rancho Park Board Member, Treasurer, and avid golfer, I support the selection of The Rancho as the food and beverage operator for the Rancho Park Golf Course. The clubhouse and the restaurant have been closed for a long time, I think almost six years, which has been a financial burden for the City, and has adversely affected the golfers and the public. We need a partner with experience and acumen to work with the City, the golfers, and the community to execute this project and achieve a successful reopening. Please approve the selection of "The Rancho".

Best Regards

Oswaldo Busquets (Ozzy)

Rancho Park Golf Club Treasury

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Lending Support to a Vision for Venice...

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 7:48 AM

To: Lori Shapiro

Cc: Robin Murez

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 1:20 PM Lori Shapiro wrote:
Honorable Commissioners of Dept of Recs and Park:

I am writing to you about Robin Murez's vision. Venice is so lucky to have this wonderful treasure: The Venice Flying Carousel. We need to make it visible and available to the entire community, by placing it in Centennial Park.

Venice has become much safer since Council Member Park took office. THANK YOU!

We now need to enable the artistic and loving soul of the community to flourish. That is what the Carousel has been doing for the past few years, even while somewhat hidden, on the Venice Canals.

My family learned of the Carousel several years ago, when Robin Murez was first carving the animals. The plan, which had been supported by our City representatives, was to place it in Centennial Park. But then Covid happened, our past City Council Member chose instead to make Centennial Park an encampment, as he pushed forward his soul-crushing homeless agenda. We're thankful to have moved passed that.

Our family collaborated on the design of the Carousel Lioness. While she pays tribute to the Winged Lion, the historic symbol of Venice, my daughters asked Robin if ours could be a girl lion wearing a superhero cape and tiara with hearts and stars and ballet slippers, too. The way Robin incorporated those stories into the carving is absolutely magical. Ariel, the Carousel Lioness, is an imaginative, contemporary, feminist iteration of the historic Winged Lion. All riders love discovering the intricately carved details.

That is merely one of the dozen animals that beautifully and uniquely capture and inspire the soul of Venice.

This hand-carved interactive moving art is worlds beyond a typical playground or park amenity. Adjacent to the Library and Farmers Market, at the crossroads of Abbot Kinney Boulevard, is exactly where the whole community and visitors can find it and be proud of the unique wonders of Venice.

Please tell me how I might help you to bring the Carousel to Centennial Park.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Lori Shapiro

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Venice Flying Carousel

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Carol Levy

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 8:53 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 8:27 AM Carol Levy

wrote:

Dear Council Member Park and Commissioner,

I am writing to express support for the Venice Flying Carousel's installation in Centennial Park.

Your support in helping the Venice Heritage Museum secure a home illustrates your commitment to preserving Venice's rich history and cultural heritage, and the Venice Flying Carousel is another project that aims to inspire appreciation for the colorful history of Venice.

The initial plans for the Museum envisioned a shared space with the Carousel in Centennial Park. Although the Museum changed course and chose to open a gallery/museum space, Centennial Park is still well suited for the Carousel.

It will be a welcome Venice of America style venue for neighbors and visitors alike. Their "Big Top" in Centennial Park would also create wonderful opportunities for the Museum to collaborate with the Carousel on future events in the park.

Thank you for your support of these community projects!

With gratitude,

Carol

Carol Levy
Board President
Venice Heritage Foundation





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Oakwood families support Carousel in Centennial Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: sonya reese greenland

Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 11:14 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 9:30 AM sonya reese greenland

wrote:

Dear Councilwoman Park and Honorable Commissioners,

I believe you know, **my grandfather, Arthur Reese**, was the the Black forefather of Venice. He was extremely philanthropic, in addition to being the creative “decorator” of Abbot Kinney’s Venice of America.

I am also a mother, grandmother, a resident of the Oakwood neighborhood of Venice, and a longtime member of the Board of the Venice Historical Society.

I am writing you today to ask that you please enable the installation of the Venice Flying Carousel in Centennial Park.

Thank you for making that space safer, again. The Carousel will improve it even more. From the beginning, the Carousel was to be in Centennial Park. I recall that delays arose through Covid and with the past Council member wanting housing (and encampments) along Venice Boulevard. I hope we can now get back to making that space welcoming to the whole community.

The Carousel is a wonderfully inclusive community project. My granddaughter, Naila, and I began visiting when the artist, Robin Murez, was still carving the animals in her studio. Like many neighbors, we are thrilled to have provided pictures and stories that Robin has incorporated into the projects design. Everyone should get to experience the wonder.

I delight in watching my granddaughter and the other children light up in joyful anticipation for gliding through the air on the carved animal of their choice on the carousel. Venice is historically the place where such magical memories are made.

Centennial Park is a central location that will make the Carousel accessible to my family, friends and neighbors in Oakwood and from throughout Venice.

The Carousel will bring joy to that space. It's historic theme and fun carnival ride attraction are perfect for that space.

Grandfather would agree, the Carousel is Venice at its best!

The library will be closed for a few months. Could we also bring the Carousel to the park now?

Yours Sincerely,

Sonya Reese Greenland
Arthur Reese Family Trust, Trustee
Venice Historical Society, Board Member

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Carousel / Special Needs / ADA

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Shelly Janger

Fri, Jan 16, 2026 at 8:35 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Fri, Jan 16, 2026 at 8:21 AM Shelly Janger

wrote:

Dear Council Member Park and Commissioners,

You must know already how enormously popular the Venice Flying Carousel is with all families in Venice and throughout LA, those who are lucky to find it on the Canals. Please place it in Centennial Park where everyone can enjoy it.

I also want you to know that it is one of our favorite destinations for both my son with Special Needs, age 5, and my daughter, age 7.

I bring the children to the carousel, or can send them along with their nanny, knowing that it's always a wonderful experience for them.

Perhaps it's the natural wood (no plastics), or the smooth gliding motion, or the human connection to the person who powers it (no motors - it embodies STEAM) or the beautifully carved Venice themed animals. And it's fully ADA accessible. It's amazing in every way, and such a gift.

In addition to riding the carousel, and talking about it all week, my children both enjoy the additional free DIY Projects: Carousel T-Shirt Printing and Coloring Book Drawings. We read the animal stories included on the Coloring Book pages, as the children delight in coloring them in. That's another "simple" family activity that the Carousel makes happen. It's all so well thought through.

The Carousel is a special TREASURE for Venice.

We are eager for it to be in Centennial Park, by the Library, where it can be enjoyed for years to come, by the whole Venice community and visitors. It's what that park needs, and what the community needs.

Please keep me informed of your progress in placing the Carousel in Centennial Park.

Sincerely,

Shelly Janger
Shelly Litvak Janger

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Carousel - Palisades / Venice

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Julie Magorien

Wed, Jan 21, 2026 at 8:08 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Tue, Jan 20, 2026 at 1:04 PM Julie Magorien

wrote:

Dear Council Member Park and Commissioners,

We were just weeks away from moving into our nearly built home in Pacific Palisades when January 7, 2025 changed all that. Thank you Councilwoman Park, and Department of Recreation and Parks for helping to make that tragic situation a bit easier.

An important solace for our family has been the friends and neighbors we have here in Venice. That's where the Venice Flying Carousel comes in.

I am a physician at UCLA; my husband is a contractor. Visiting the Carousel has been a special delight for our children, their grandparents, my husband and myself these past 2-1/2 years. Ava has grown up from riding Konstantine, the Butterfly, kiddie swing, to loving the unicorn, the elephant, and all of the big animals.

The Carousel is a beautiful and imaginative moving sculpture. It creates a unique magical atmosphere that brings family, friends and neighbors together.

Centennial Park is the perfect location for the Carousel. The delight that the Carousel creates, its beauty, human powered sustainable design, and the stories of Venice's history that it depicts, must be shared with the entire community. That space will become a wonderful destination with the installation of the Carousel.

My husband's firm, BuildGroup, is proud to be the General Contractor, donating its services to construct the Carousel's "Big Top" style pavilion in Centennial Park. We are eager to make that happen.

Once our new home is built in the Palisades, the Carousel is one special venue that will keep us returning to in Venice.

Please tell us how we might expedite installation of the Carousel in Centennial Park.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Julie Magorien, MD
Andrew Clark, MRED, BuildGroup, Inc.

--
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Venice Flying Carousel for Centennial Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Robin Rudisill

Fri, Jan 23, 2026 at 8:16 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Wed, Jan 21, 2026 at 8:46 PM Robin Rudisill

wrote:

Dear Councilmember Park and Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

I'm writing to you as a Venice mom and "Grammy," and while this is a personal email, I am also a longtime active member of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Land Use and Planning Committee.

Siting the Venice Flying Carousel in Centennial Park will continue all of your efforts to make Venice safer. Installation in Centennial Park was supported by our prior councilmember until priorities shifted away from park activation and public use. The current lack of activity in the park is resulting in continued issues there:

<https://yovenice.com/2026/01/20/venice-shorts-encampments-return-to-library-centennial-park/>

It will be great to transform Centennial Park into a true, usable park with art, play, and nature for all to visit and enjoy.

I first brought my eldest granddaughter to "test drive" the Tongva Turtle when it was still in Robin Murez' studio, being carved. She was just 3 years old but she remembers that day, the free DIY T-shirt she printed, her subsequent carousel birthday party a couple years later, and each visit since. I take all of my grandchildren to enjoy the Carousel, which they absolutely love, as often as possible.

The Venice Flying Carousel embodies the history, the character, and the magic that means so much to Venetians and is beautiful art that captures our imaginations. It has intricately hand carved animals for children to ride as well as the elegant simplicity of its human powered mechanism.

Installation of the Carousel in Centennial Park would offer both a history lesson and pure fun! The Carousel has been overwhelmingly supported each time it has come before the VNC. Initially, the Carousel was to share Centennial Park with the Heritage Trolley Car Museum. More recently, when the Heritage Museum moved elsewhere, the VNC supported the Carousel to be accompanied by a playground, butterfly garden, restored lawns, trees and access to Abbot Kinney Boulevard.

The Carousel will bring joy, purpose, and meaning to Centennial Park, and it would embody the history and civic pride reflected in the name Centennial Park.

From what I understand, the Carousel is fully funded, insured, licensed by the State, and the related non-profit has even offered to fund additional amenities such as landscaping, gardens or play features.

For the love of Venice, let's make it happen!

Please tell me how I might be of assistance. I would welcome the opportunity to support next steps.

***For the Love of Los Angeles
and our precious Coast,***



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Support for Venice Flying Carousel / Centennial Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Christina Krause

Wed, Jan 28, 2026 at 9:15 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Fri, Jan 23, 2026 at 4:25 PM Christina Krause

wrote:

Dear Councilwoman Park and Commissioners,

I'm writing as a Venice resident, a mom, and someone who spends a lot of time walking our neighborhood and listening to what people love (and what we really need more of). I also run the ^{IG} pages and I serve on the Board of the Venice Heritage Museum as Treasurer, so I'm deeply invested in keeping Venice vibrant, safe, and full of community.

I strongly support the Venice Flying Carousel and their proposal to help "Adopt the Park" at Centennial Park.

The Carousel already brings so much life to this area: it draws families, locals, and visitors in a way that feels joyful and uniquely Venice. Every time I walk by, it's buzzing with happy energy, and you can see how much it adds to the neighborhood. In a similar way to the Venice Heritage Museum, it gives people a reason to slow down, gather, and connect with Venice culture.

It's also just one of those rare places that feels special and timeless. My son is completely fascinated by the old-school mechanics and how it all works - it's simple, charming, and honestly a little magical.

I've also heard the Carousel is willing to support improvements like plantings, a playground, and better access between the park and Abbot Kinney. That's exactly the kind of thoughtful partnership Centennial Park needs, turning the space into something greener, more welcoming, and truly usable for everyone.

I really hope the Carousel's partnership can be prioritized as part of Centennial Park's plans for 2026. It's a win for local families, for visitors, and for Venice itself.

Thank you for your time and for supporting the community,

Christina

Christina Krause
Board of Directors



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: SUBJECT: Carousel - From Canals to Centennial Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Mark Galanty

Wed, Jan 28, 2026 at 8:21 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Sun, Jan 25, 2026 at 10:02 PM Mark Galanty

wrote:

Dear Councilmember Park and RAP Commissioners,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for installing the Venice Flying Carousel in Venice of America Centennial Park.

Although I serve as President of the Venice Canals Association, I'm writing in my personal capacity as a longtime member of the Venice community.

I've followed the Carousel's evolution from the early carvings in Robin Murez's studio garage to their joyful appearance on private properties along the Venice Canals, where she transformed empty lots into true neighborhood treasures.

The Carousel is a beautiful, imaginative, and community-building work of art that captures the spirit of Venice. Residents and visitors alike—young and old, of all backgrounds—can share in the experience free of charge. The craftsmanship is exceptional, the human-powered design combines vintage charm with sustainable innovation, and its storytelling celebrates Venice's rich history.

Even tucked away on the Canals, families and individuals stop to admire it through the fence and eagerly ride it whenever it's open.

Centennial Park is an ideal home for the Carousel—centrally located, accessible, and intimate in scale. It would invite discovery, delight residents, and warmly welcome visitors with the creativity and magic that define Venice.

I understand that funding, including maintenance, is already secured. This truly seems a win for the City of Los Angeles, local residents, and the many tourists who love Venice.

I hope the Carousel can be installed in Centennial Park this year, in time to shine during the World Cup and LA Olympics.

Sincerely,
Mark Galanty
Mark A. Galanty

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Oakwood Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 7:49 AM

To: print

Cc: Sean Silva <sean.silva@lacity.org>, John Gavilan Oakwood Park Director <john.gavilan@lacity.org>, West La ANIMAL SERVICES <ani.wlafield@lacity.org>, Venice Neighborhood Council

, Lydia Ponce

, Ed Ferrer

, Jon Wolff

, Margaret Molloy

<mmmolloy@earthlink.net>, Naomi Nightingale <nightingalenaoomi@yahoo.com>, Soni Lloyd

VNC Board

Dillon Chapman

Coach Tim For SOCCER

, Beth Oakwood Park

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM print
Good RAP, Sean Silva, John Gavilan

wrote:

Oakwood Park took down the fences today and the grass area is beautiful.

The off leash dogs have taken over the beautiful lawn. We tried speaking with the owners of the off leash dogs and it was ignored.

Signs (as you all know) are posted 'Keep your dogs on leash" and that is ignored. We are asking for assistance enforcing the laws that are posted all around Oakwood Park.

With the amount of dogs on the field it will be ruined (dogs are digging holes already in the fresh green grass. Dogs owners are in a clutch,while their dogs are off pooping) No one is picking up after their dogs.

Assistance is desperately needed to enforce laws posted on the gates.

I look forward to a rapid response. This will be money wasted on the field at Oakwood Park if no enforcement is done.

Laddie Williams

Sent from AOL on Android

--
City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Oakwood Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 7:54 AM

To: Lydia Ponce

Cc: Gary Pearl print , Sean Silva <sean.silva@lacity.org>, John Gavilan
 Oakwood Park Director <john.gavilan@lacity.org>, West La ANIMAL SERVICES <ani.wlafield@lacity.org>, Venice
 Neighborhood Council Ed Ferrer Jon Wolff
 Margaret Molloy Naomi Nightingale , Soni Lloyd
 Dillon Chapman Coach Tim For SOCCER , VNC Board , Beth Oakwood Park

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 4:50 AM Lydia Ponce

wrote:

Over 25 years - several Cd 11 reps -
 We are here in a critical and volatile...

Children have been bit, knocked down and food snatched by dogs OFF leash as families celebrate their family.

Please refer to those who were there and ask how they were spoken to and disregarded- when all they were referring to the law on the fences in plain view - in English. There's no need for translation here at this moment. They ignore the law.

My concern is how GOOGLE has listed Oakwood Park as a DOG Park when it is not.

We in the community have called to leave messages - with HR- any lead person to help correct this grave error.

Please help GOOGLE make the correction -

as it is fulfilling the lie and people with dogs off leash insist it is true. It is beyond infuriating!

For the record - Linden Ave is a one way south

and google maps has directed people to head north on Linden Ave...

Big tech- causing big problems locally and globally-

OAKWOOD PARK IS NOT A DOG PARK-

Take your fur baby to Westminster DOG Park!!!

L. Poncé

On Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 1:33 AM Gary Pearl

wrote:

Laddie and Sean, thank you for your quick awareness and action. Is this something where we can get the fences back and/or put up larger or more signs. As a stakeholder, my child uses this field for soccer as well. We just passed a resolution to stop this. The police can't be there constantly. Is there a local park representative that can cite abusers? Any dog park I use has rangers present. Maybe the rec center or park rangers can asst? Just thoughts off the cuff.

On Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM 'print' via Board of Officers

wrote:

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Laddie Williams

Sent from AOL on Android

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Oakwood Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 7:52 AM

To: Gary Pearl

Cc: print , Sean Silva <sean.silva@lacity.org>, John Gavilan Oakwood Park Director <john.gavilan@lacity.org>, West La ANIMAL SERVICES <ani.wlafield@lacity.org>, Venice Neighborhood Council , Lydia Ponce Ed Ferrer , Jon Wolff Margaret Molloy , Naomi Nightingale Soni Lloyd VNC Board , Dillon Chapman , Coach Tim For SOCCER Beth Oakwood Park ,

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Laddie Williams

Sent from AOL on Android



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent: Runyon Canyon Safety & Budget Priorities

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 7:46 AM

To: Mara Marini

Cc: Mayor Helpdesk <mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sun, Jan 11, 2026 at 3:24 PM Mara Marini wrote:

Dear Mayor Bass, City Council Members, and Department Leaders,

I am writing as a resident who lives immediately adjacent to Runyon Canyon and as someone deeply concerned about public safety, fiscal responsibility, and the real priorities of the community.

I am extremely disturbed that the City plans to move forward with a nearly \$1 million permanent bathroom project at Runyon Canyon - a project with no meaningful community support and no justification when measured against existing needs. The current portable toilets have served hikers and residents for years with minimal issue, and no one asked for permanent restrooms. This project, funded with taxpayer dollars, is out of touch with actual neighborhood priorities and reality.

Meanwhile, the park is experiencing real and ongoing safety issues:

- Rocks were thrown at residents in broad daylight.
- A person with a firearm was observed in the canyon just last week.
- Fires have been repeatedly started within the park, endangering hikers and wildlife.

Instead of wasting money on a luxury bathroom that will inevitably attract people camping overnight and persisting issues around sanitation and misuse, the City should redirect funds toward qualified, consistent park security and community safety measures.

This is not a “shelter vs. bathroom” argument - it’s a common-sense question of priorities. We need trained personnel, improved security infrastructure, and real enforcement. What we don’t need is a bathroom that will cost millions, detract from the wilderness character of Runyon, and do nothing to protect the people who live here or hike here.

As an engaged citizen with a significant public platform, I will be sharing this letter widely and urging others to contact your offices. I expect accountability and transparent responses explaining why community safety is being sidelined in favor of vanity projects.

Respectfully,
Mara Marini

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Pickleball at Westwood Recreation Center

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Westwood Pickleball

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 7:56 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 1:14 PM Westwood Pickleball

wrote:

To the City of LA Dept of Recreation & Park - Attn: Citywide Pickleball Committee,

First and foremost, Happy New 2026 Year. Now, let's start the New Year with a mutual collaboration!

I'm sure that some of you have received either phone calls and/emails from our Westwood Pickleball Community about your plan to privatize pickleball at Westwood Rec.

If not then you're all welcome to read them here:

<https://recreation.parks.lacity.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/commissioner/2025/apr17/information-report-log-vc-numbers-4-17-2025.pdf>

<https://recreation.parks.lacity.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/commissioner/2025/dec18/information-report-log-vc-numbers-12-04-2025.pdf>

I've sent emails to some of you here proposing a mutual collaboration with the City of LA RAP but have yet to get any reply. This will be my 3rd attempt.

According to your Mission Statement & Objective of the Citywide Pickleball Community on your website found at the link here, <https://recreation.parks.lacity.gov/pickleball>:

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Department is dedicated to **promote the growth, accessibility, and enjoyment of Pickleball** by helping create inclusive opportunities, developing quality facilities, and **fostering community engagement** for players of all ages and skill levels, while adhering to the best practices in sustainability, rules, safety, and equitable access.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CITYWIDE PICKLEBALL COMMITTEE

A. To identify potential areas and underused tennis courts in the city for the development of new standalone complexes or the creation of hybrid Pickleball court opportunities.

B. To help promote the sport of Pickleball within RAP communities by **collaborating with local ambassadors** to highlight the benefits of pickleball.

I AM that local ambassador who has been **promoting the growth, accessibility, and enjoyment of Pickleball** here at Westwood Rec for the last 2 years now. Why don't you just let me continue?

If we can't come to some kind of a mutual agreement then we, the Westwood Pickleball Community representing 150+ members strong, will just have to keep bugging you all with more phone calls and/or emails. What do you think? The ball is in your court and I hope that you will make the right move. Thank you and I'd appreciate any reply.

p.s. All of our 150+ taxpaying members are Bcc on this email.



A Self-proclaimed "**Recreational**" Pickleball Ambassador of LA



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Request for clarification on GM Report LIVE PONY RIDES - please add to RAP PUBLIC COMMENTS 1.15.26 MEETING

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Lisa Baca

Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 11:13 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 10:09 AM Lisa Baca

wrote:

Good Morning Brenda:

It has been 3 years since Live Pony Rides were at Griffith Park. The timing of the new Griffith Park Gateway RFP discussed at today's RAP meeting will be a start date of 2027.

Based on today's

RAP Commissions General Manager's Report, your comments that RFP applicants "would consider the historic ticket booth and pony ring" does not clearly require a return to LIVE PONY RIDES in the RFP or responses. It was a very vague presentation.

Can you please say yes or no if LIVE PONY RIDES will be required in the new Griffith Park Gateway RFP from any future concessionaire?

Additionally, the PlaceWorks Study was mentioned as a "consideration" but not required to incorporate the 7 out of 10 Angelenos request for the Live Pony return. Is the \$260,000 publicly funded PlaceWorks Study Angeleno community recommendation for the return of LIVE PONY RIDES going to even be respected?

Final Question: If a non live pony rides RFP response is provided to RAP, will that concessionaire be eliminated or accepted.

Can you please clarify what the intention was of your comments today and clarify where RAP and General Manager Kim stands on the return of the LIVE Griffith Park Pony Rides and the new RFP requierments.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Lisa Baca

President

Region 7

California State

CC: RAP COMMISSION MEETING 1.15.26

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Email: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

--
 City of Los Angeles
 Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
 Figueroa Plaza
 221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Request for Pull-Up Bar Installation at Toberman Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Jan 21, 2026 at 7:51 AM

To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Luiz Olmos

Date: Mon, Jan 19, 2026 at 3:19 PM

Subject: Request for Pull-Up Bar Installation at Toberman Park

To: <rap.publicinfo@lacity.org>

Hello,

I am a local community member who regularly works out at Toberman Park, located at 1702 S Union Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90015. I use the park frequently for my daily workouts and truly appreciate the space it provides for the neighborhood.

I am writing to respectfully request the installation of a simple outdoor pull-up bar or calisthenics bar in the park. A pull-up bar would greatly support my daily fitness routine and would also benefit many others in the community who use the park for exercise.

There is a noticeable lack of fitness equipment in nearby parks, and I hope to help change that by advocating for a simple, low-cost, and low-maintenance addition that promotes healthy and active lifestyles for both youth and adults.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know if there is a formal request process, community meeting, or petition required to move this forward.

Sincerely,
Luiz Fernando Olmos

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Continued Drug Activity and Public Safety Concerns at Spring Street Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Maribel Flores

Wed, Jan 21, 2026 at 8:26 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Tue, Jan 20, 2026 at 8:52 PM Maribel Flores

wrote:

Dear Council District 14 Team and Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

I am writing as a concerned resident of the Rowan Building regarding the ongoing public safety issues at **Spring Street Park (426 S Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013)**. While we appreciate the recent remediation efforts — including the deep cleaning of the park and the evening closure of the gates — these measures have unfortunately not been sufficient to address the **persistent open drug use and illicit drug sales** occurring throughout the park and its immediate surroundings.

As someone whose residence directly faces the park, I witness these activities firsthand throughout the day and evening. Individuals frequently engage in drug use and sales in front of the park while it is closed, particularly at the benches adjacent to the entrance. Once the park opens, this same activity continues inside the park and persists until closure.

In addition to drug activity, I have also witnessed **adults indecently exposed, openly urinating and defecating on the park's sidewalks**, and leaving behind significant trash, including **dirty needles and other hazardous waste**. These conditions not only make the area unsafe but also pose serious public health and sanitation risks for everyone in the vicinity.

This has created an unsafe and uncomfortable environment for residents, workers, and visitors, turning what was once a valued community space into a daily public safety concern.

For reference, the park previously had an on-site security guard whose consistent presence effectively deterred this type of behavior. Since that security post was removed, the situation has noticeably and rapidly deteriorated.

To provide further context, I am including images below that document instances of drug use, drug sales, and related unsanitary conditions observed both inside and directly in front of the park. These examples highlight the ongoing and pervasive nature of the problem.

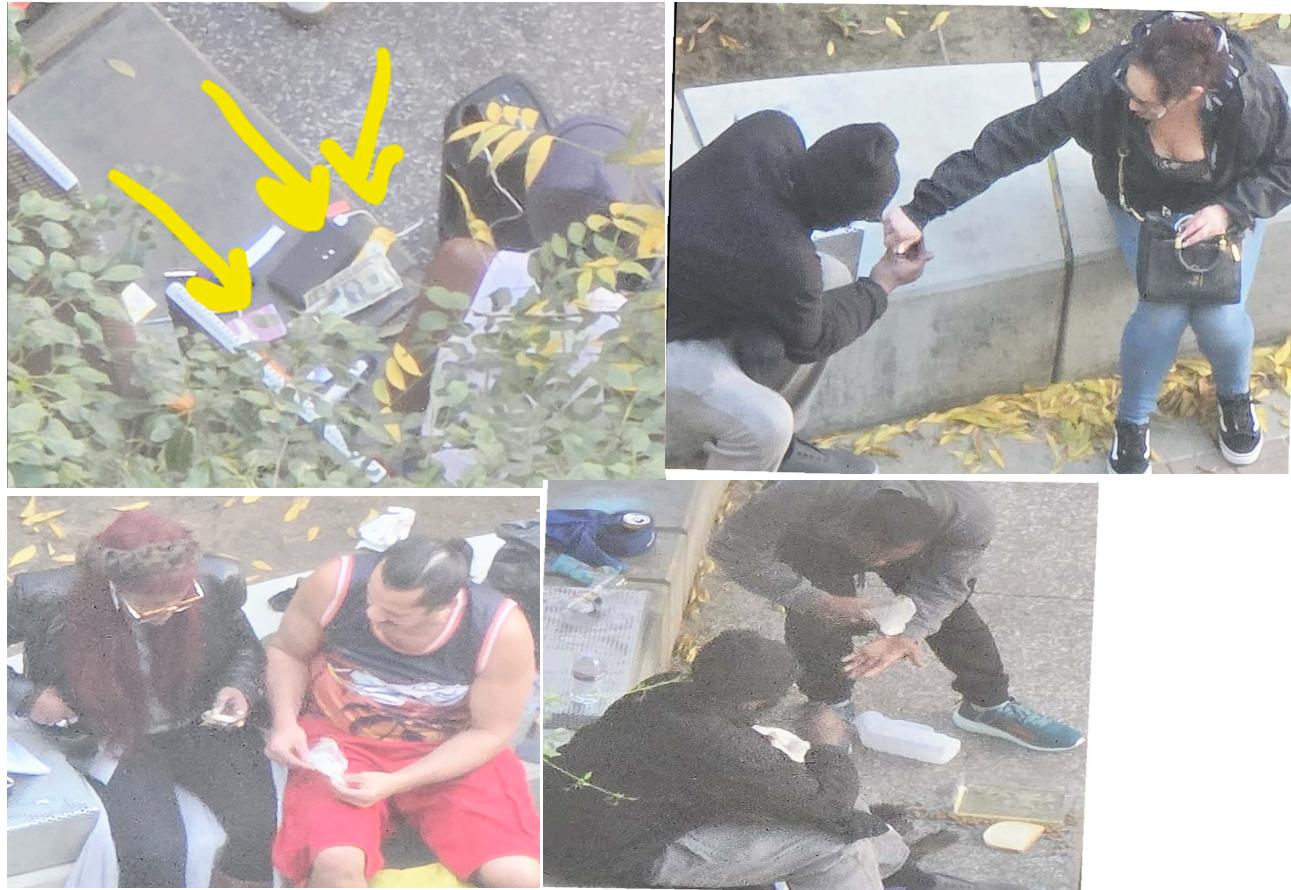
We respectfully request that the City consider reinstating a dedicated security presence and increasing enforcement in coordination with LAPD or Park Rangers to restore basic safety and

ensure adherence to existing park regulations. These measures would go a long way toward reestablishing the park as a safe and welcoming public space for the community.

Could you please provide an update on any ongoing or planned measures to address these issues, as well as a potential timeline for additional safety interventions?

We appreciate your continued efforts and attention to improving the conditions at Spring Street Park.

Drug sales:



Drug Use:



Pants down to urinate on park sidewalk:



--
City of Los Angeles
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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Unacceptable Graffiti

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: George The Great

Fri, Jan 23, 2026 at 11:32 AM

Hello,

Please see response from staff:

"Hello, I was told this was done last Thursday but the painters will go there tomorrow to double-check."

Thank you

On Wed, Jan 21, 2026 at 7:17 AM George The Great

wrote:



BAING ME THE
HEAD OF JONATHAN
Lori Martí Ross

ECHO
PARKS

City Officials,

We are reporting unacceptable graffiti.

We appreciate the removal of this graffiti ASAP.

TAX PAYERS
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
PARK GOERS

--

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Unacceptable Graffiti

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: George The Great

Wed, Jan 21, 2026 at 8:38 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Jan 21, 2026 at 7:17 AM George The Great

wrote:



City Officials,

We are reporting unacceptable graffiti.

We appreciate the removal of this graffiti ASAP.

TAX PAYERS
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
PARK GOERS

--

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Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Your Community Impact Statement Submittal

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 23, 2026 at 8:29 AM

To:

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Jan 21, 2026 at 4:01 PM LA City SNOW

wrote:

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enable by the to Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or resolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website. Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Council's rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at empowerla@lacity.org.

***** This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. *****

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Venice

Name: Helen Fallon

Email:

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(12) Nay(1) Abstain(22) Ineligible(4) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 12/16/2025

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 01/21/2026

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

Council File Number:

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Motion: Venice Neighborhood Council Moves to formally requests that CD 11 Councilmember Park, Mayor Bass and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (Rap) work together to designate Oakwood Recreation Center Park as a "people-Only, No-Pet Park" prohibiting pets (except on lease ADA defined service animals) within the park grounds in order to enhance public safety, protect children and seniors, and maintain field quality. Please see attached document for additional details.

--

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Telephone: (213) 202-2640

Fax: (213) 202-2610

Mail Stop: 625/15

Website: www.laparks.org

Community Impact Statement (CIS)

Regarding: Designating Oakwood Recreation Center Park as a People-Only, No-Pet Park

To: Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners

From: Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC)

The Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) supports the designation of Oakwood Recreation Center Park as a People-Only, No-Pet Park in order to address ongoing safety issues, protect public recreational space, and ensure that this important community facility fulfills its intended purpose.

Oakwood Recreation Center Park serves a dense, diverse, and highly active residential neighborhood. The park's primary open grassy area is used regularly for youth sports, children's play, senior activities, and organized recreation programs overseen by the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP). However, due to longstanding lack of enforcement of leash laws, Oakwood Recreation Center Park has effectively become a de facto off-leash dog park, contrary to city regulations and contrary to the intended recreational design of the facility.

This misuse has resulted in significant public safety concerns, including children and seniors encountering off-leash dogs, experiencing bites or threatening interactions, and encountering dog feces on the playing fields. Additionally, off-leash activity has caused turf damage, reducing the suitability of the fields for scheduled youth sports and diminishing the quality of recreational programming.

The Venice community already has access to two designated off-leash dog parks in close proximity:

- Westminster Off-Leash Dog Park (approximately ½ mile away)
- Airport Park Dog Park (approximately 1 mile away)

These locations provide appropriate alternative spaces for dog owners who wish to allow their pets off-leash, while Oakwood Recreation Center Park remains essential as one of the few open grassy fields available to families, youth, and seniors for general recreation.

Designating Oakwood Recreation Center Park as a People-Only, No-Pet Park—with the standard ADA exemption for service animals—will enhance public safety, preserve field quality, and ensure that the facility is dedicated to the recreational needs of the surrounding community. The VNC also supports clear posted signage, increased enforcement, and public communication from RAP to ensure the successful implementation of this designation.

For these reasons, the Venice Neighborhood Council urges the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners, in coordination with Council District 11 and the Office of the Mayor, to take the necessary actions to designate Oakwood Recreation Center Park as a People-Only, No-Pet Park and implement appropriate enforcement and signage measures.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Stoney Point Ranch RFP CON-M25-008

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Jennifer Borow

Fri, Jan 23, 2026 at 3:05 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners

On Thu, Jan 22, 2026 at 2:51 PM Jennifer Borow

wrote:

We are writing you today to discuss concerns and bring to your attention some of the statements in the RFP for Stoney Point Ranch in Chatsworth. Under section III. Concession Description, paragraph: The Stoney Point Ranch Equestrian Center, it states " Please note that most of the fixtures and all equipment, including pipe stalls, are claimed as being owned by the current operator and are not considered as part of the premises for purposes of this RFP. The new operator will have the option to negotiate the purchase of fixtures and other removable items from the business operating on the premises. The language implies that the current caretaker is entitled to anything and everything on the ranch. (Ie: the barns, arena fencing, pipe stalls and shelters, and a hot walker to mention some). In fact, the ranch was purchased by the City of Los Angeles from Mr. Aaron in total as a working, legal boarding stable housing approximately 75 horses at the time of the sale. Pipe stalls, arena fencing and other fixtures were present on the property at the time of the sale in good working order and have been used continually since. We are objecting to the current caretaker being given a "gift" of public funds and being allowed to take city property as claimed by him as well as being allowed to sell them for his own gain. In addition, he has no authority to transfer ownership of said horse housing and arena equipment. While we fully support the RFP going ahead, it is a large and valid concern that what will be left for the new operator is basically raw land, with the current horses on the property needing to be relocated, and combined with two dwellings that are condemned, there is truly nothing but vacant land up for bid. It makes securing a successful bid a seemingly impossible task.

In referencing the CUP dated September 6, 1996 ZA 96-0548(CUZ), which I am including an attachment to, the property was inspected LA City Planning field inspectors on August 9, 1996 and the following was observed. 23 box stalls, 42 pipes, 3 riding rings, and 1 large paddock with multiple shelters. Jodi Sailor was an applicant on that CUP and this shows a history and an itemizing of the housing/equipment/fixtures that were on the property for the horses. Pages 12-13 on the attached CUP will show what we are referencing. These are the same fixtures, etc that were on the property when it was purchased by the city in approximately 2006. We are requesting that the same quantity of existing horse housing, fixtures, riding rings, etc. remain on site for the RFP bidders.

We would like this issue addressed prior to the pre-proposal conference on January 29, 2026 and for this email communication to be distributed to each commissioner on the board. Edwin Vargas, can you please forward this to Steven Hong? Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Jeannie Plumb and Jennifer Borow

--
 City of Los Angeles
 Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
 Figueroa Plaza
 221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

ROBERT JANOVICI
CHIEF ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

ASSOCIATE ZONING ADMINISTRATORS

EMILY J. GABEL-LUDDY

DANIEL GREEN

LOURDES GREEN

ALBERT LANDINI

WILLIAM LILLEBERG

JOHN J. PARKER, JR.

JON PERICA

HORACE E. TRAMEL, JR.



RICHARD J. RIORDAN
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
CITY PLANNING
CON HOWE
DIRECTOR

FRANKLIN P. EBERHARD
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF
ZONING ADMINISTRATION
221 NORTH FIGUEROA STREET
ROOM 1500
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-2601
(213) 580-5495
FAX: (213) 580-5569

September 6, 1996

Phil and Gail Bellows and
Steve and Jody Sailor (A)
10861 Andora Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Pauline Amond and Associates (R)
P.O. Box 7626
Northridge, CA 91327

Department of Building and Safety

CASE NO. ZA 96-0548(CUZ)
CONDITIONAL USE
1086 Andora Avenue and
108701 Topanga Canyon Boulevard
Chatsworth-Porter Ranch
Planning Area
Zone : A2-1
D. M. : 210B101, 105
C. D. : 12
CEQA : MND 96-0196 (under
process) ????
Fish & Game: Exempt
Legal Description: Portion of
Lot D, Tract No. 2771 as more
specifically described in the
application

Pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.24-C,, I hereby
APPROVE:

a conditional use to allow the renewal of a previous conditional use permit granted under Case No. ZA 84-0660(CUZ)(ZV) for the commercial boarding, raising and training of horses on a 217,259 square-foot (4.99 acre) parcel that is zoned A2-1, to include private equestrian instruction, six horse shows per year, with hours of operation from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week; and with additional covered stalls, a new riding area in the center of the site, and a new barn adjacent to the new riding area in order to accommodate a maximum of 75 boarded horses on-site. There is an existing residence on the subject site. No existing structures are to be demolished.

and also grant a variance from the provisions of Article 2, Chapter 1 of said Code, but only Insofar as said variance is necessary to permit:

- o waiver of the normally required enclosing fixtures and paving of off-street parking areas and access driveways thereto and in lieu thereof, permitting dustproof crushed granite or oiling and;
- o to permit covered corrals, a covered wash rack to observe a 0-foot side yard setback along the northerly side of the property, In lieu of the required 25-foot minimum side yard and;



- o to permit pipe corrals to be within 30 feet of the front property line instead of observing the 100-foot setback required,

upon the following additional terms and conditions:

1. All other use, height and area regulations of the Municipal Code and all other applicable government/regulatory agencies shall be strictly complied with in the development and use of the property, except as such regulations are herein specifically varied or required.
2. The use and development of the property shall be in substantial conformance with the plot plan submitted with the application and marked Exhibit "A", except as may be revised as a result of this action.
3. The authorized use shall be conducted at all times with due regard for the character of the surrounding district, and the right is reserved to the Zoning Administrator to impose additional corrective conditions, if, in the Administrator's opinion, such conditions are proven necessary for the protection of persons in the neighborhood or occupants of adjacent property.
4. All graffiti on the site shall be removed or painted over in the same color as the wall surface to which it is applied within 24 hours of its occurrence.
5. The perimeter of the portion of the site to be used for the commercial boarding facilities shall be enclosed with barbed wire, chain link, rail fencing, hedges or other suitable enclosing materials to a height adequate to confine horses on the property, but in no event to exceed 8 feet in height, and with all necessary openings to be provided with adequate gates of like height.
6. All rules and regulations of the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation and the Los Angeles County Health Department and other appropriate agencies shall be complied with in the use of the property as herein authorized.
7. All necessary permits shall be secured from the Los Angeles City Department of Animal Regulation, Los Angeles County Health Department and other appropriate agencies.
8. Not more than 75 horses shall be boarded and maintained on the premises at any one time. Further, in no event shall any of the facilities be used for horses not officially boarded or maintained on the premises. Furthermore, in no event shall there be any selling, trading or breeding of horses on the premises.
9. In no event shall there be more than six horse shows a year and all entrants for any show shall be limited to horses boarded on the premises or surrounding property owners, preferably those who find it difficult to trailer their horses out of the area. Furthermore, no professional riders or performers shall participate in the shows or exhibits, all participants shall be amateur riders or performers, and the shows shall

be managed and controlled by the lessee of the property and not through any contractual promotions.

10. Adequate sanitary facilities in conformance with the regulations of the County Health Department be provided on the premises for visitors and employees.
11. Any hay or feed storage shall be confined and controlled in a manner to comply with the requirements of the Los Angeles City Departments of Building and Safety and Fire.
12. Clearly delineated parking areas for at least 35 automobiles or horse trailers or other vehicles brought to the premises shall be provided on the site, and such parking area and driveways thereto shall be surfaced with rock and oil, decomposed granite, asphaltic surfacing or other dust proof material to be occasionally renewed, treated or watered once a day to prevent dust at all times.
13. In no event shall there be any garaging, maintaining or storage of any truck, van, trailer or commercial vehicle on the property which exceeds the registered gross vehicle weight 12,500 pounds (NOTE: No semi-truck or tractor trailer rigs allowed, except for 5th wheel horse trailers).
14. In order to prevent a dust nuisance, the horse training or riding rings shall be sprinkled at least once a day, either at the beginning of the day before the exercise of the first horse or at the end of the day in readiness for the following day's use.
15. The paddocks or horse stalls and riding rings be located at least 150 feet from the nearest residence on adjoining property.
16. Any floodlighting on the premises shall be designated to the riding rings; any other lights shall be for security purposes and that such lighting shall be arranged to reflect the light away from adjacent residentially developed properties.
17. Adequate provision be made for the complete removal from the premises of all refuse and manure at least twice weekly. Further, between the twice weekly removal from the premises, said materials shall be stored on concrete floor areas with concrete block walls, or in commercial, covered refuse disposal containers approved by the Health Officer of the Los Angeles County Health Department for such storage. Said storage area shall be located at least 100 feet from any building used for human habitation.
18. A responsible English-speaking adult attendant shall be on duty at all times either on the premises or to be easily contacted for information on a posted notice near the entrance to the site. Further, that such attendant shall be charged with the responsibility of maintaining the property and improvements in a neat, attractive and safe condition at all times and to generally conduct the enterprise so as not to create any nuisance, such as noise, dust, odor, etc., to the surrounding properties.

19. The hours of operation of the facility shall be from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days per week.
20. The property shall not be used as a gathering place for other equestrians or equestrian facilities in the area, and other equestrians in the vicinity shall not be permitted to utilize any of the facilities on the property.
21. Each corral or enclosure in which horses are kept shall be provided watering facilities and maintained with an adequate water supply at all times.
22. By acceptance of these conditional uses and variances, the owner of the property agrees to improve an all-weather access road along the entire 15-foot-wide frontage to Andora Avenue.
23. All discarded lumber, metals, equipment or other materials shall be removed from the premises, and the open areas of the property shall be maintained free of weeds, debris, rubbish or waste matter of any type.
24. The applicant shall use or install some type of fly control system around the corrals, particularly near the area or container where the manure is stored prior to its removal twice a week.
25. No other accessory use relative to equine activities not expressly mentioned herein shall be permitted as a part of this grant.
26. In order to provide for reexamination of the matter in the light of any changed conditions in the neighborhood, the authority hereto granted shall be valid for a period of 15 years from the effective date hereof, and null and void thereafter.
27. No permanent loudspeaker or public address system shall be used on the premises, except that a bullhorn, portable-type loudspeaker may be used by a responsible adult giving instructions, provided that such loudspeaker is so modulated so as not to be disturbing to occupants of adjacent property.
28. All structures on the subject property shall be built by valid City of Los Angeles building permit, and that the instant grant shall be vested by making application for and being granted a Certificate of Occupancy for the subject use.
29. All of the conditions of Environmental Clearance Case No. MND 96-0196 CUZ, listed below, shall be fully complied with.

ACCESS:

Adverse impacts could occur due to design of the parking area and access driveway. However, the possible impacts will be dealt with and mitigated to a level of insignificance by submitting a parking and driveway plan to the Bureau of Engineering and the Department of Transportation for approval.

15/16-a. ENERGY:

The California Environmental Quality Act requires that the proposed project be considered relative to potential energy impacts. Investigation should address impacts resulting from potential consumption of non-renewable resources. Mitigation measures may include compliance with Title 24, California State Code (Energy Conservation Standards), the use of natural gas and/or solar energy; and consultation with the Department of Water and Power and Southern California Gas Co. regarding feasible energy conservation measures.

17-c. WATER:

There would be a potential adverse environmental impact since the project would contribute cumulatively toward the increasing demand on the City's water supplies. This impact will be dealt with and mitigated by requiring compliance with the Xeriscape Ordinance, which imposes numerous water conservation measures in landscape, installation, and maintenance. If conditions dictate, the Department of Water and Power may postpone new water connections for this project until water supply capacity is adequate.

17-d. SEWER:

There would be an adverse environmental impact due to additional demand on the sewer system capacity. However, if conditions dictate, the Bureau of Engineering may postpone new sewer connections for this project until system capacity is adequate, thus, mitigating this potential impact to a level of insignificance.

19-a.b.c.d. LANDSCAPING:

Landscaping: A possible adverse environmental impact upon the character and aesthetics of the neighborhood can be mitigated if all open areas not used for buildings, driveways, parking areas, recreational facilities or walks shall be attractively landscaped and maintained in accordance with a landscape plan, including an automatic irrigation plan, prepared by a licensed landscape architect to the satisfaction of the Planning Department.

OBSERVANCE OF CONDITIONS - TIME LIMIT - LAPSE OF PRIVILEGES - TIME EXTENSION

All terms and conditions of the approval shall be fulfilled before the use may be established. The instant authorization is further conditional upon the privileges being utilized within two years after the effective date of approval and, if such privileges are not utilized or substantial physical construction work is not begun within said time and carried on diligently to completion, the authorization shall terminate and become void. A Zoning Administrator may extend the termination date for one additional period not to exceed one year, if a written request is filed therefore with a public Office of the Department of City Planning setting forth the reasons for said request and a Zoning Administrator determines that good and reasonable cause exists therefore.

TRANSFERABILITY

This authorization runs with the land. In the event the property is to be sold, leased, rented or occupied by any person or corporation other than yourself, it is incumbent that you advise them regarding the conditions of this grant.

VIOLATIONS OF THESE CONDITIONS, A MISDEMEANOR

Section 12.24-J,3 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code provides:

"It shall be unlawful to violate or fail to comply with any requirement or condition imposed by final action of the Zoning Administrator, Board or Council pursuant to this subsection. Such violation or failure to comply shall constitute a violation of this Chapter and shall be subject to the same penalties as any other violation of this Chapter."

Every violation of this determination is punishable as a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of not more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

APPEAL PERIOD - EFFECTIVE DATE

The applicant's attention is called to the fact that this grant is not a permit or license and that any permits and licenses required by law must be obtained from the proper public agency. Furthermore, if any condition of this grant is violated or if the same be not complied with, then the applicant or his successor in interest may be prosecuted for violating these conditions the same as for any violation of the requirements contained in the Municipal Code. THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S DETERMINATION IN THIS MATTER WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE AFTER SEPTEMBER 23, 1996, UNLESS AN APPEAL THEREFROM IS FILED WITH THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS. IT IS STRONGLY ADVISED THAT APPEALS BE FILED EARLY DURING THE APPEAL PERIOD AND IN PERSON SO THAT IMPERFECTIONS/INCOMPLETENESS MAY BE CORRECTED BEFORE THE APPEAL PERIOD EXPIRES. ANY APPEAL MUST BE FILED ON THE PRESCRIBED FORMS, ACCOMPANIED BY THE REQUIRED FEE AND RECEIVED AND RECEIPTED AT A PUBLIC OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING ON OR BEFORE THE ABOVE DATE OR THE APPEAL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. SUCH OFFICES ARE LOCATED AT:

Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Room 460, Counter S
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 485-7826

6251 Van Nuys Boulevard
First Floor
Van Nuys, CA 91401
(818) 756-8596

NOTICE

THE APPLICANT IS FURTHER ADVISED THAT ALL SUBSEQUENT CONTACT WITH THIS OFFICE REGARDING THIS DETERMINATION MUST BE WITH THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR WHO ACTED ON THE CASE. THIS WOULD INCLUDE CLARIFICATION, VERIFICATION OF CONDITION COMPLIANCE AND

PLANS OR BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS, ETC., AND SHALL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT YOU RECEIVE SERVICE WITH A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF WAITING. YOU SHOULD ADVISE ANY CONSULTANT REPRESENTING YOU OF THIS REQUIREMENT AS WELL.

FINDINGS OF FACT

After thorough consideration of the statements contained in the application, the report of the Zoning Analyst thereon, and the statements made at the public hearing before the Zoning Administrator on August 19, 1996, all of which are by reference made a part hereof, as well as knowledge of the property and the surrounding district, I find that the requirements for authorizing a conditional use permit under the provisions of Section 12.24-C of the Municipal Code have been established by the following facts:

BACKGROUND

The subject property is a level flag-shaped, interior through, parcel of land, consisting of approximately 4.99 acres, having a frontage of approximately 10 feet on the west side of Andora Avenue and a frontage of about 250 feet on the east side of Topanga Canyon Boulevard and an approximate depth of 788 feet varying from 695 to 882 feet. The property features a very slight downslope from Topanga Canyon Boulevard to about 50 feet of the property eastward.

The subject site is developed as the Stoney Point Ranch/Riding Center.

Surrounding properties are within the A2-1, RE-40-1-H and RA-1 Zones and are characterized by level and sloping topography and improved streets. The surrounding properties are developed with one- and two-story single-family dwellings.

To the north of and adjacent to the subject property is a public park known as Stoney Point Park.

Adjoining properties to the south are zoned A2-1 and are developed with one-story single-family dwellings.

Adjoining properties to the east/northeast are zoned RE40-1-H and are developed with one- and two-story single-family dwellings.

Adjoining properties to the west across Topanga Canyon Boulevard are zoned A2-1 and are vacant and developed as a horse ranch.

Topanga Canyon Boulevard, adjoining the subject property to the west, is a designated Major Highway dedicated a variable width of 100 to 104 feet and improved with gutters, and a rolled berm. There is a 25-foot building line (Ordinance No. 109,010) on the subject property's Topanga Canyon Boulevard frontage.

Andora Avenue, adjoining the subject property to the east, is a Local Street dedicated a variable width of 30 to 60 feet and improved with curb, gutter, and sidewalk.

Chatsworth Street, more or less 800 feet south of the subject property is a Secondary Highway dedicated a width of 90 feet and improved with curb, gutter, and sidewalk.

Previous zoning related actions on the site/in the area include:

Subject Property:

Case No. ZA 84-0660(CUZ)(ZV) - On May 22, 1985, the Zoning Administrator authorized as a conditional use the continued use and maintenance of an approximate 5-acre site and facilities for the commercial boarding, raising and training of 70 horses to include private equestrian instruction, six horse shows per year, with hours of operation from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week, and granted a variance from the provisions of Article 2, Chapter 1 of said Code, but only insofar as said variance is necessary to permit waiver of the normally required enclosing fixtures and paving of off-street parking areas and access driveways thereto and in lieu thereof, permitting dustproof gravel crushed granite or oiling and;

to permit covered corrals, a covered wash rack to observe a 0-foot side yard setback along the northerly side of the property, in lieu of the required 25-foot minimum side yard and;

to permit pipe corrals to be within 30 feet of the front property line instead of observing the 100-foot setback required.

Surrounding Properties:

Case No. ZA 90-1142(CUZ)(ZV) - On August 20, 1992, the Zoning Administrator approved the reduction in area of the existing equestrian facility site from 7.8 acres to 4.3 acres, as approved under Case No. ZA 90-1142(CUZ)(ZV) on February 13, 1991.

Case No. 90-1142(CUZ) - On February 13, 1991, the Zoning Administrator approved a conditional use request for the property located at 10877 Santa Susana Pass Road to permit the continued use and maintenance of an equestrian facility for the training, breeding, boarding and for raising of horses and cattle, and including corrals, exercise, riding and training arenas, mash racks, hay storage facilities, steer corrals, tack storage and related equipment for 60 horses and 20 cattle;

also approved are variances from various provisions of the Municipal Code, as follows:

- 1) 0-foot side and rear yard setback for corrals and offices, instead of the minimum 3 and 25 feet required, respectively (Sections 12.05-C,2 and 3 and 12.06-C,2 and 3);
- 2) waiver of required improvements, including paving, striping, perimeter walls, and lighting, for two parking areas and access driveways (Section 12.21-A,6(c) to (f));

- 3) continued use of existing cattle stables within the front 100 feet of the site (Section 12.21-C,5(a));
- 4) continued horsekeeping within 25 feet of the side lot lines (Section 12.21-C,5(a)); and
- 5) continued use of an existing single-family dwelling within 35 feet of stables located on the front half of the lot (Section 12.21-C,5(a)).

This is a renewal and modification of the conditional use permit and zone variance granted to the same property located at 10877 Santa Susana Pass Road, on September 25, 1984, under Case No. CUZ 84-133 to: permit as modified, the construction, use and maintenance of a private equestrian facility for the training and boarding of a maximum of 40 horses, including corrals, exercise, riding and training arena, wash rack, hay storage, steer corral, tack storage and other related equipment, with lessons, practice sessions and horse shows, all on a 3.7-acre site in the A2-1 (agricultural) Zone, and the variance to permit the public parking area and access road to be maintained without the normally required improvements and to locate a small trailer on the site to be used as an office and caretaker's quarters to oversee the activities.

Case No. ZA 87-0336(CUZ)(ZV) - On August 13, 1987, the Zoning Administrator approved a conditional use request for the property located at 22101 Tulsa Street, to permit the continued use and the expansion of facilities for commercial boarding, raising, training, and breeding of up to 50 equines, with appurtenant facilities, including a lighted riding area, in the A2-1 Zone.

Also, various variances:

- 1) to permit the waiver of required paving of off-street parking areas and access roads (pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.21-A,6(c));
- 2) to permit the placement of a mobile home or trailer on the site to be used as caretaker's quarters;
- 3) to permit corrals and a wash rack to observe a 0-foot front and side yard setback, in lieu of setbacks required by Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.06-C.1; and
- 4) to permit a waiver of the requirements for placement of structures for the housing of equines (pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.21-C,5(a)).

BASIS FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS

A particular type of development is subject to the conditional use process because it has been determined that such use of property should not be permitted by right in a particular zone. All uses requiring a conditional use permit from the Zoning Administrator are located within Section 12.24-C

of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. In order for a particular request to be authorized, certain designated findings have to be made. In certain cases, specific conditional use categories have additional or unique findings only applicable to that specific use beyond the four standard findings for other conditional use categories.

FINDINGS

In order for a conditional use permit for the commercial boarding, raising and training of horses to be approved the mandated findings delineated in Municipal Code Section 12.24-C must be made in the affirmative. Following (highlighted) is a delineation of the findings and the application of the relevant facts to same:

1. **The proposed location will be desirable to the public convenience or welfare.**

Applicant's Statement

The applicant did not respond to this required finding.

Zoning Administrator's Discussion

The applicants are requesting a renewal of the authority granted on May 22, 1985, under Case No. ZA 84-0660(CUZ)(ZV), for the commercial boarding, raising and training of horses for the subject 217,259 square-foot property zoned A2-1. They further request authority to add additional covered stalls, construct a new riding area in the center of the site, and construct a new barn adjacent to the new riding area in order to accommodate 75 horses.

The conditional use permit granted to the subject property on May 22, 1985 expired on May 22, 1995 per Condition No. 25 of said grant. In that action the Zoning Administrator stated:

The subject property consists of approximately 5 acres of land located between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Andora Avenue. The frontage on the east side of Topanga Canyon Boulevard is 259 feet, and the Andora Avenue frontage is only 15 feet. The property is zoned A2-1 in common with the adjoining northerly and southerly parcels. The subject property is improved with two single-family dwellings. The dwelling adjacent to Topanga Canyon Boulevard is a rental unit approximately 150 feet from the street. The applicant occupies the rear dwelling near the rear of the property. The property is also improved with three riding rings, 23 box stalls, 42 pipe corrals with shelters, one large paddock with shelters, and two parking areas. Egress and ingress to the site is via Topanga Canyon Boulevard and through the 15-foot wide access strip that extends 210 feet to Andora Avenue.

The adjoining southerly properties with frontages on Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Andora Avenue are both improved with one-story, single-family dwellings adjacent to their respective frontages, while the rear portions are vacant.

The adjoining northerly property is a mountainous area presently vacant and is known as Stoney Point, which is a public park.

Easterly of the site is a large, level, vacant area zoned (T)RE40-1-H with an underlying zone of A2-1. This property fronts approximately 580 feet on Andora Avenue and is used for east access to the proposed riding facility. It is also used by visitors going to Stoney Point Park. The properties on the east side of Andora Avenue are zoned RA-1 and improved with newer, single-family dwellings.

The applicant is proposing to establish a ranch for commercial boarding, training, riding instructions and horse shows. The request also involves variances to waive the required parking improvements, the location of box stalls and corrals adjacent to the northerly side property line and to permit corrals to be within 100 feet of the front property line. The site is bordered on the north by a vacant mountainous public park; therefore, the location of corrals and stalls on the lot line will not have any adverse effects.

Testimony at the public hearing revealed that the abutting property owners have experienced a variety of unpleasantness due to previous tenants' activities on the site and with visitors to Stoney Point, the vacant mountainous park. They strongly objected to any grant that would permit the applicant to give instruction, have horse shows or continue the commercial transactions on the site. The 15-foot-wide access stem is unimproved and cause dust problems and the noise from the vehicles and people make rest impossible. It was felt that the increase in activities and horses would generate additional flies and rodents.

Those in support of the request stated the facilities are needed for those with horses without the area to maintain them. The instructional programs are ideal for the younger children. Many of the ranches will not permit the younger children on the premises. The lights are needed because many of the owners work during the day and only have the evenings to work with their horses. The horse shows are good for young people who own horses and for those taking instruction.

The Major Equestrian and Hiking Trails Facilities Element of the General Plan indicates the surrounding area as a major horse concentration area with equestrian trails, trail stops and the horsekeeping district adjacent or near the subject area.

The facility, as modified under the strict conditions and limitations to mitigate the commercial aspect of the operation, will be compatible with the rural nature of the area and the private horsekeeping that is permitted in the A2-1 Zone. The maximum 70 horses to be maintained on the site is reasonable since the corrals and stalls will be concentrated on the northerly side of the site adjacent to the vacant mountainous public park. The riding rings and instructional area will be on the central portion

of the site some distance away from the adjoining residential developments. Also under the interim use authorized, which provides for periodic review, approval of the modified request will not seriously disrupt or adversely affect the long-range development objectives of the adopted Chatsworth-Porter Ranch Planning Area, which is part of the General Plan of the City of Los Angeles. The proposed facility is in an area where other horsekeeping facilities have been approved under conditional use. Therefore, in view of the circumstances, the requested use of the site, as modified at this location, is deemed proper in relation to permitted adjacent uses to the development of the community and to the various elements and objectives of the General Plan. Further, the use will not be materially detrimental to the character of the development in the immediate neighborhood.

The strict application of the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance would, in this case, result in practical difficulties and unnecessary hardships inconsistent with the general purpose and intent of the zoning regulations. To require the improvements in a parking area, where pavement would present a danger to the horses and riders, would be important under other conditions or if the proposed use was not one which is to be situated in a rural setting. To require the location of the corrals and stalls 25 feet from the side property line and 100 feet from the front property line would not accomplish any appreciable benefit.

The more or less 4.99-acre parcel of land subject of the instant request is on lease to the applicants since January 1, 1996, for five years. A copy of the lease agreement is attached to the file for reference.

From visual inspection of the site on August 9, 1996, staff gathered the following information.

1. The subject property is accessible through the west gate at Topanga Canyon Boulevard and the east gate from the Andora Avenue frontage, but the west gate is closed and seldom used for safety reasons.
2. The subject property is enclosed partly with chain link fence topped by barbed wire and partly with block wall.
3. The two-story single-family dwelling on the northeasterly adjacent property is more than 250 feet away from the horse stalls, riding area, and corral located at the northeast side of the subject property. The one-story single-family dwelling on the southeasterly adjacent property is more than 250 feet away from the horse corrals located at the southeasterly side of the subject property. Another one-story single-family dwelling on the southwesterly adjacent property is about 250 feet away from the corrals and riding area on the west portion of the subject property.
4. There are two one-story residential structures on the subject property; one is located on the east side of the property, about

100 feet southerly of the east/northeast corrals, riding area and horse stalls and about 100 feet northeasterly of the southeast corrals. The other residential structure is located on the northwest side of the subject property about 150 feet east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard and more or less 50 feet northerly of the corrals and riding area on the west side of the property.

5. A portable toilet is located east of and near the east railing of Ring No. 2. According to applicant Jody Sailor, it is emptied once a week by the rental company.
6. There is a metal dumpster for horse manure in the center of the property, west of Ring No. 2. Jody Sailor informed staff that horse manure is collected daily from the corrals and deposited at the metal dumpster which is covered with screen or netting, after manure collection from all facilities is completed, to keep flies away. GI Rubbish comes once or twice a week to empty the metal dumpster of the manure.
7. Fly control is done by manually spraying the horses with fly spray and the daily emptying of the facilities of the manure. Staff observed a few flies during site inspection.
8. Dust control is done by daily sprinkling the riding areas with water, either early in the morning or in the evening to prepare the ground for next day's use.
9. When asked, Jody Sailor informed staff that there is no intention to have horse shows at Stoney Point Ranch.
10. Staff observed that bales of hay are openly stored south of the corrals located westerly of Ring No. 2 beside a small unenclosed shed. Westerly of the shed are two metal storage and a wooden platform with food storage.
11. Each corral is provided with feeding and drinking receptacles.
12. There were about ten children learning how to ride a horse during site inspection by staff. A lady was horse riding in Ring No. 2.
13. Per Jody Sailor, there were only 45 horses in the ranch at the time of the inspection.
14. While staff was verifying the plot plan submitted for Case No. ZA 84-0660(CUZ)(ZV), Jody Sailor commented that the said plot plan was not accurate. She informed staff that they proposed to construct a new barn abutting the space where Ring No. 3 is indicated on the 1984 plot plan.

On August 13, 1996, staff called the Department of Animal Regulation and verified the existence of a permit for the current use of the facilities. A female employee of the said Department informed staff that the Boarding Permit issued to the subject property expired on September 16, 1993. Last inspection of the subject property for permit

issuance was in October, 1992. Said employee further informed staff that a lady just inquired about the application for a boarding permit and procured an application form for the property located at 10861 Andora Avenue.

Staff verified existing permit for the subject property from the Los Angeles County Health Department on August 14, 1996. Al Bragg of the County Health Department informed staff that an Animal Keepers Permit has been issued to the subject property with address at 10861 Andora Avenue.

Research on surrounding properties disclosed that a conditional use permit and related variances were granted by the Zoning Administrator to the property located at 10877 Santa Susana Pass Road on February 13, 1991, under Case No. ZA 90-1142 (CUZ) (ZV) . This was a renewal of the conditional use permit with modification on the variances granted for the same property on September 25, 1994, under Case No. CUZ 84-133. The 1984 authority for a maximum of 40 horses was modified to 60 horses in the 1991 authority. On August 20, 1992, the Zoning Administrator approved a request for reduction in area from 7.8 to 4.3 acres of the equestrian facility subject of Case No. CUZ 84-133 and Case No. ZA 90-1142(CUZ)(ZV).

Another conditional use permit and related variances were granted for the property located at 22101 Tulsa Street, for commercial boarding, raising, training, and breeding of up to 50 equines.

Section 12.06-A,2 of the Municipal Code requires 4,000 square feet of lot area per equine for horsekeeping purposes. The request for authority to accommodate five additional horses means a reduction in the required square footage from the existing already substandard 3,103.7 square feet to 2,896.7 square feet per horse, considering the 217,259 square footage of the subject property.

Thus, the Zoning Administrator has determined that denial of the request would unfairly prevent the applicant from enjoying reasonable use of the subject site. The zoning regulations allow certain uses in respective zones by conditional use in order to allow for the determination to be made as to the compatibility between respective uses. Such regulations are written on a Citywide basis and allow the Zoning Administrator to take into account individual unique characteristics which a specific parcel may have. In this instance, the Code's desire to achieve compatibility between respective sites and protect neighboring properties and the applicant's desire to provide a more viable use can be accommodated in a manner consistent with the intent and purpose of the zoning regulations.

2. The location is proper in relation to adjacent uses or the development of the community.

Applicant's Statement

The applicant did not respond to this required finding.

Zoning Administrator's Discussion

The unique features of this site include the shape and configuration of the property as well as the location of existing improvements thereon, making the request as proposed, logical, as it would allow for the functional integration with existing improvements on the site.

Under Case No. ZA 84-0660(CUZ)(ZV) the Zoning Administrator reported on May 22, 1985 that:

There are exceptional circumstances applicable to the subject property which do not generally apply to other properties in the same zone and vicinity in which the site is located. These circumstances include the location of the site adjacent to vacant mountainous area, the irregular shape of this through parcel and its interim use. The rural condition of the area and size of the parcel adds to the uniqueness of the site.

The granting of the variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right or use generally possessed by other properties in the same size and zone classification, but is denied the property in question because of the(s)e special circumstances. . .

Further physical circumstances which are unique here are the location of the site having two street frontages, one on Topanga Canyon Boulevard, and the other on Andora Avenue. Nonetheless the site has difficult access, and this coupled with slow economic times is likely to preclude the property from being subdivided into smaller residential lots in the near future. Thus continuation of the approved horse operation provides for a viable use of the property that is in keeping with its established pattern and rural setting.

3. The use will not be materially detrimental to the character of the development in the immediate neighborhood.

Applicant's Statement

The applicant did not respond to this required finding.

Zoning Administrator's Discussion

Numerous other businesses in the area have had additions made to them over time as family size, or lifestyle or enrollment or societal changes take place, and the applicants here are merely seeking to be on a par with such other properties.

This finding was also considered by the Zoning Administrator on May 22, 1985 under Case No. ZA 84-0660(CU)(ZV) when he stated:

The granting of such variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare, or injurious to the property or improvements in the same zone or vicinity in which the property is located. Because of the distance of the parking area from adjoining

properties and the strict dust control conditions imposed and the frequency and intensity of use, all of which ensure that the lack of parking improvements will not be detrimental to the public welfare. Further, with the improvement of the 15-foot-wide access strip to an all-weather-condition-type road will eliminate dust in this area.

4. The proposed location will be in harmony with the various elements and objectives of the General Plan.

Applicant's Statement

The applicant did not respond to this required finding.

Zoning Administrator's Discussion

The Chatsworth- Porter Ranch District Plan designates the subject property for Minimum Density Residential Uses with corresponding zones of A1, A2 and RE40 and Height District No. 1.; the use as such is consistent with such Plan designation.

In 1985, under Case No. ZA 84-0660(CUZ)(ZV), the Zoning Administrator stated:

The granting of the variance for the temporary type of improvements, and location of horsekeeping facilities will help to maintain the rural character of the area in keeping with the goals and objectives of the Granada Hills-Knollwood Planning Area (sic, Chatsworth et. al.) and are not a radical departure from the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, both of which are elements of the General Plan.

Further, the General Plan supports the development and maintenance of horse keeping facilities both private and public in this portion of the City. This area is recognized by numerous governmental and private publications as a major equestrian activity area in both the City of Los Angeles and the greater surrounding region.

ADDITIONAL MANDATORY FINDINGS

5. The National Flood Insurance Program rate maps, which are a part of the Flood Hazard Management Specific Plan adopted by the City Council by Ordinance No. 154,405, have been reviewed and it has been determined that this project is located in Zone C, areas of minimal flooding. (No shading)
6. On July 24, 1996, the City Planning Department Environmental Staff Advisory Committee (ESAC) issued Mitigated Negative Declaration No. MND 96-0196 (Article V - City CEQA Guidelines) and determined that by imposing conditions the impacts could be reduced to a level of insignificance with which I concur and hereby certify. The records upon which this decision is based are with the Environmental Review Section in Room 1500, 221 North Figueroa Street.

7. Fish and Game: The subject project, which is located in Los Angeles County, will not have an impact on fish or wildlife resources or habitat upon which fish and wildlife depend, as defined by California Fish and Game Code Section 711.2.



ALBERT LANDINI
Associate Zoning Administrator

AL:

cc: Councilman Hal Bernson
Twelfth District
Adjoining Property Owners
County Assessor

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
ROOM 395, CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

CITY CLERK'S USE

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

PROPOSED
MITIGATED

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

(Article V — City CEQA Guidelines)

LEAD CITY AGENCY LOS ANGELES CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT	COUNCIL DISTRICT 12
PROJECT TITLE MND-96-0196-CUZ	CASE NO. ZA 96-0548
PROJECT LOCATION 10870 Topanga Canyon Boulevard between Chatsworth Street and 118 Freeway; Chatsworth-Porter Ranch	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Conditional Use to allow continued operation of a commercial horse facility on a 4.93 acre site, zoned A2-1 and to allow increase in number of horses from previously approved 70 to 80 horses, to allow construction of new barn, to allow 12,500 pound weight vehicles and to allow Special Olympic functions for mentally retarded children. Hours of operation from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., daily.	
NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT IF OTHER THAN CITY AGENCY Jody Sailor/Gail Bellows 10870 Topanga Canyon Boulevard Chatsworth, CA	

FINDING:

► The City Planning Department of the City of Los Angeles has proposed that a mitigated negative declaration be adopted for this project because the mitigation measure(s) outlined on the attached page(s) will reduce any potential significant adverse effects to a level of insignificance.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

► SEE ATTACHED SHEET(S) FOR ANY MITIGATION MEASURES IMPOSED.

Any written comments received during the public review period are attached together with the responses of the Lead City Agency. The project decisionmaker may adopt this mitigated negative declaration, amend it, or require preparation of an EIR. Any changes made should be supported by substantial evidence in the record and appropriate findings made.

THE INITIAL STUDY PREPARED FOR THIS PROJECT IS ATTACHED.

NAME OF PERSON PREPARING THIS FORM <u>ATIEF</u>	TITLE <u>Shores</u>	TELEPHONE NUMBER (213)580-5547
ADDRESS 221 N. Figueroa Street, Room 1500 Los Angeles, CA 90012	SIGNATURE (Official) Darryl L. Fisher, Chairperson	DATE 07/24/96

13-f. ACCESS:

Adverse impacts could occur due to design of the parking area and access driveway. However, the possible impacts will be dealt with and mitigated to a level of insignificance by submitting a parking and driveway plan to the Bureau of Engineering and the Department of Transportation for approval.

15/16-a. ENERGY:

The California Environmental Quality Act requires that the proposed project be considered relative to potential energy impacts. Investigation should address impacts resulting from potential consumption of non-renewable resources. Mitigation measures may include compliance with Title 24, California State Code (Energy Conservation Standards), the use of natural gas and/or solar energy; and consultation with the Department of Water and Power and Southern California Gas Co. regarding feasible energy conservation measures.

17-c. WATER:

There would be a potential adverse environmental impact since the project would contribute cumulatively toward the increasing demand on the City's water supplies. This impact will be dealt with and mitigated by requiring compliance with the Xeriscape Ordinance, which imposes numerous water conservation measures in landscape, installation, and maintenance. If conditions dictate, the Department of Water and Power may postpone new water connections for this project until water supply capacity is adequate.

17-d. SEWER:

There would be an adverse environmental impact due to additional demand on the sewer system capacity. However, if conditions dictate, the Bureau of Engineering may postpone new sewer connections for this project until system capacity is adequate, thus, mitigating this potential impact to a level of insignificance.

19-a.b.c.d. LANDSCAPING:

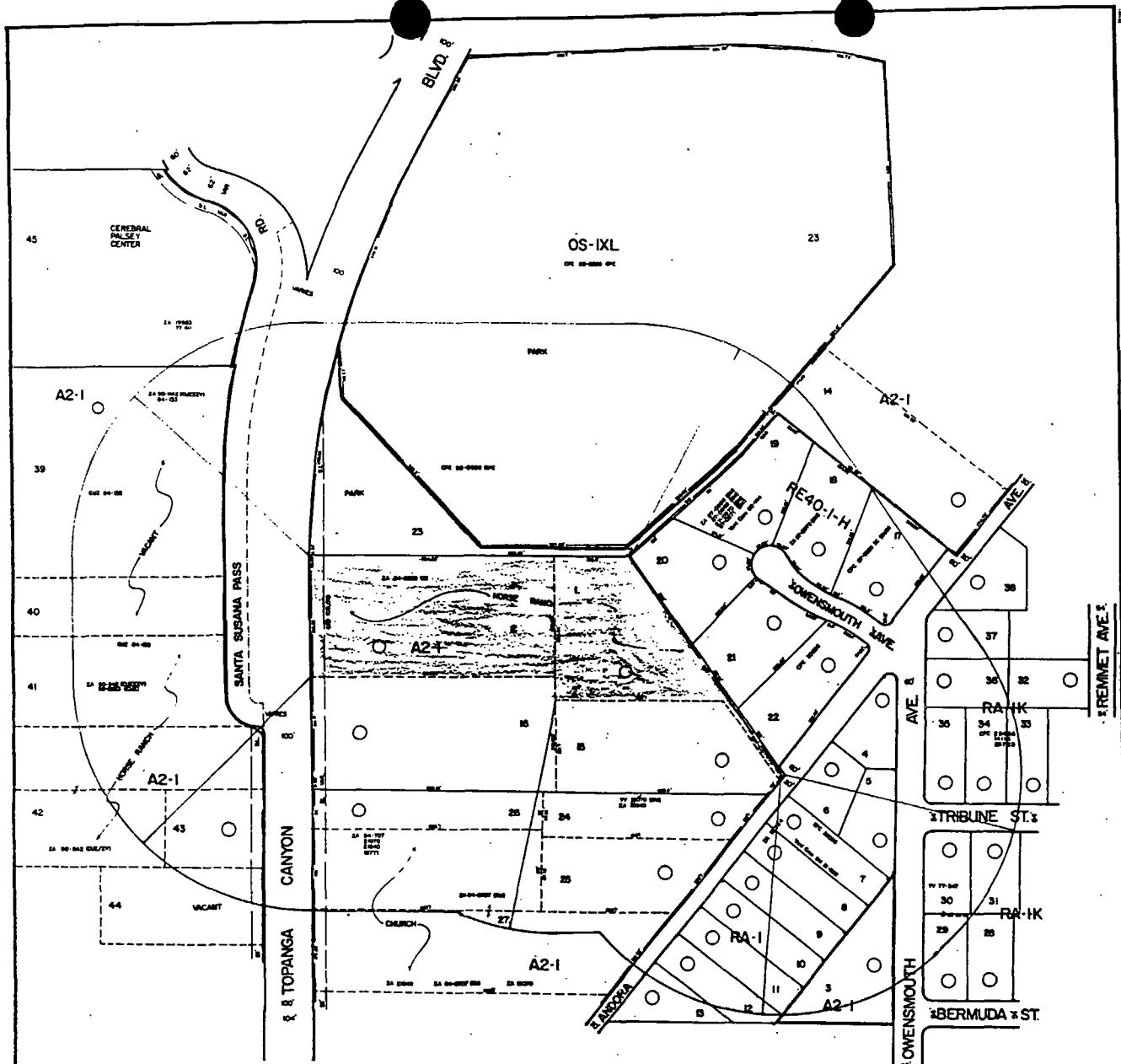
Landscaping: A possible adverse environmental impact upon the character and aesthetics of the neighborhood can be mitigated if all open areas not used for buildings, drive-

ways, parking areas, recreational facilities or walks shall be attractively landscaped and maintained in accordance with a landscape plan, including an automatic irrigation plan, prepared by a licensed landscape architect to the satisfaction of the Planning Department.

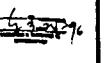
The conditions outlined in this proposed mitigated negative declaration which are not already required by law shall be required as condition(s) of approval by the decision-making body except as noted on the face page of this document.

Therefore, it is concluded that no significant impacts are apparent which might result from this project's implementation.

This action is based on the project description on the first page.



CONDITIONAL USE - ZA

 Quality Mapping Service Zoning Consultants 14549 Archwood St. Suite 301 Van Nuys, California 91405 Phone (818) 987-7949 - Fax (818) 987-0351	THOMAS BROTHERS Page: 500 Grid: A-2,3 LEGAL DESCRIPTION C.D. : 12 C.T. : 1132.11 P.A. : 321 (CHATSWORTH- PORTER RANCH) USES: FIELD D.M. : 210B101, 207B101, 210B105, 207B105 See App. for complete description.	CASE NO. : SCALE : 1" = 100' LA PLANNING DEPT. SEAL OF APPROVAL 
	CONTACT PERSON: STONEY POINT RANCH PHONE: DRAWN BY: WTS	DATE: 3-21-96 Updated: NORTH



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Rustic Canyon Park complaint

1 message

Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>
To: Guy Smith
Cc: rap.commissioners@lacity.org

Mon, Jan 26, 2026 at 5:48 PM

Hello Mr. Smith,

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your experience at Rustic Canyon Park. I appreciate you bringing this to our attention and understand how frustrating and uncomfortable this interaction felt, particularly given the circumstances you described.

Please know that we take concerns about customer service, access to facilities, and adherence to posted operating hours very seriously. Our recreation centers are intended to be welcoming spaces for the community, and patrons should feel respected when visiting our parks and facilities.

We are currently gathering additional information and speaking with on-site supervisory staff to better understand what occurred, including the circumstances surrounding the building's closure, restroom access, and the interactions you referenced. It is important to us that we review situations thoroughly and fairly before drawing conclusions.

While I am unable to comment on individual personnel matters, I want to assure you that expectations around professionalism, appropriate communication with the public, and consistent operations are clearly outlined for all staff. Any concerns that are identified through our review will be addressed accordingly.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your experience. We value feedback from the community, as it helps us improve how we serve the public. Should you have additional information you would like us to consider, you are welcome to share it.

On Sat, Jan 24, 2026 at 6:52 PM Guy Smith

wrote:

Today, Jan 24, 2026, I wanted to use the restroom in the rec center at Rustic Canyon park. It was somewhere between 430pm and 445pm. The park was open, but the rec center lights were off and the door locked. The door to the outside was open. Someone was in the office. I don't know her name. An old woman with dyed platinum blonde hair.

I called into the office and asked if they were still open. They were supposed to be open till 5. She said the manager told her to close at 4 if it was slow.

Is that how it goes? Close early? Are they a retail store with an owner who wants to go home early? No. And even though she closed early, she was waiting till 5 so she could keep getting paid. Is that how it's supposed to work? Close up early but still get paid?

That's not the bad part.

I asked to use the restroom and she told me to go use the one down the hill near the tennis courts. (We wouldn't want her to be open to the public). Then she looked at the bandages on my legs and didn't change her mind. God forbid she unlock the door while she is still getting paid.

This is not the first caustic interaction I've had with her. A week or two ago I plugged my phone into the wall and she chastised me for it, said costs the city money to charge a phone (yeah 2 cents), added "what if everyone did that." This all seems petty but if it's a rule, fine. But then she said it could be considered loitering and she could call the police and have me arrested. Imagine telling the police that she called them because someone was charging his phone. Imagine claiming someone was loitering in a park. Does she think the park is only there for activities like basketball tournaments and play rehearsals? Many people go there just to sit in a quiet place and relax. It's even called a "park."

I calmed her down and while talking to her she started talking about a homeless guy (Felix) who she claims she got banished from the park because he was trying help with things and he dared quote rules to someone when that was her job. I know who Felix is and while he had his problems in life obviously, he kept the place clean and even safe at times. He even reported things to the police that could have been illegal activity. This woman has delusions of grandeur.

A week later I walking near the office and I could hear her talking to the new park director about rules and laws and legal issues. I think she thinks she's part security camera and part judge over everyone in the land.

Something is wrong with this woman. To say she makes going there unpleasant is an understatement. I brought this up to a guy I know who walks his dog there and he noticed her aggressive domineering attitude too. I think it's time she work somewhere else. If nothing else move her to a park in another part of Los Angeles.

Going back to the beginning of the story, I really don't appreciate her telling me to walk down to the tennis courts when she was still getting paid to have the rec center open, not to mention after noticing bandages on my legs. And I don't appreciate the manager arranging for her to specifically not to work but yet get paid and tell citizens and taxpayers to go away.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Rustic Canyon Park complaint

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Guy Smith

Wed, Jan 28, 2026 at 8:12 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Sat, Jan 24, 2026 at 6:52 PM Guy Smith

wrote:

Today, Jan 24, 2026, I wanted to use the restroom in the rec center at Rustic Canyon park. It was somewhere between 430pm and 445pm. The park was open, but the rec center lights were off and the door locked. The door to the outside was open. Someone was in the office. I don't know her name. An old woman with dyed platinum blonde hair.

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This is not the first caustic interaction I've had with her. A week or two ago I plugged my phone into the wall and she chastised me for it, said costs the city money to charge a phone (yeah 2 cents), added "what if everyone did that." This all seems petty but if it's a rule, fine. But then she said it could be considered loitering and she could call the police and have me arrested. Imagine telling the police that she called them because someone was charging his phone. Imagine claiming someone was loitering in a park. Does she think the park is only there for activities like basketball tournaments and play rehearsals? Many people go there just to sit in a quiet place and relax.

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--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Urgent Public Safety Concern at Whitnall Dog Park – Dog Hospitalized After Ingesting Drugs

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Jan 28, 2026 at 8:20 AM

To: Tara Montgomery

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Sat, Jan 24, 2026 at 11:57 AM Tara Montgomery

> wrote:

Dear City Council Members and Community Leaders,

I am writing as a daily user of Whitnall Dog Park in North Hollywood and a deeply concerned community member regarding the rapidly deteriorating safety conditions at both the large and small dog parks.

I visit Whitnall Dog Park every morning around 6:00 a.m. with my two dogs for approximately an hour, and again in the afternoon around 3:00 p.m. This early morning visit is the only time I am able to go due to my responsibilities taking my son to school and work obligations. Unfortunately, going before daylight has become increasingly unsafe due to the growing number of homeless encampments and RVs stationed around the park.

Over the past several months, I have personally witnessed drug deals, individuals passed out from drug use inside the park, people yelling aggressively at park users, harassing dogs, looking into parked cars, and exhibiting behavior that is clearly unstable. I have been verbally threatened and harassed myself. On multiple occasions, I have felt forced to pretend to call the police simply to deter aggressive behavior. When I have called in the past, I was told these incidents were “not a priority,” and no officers were dispatched.

On the morning of January 21, 2026, I visited the park as usual and left around 7:00 a.m. Approximately 30–45 minutes later, one of my dogs began acting abnormally. She developed head tremors, was unable to stand without assistance, and was swaying uncontrollably. I rushed her to the emergency veterinary hospital, where after extensive testing and an overnight stay, it was confirmed that she had ingested drugs at the dog park. She tested positive for THC and benzodiazepines.

This incident cost my family thousands of dollars and could have easily resulted in the loss of my dog. Even more alarming is the reality that this occurred in a public dog park that families and children regularly visit. If a child had picked up whatever substance was left behind, the outcome could have been catastrophic. If another dog owner had not been home to notice the symptoms immediately, their pet may not have survived.

This is not just a quality-of-life issue — it is a public safety issue. A park intended to be a safe community resource has become a dangerous environment due to prolonged inaction. The current situation is unfair to residents, dog owners, children, city employees tasked with park maintenance, and even those who genuinely need access to public spaces in a safe and lawful manner.

I am formally requesting the following actions be taken immediately:

1. Implementation of **two-hour parking restrictions** on the streets surrounding Whitnall Dog Park, with **resident permit exemptions**, and **no overnight parking** (permit-exempt).
2. Removal of RVs and encampments that have been posted in the area for months and are contributing to ongoing illegal and dangerous activity.
3. A **clear and consistent police presence**, particularly during early morning and evening hours, until the above measures are implemented and stabilized.

The community should not have to be afraid to use a public park. We should not have to watch drug activity, fear harassment, or worry that our pets or children will be exposed to life-threatening substances. Continued inaction sends a message that the safety of residents is not a priority.

I urge the city to treat this matter with the seriousness it deserves. I am happy to provide veterinary documentation, dates, or further details if needed and hope this letter leads to meaningful action before another person, child, or animal is seriously harmed.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Tara Montgomery
Concerned Dog Owner

CC:
Councilmember Adrin Nazarian
Field representative Adrian Grigorian
Council member Paul Krekorian
Parks & Rec NoHO
LA City Parks
Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
LAPD Officer Jennifer Duvally
LAPD Officer Carol Sawamura
KTLA
LA Times
SoCal News
LA Local News

--
City of Los Angeles
Office of the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners
Figueroa Plaza
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 202-2640
Fax: (213) 202-2610
Mail Stop: 625/15
Website: www.laparks.org



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Safety Concern at Poinsettia Park – Ongoing Off-Leash Dog Violations, Harassment, and Vandalism

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

To: Smock Me

Wed, Jan 28, 2026 at 8:23 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Mon, Jan 26, 2026 at 1:30 PM Smock Me

wrote:

I am writing as a formal and urgent follow-up regarding the ongoing and escalating safety issues at Poinsettia Park.

It has now been over a month since the original park signage—clearly stating leash laws and park rules—was vandalized and removed by a group of dog owners who are attempting to claim the park as an unofficial off-leash dog area. To date, the signs have not been replaced, despite multiple reports and follow-ups.

As requested, I am attaching photos and videos documenting the current situation. These clearly show:

- Dogs running off leash throughout the park
- Dogs running into the street, creating traffic and safety hazards
- Parents, caregivers, and children being forced out of the park due to the overwhelming presence of uncontrolled dogs

Every day around 5:00 PM, the park becomes flooded with off-leash dogs to the point where parents and nannies can barely enter with children. This is not an exaggeration—it is consistent, daily behavior.

There is little to no visible enforcement. We have not seen Park Rangers or Animal Control issuing citations or monitoring the park, which has effectively allowed this behavior to continue unchecked.

Additionally, when residents politely ask dog owners to leash their dogs, they are often met with aggressive and intimidating behavior. I personally have experienced confrontations more than a dozen times, including situations where I felt unsafe advocating for my family.

Most concerning:

Just recently, a large Doberman ran full speed through the park and nearly knocked my two-year-old child off her feet. Had she fallen, this could have resulted in a serious injury. This is not a hypothetical risk—it is already happening.

I understand that staffing is limited and that the City is managing many priorities. However, this situation is becoming dangerous, and without immediate intervention, it feels inevitable that a serious injury will occur.

At this point, continued inaction creates a clear liability issue for the City.

We urgently request:

1. Immediate replacement of the vandalized signage
2. Consistent Park Ranger and/or Animal Control presence, particularly during peak hours

3. Enforcement of leash laws through citations
4. Clear communication that Poinsettia Park is not an off-leash dog park

Because this issue has gone unresolved for an extended period despite repeated outreach, I am also forwarding this correspondence to local news outlets to ensure visibility and accountability.

We are not asking for special treatment—only for existing laws to be enforced so that families can safely use a public park as intended.

Please let us know what immediate steps will be taken to resolve this. The community needs action, not more discussion.

I attached a Video showing a dog running and escaping From the park and circling me and my baby. Thank God, nothing serious has happened, but this is one of many incidents that have been occurring.

Thank you for your time and attention to this serious matter.

Michael Howard



On Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 8:54 AM Smock Me wrote:

Dear Park Rangers and Los Angeles Recreation & Parks Officials,

I hope you are well. I am writing to urgently bring your attention to a growing and dangerous situation occurring daily at Poinsettia Recreation Park. The issue has escalated to the point where families, children, seniors, and caregivers no longer feel safe using the park as intended.

For over two weeks, one of the posted “Dogs Must Be Leashed” signs has been vandalized and spray-painted over, completely obscuring the rule (photo attached). Despite this, the sign has not been repaired or replaced, and the situation around it has continued to deteriorate.

Every evening between approximately 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM, large groups of dog owners—often 25–30 dogs at a time—gather in the park and allow their dogs to remain completely off-leash. This continues despite clear city regulations and despite the proximity of the children’s playground, which is used daily by families, nannies, and young kids.

In addition to the off-leash violations, many of these owners have become increasingly aggressive toward residents. They have cursed at parents, nannies, and even other park visitors for simply closing the gate or attempting to follow posted rules. The group has also tampered with the secured park gate on multiple occasions, clipping it open even after Park Rangers had properly locked it.

This growing sense of entitlement and disregard for public safety has already led to multiple incidents, including:

- Several children being attacked by off-leash dogs
- An elderly woman being injured
- Families avoiding the park out of fear for their safety

This is deeply concerning and unsustainable. Poinsettia Park is meant to be a family park, yet many families now feel unwelcome and unsafe due to ongoing harassment from dog owners and repeated violations of park rules.

We are reaching out to you because we urgently need enforcement, corrective action, and restored order before a more serious or tragic incident occurs. We are also preparing to contact local news outlets if necessary to bring wider awareness to the problem, as the situation has been ongoing for a very long time without improvement.

We sincerely appreciate your time, attention, and any assistance you can provide. Our goal is simply to make Poinsettia Park safe again for children, families, and all respectful community members who use it responsibly.

Thank you for your help and for the work you do to protect our parks.



Michael Howard