



V. RESPONSES TO PUBLIC MEETING COMMENTS

V. RESPONSES TO PUBLIC MEETING COMMENTS

A public meeting was held during the Draft EIR comment period on September 18, 2007 in order to further solicit comments on the Draft EIR. This public meeting was not required under CEQA. This section of the EIR provides responses to each of the verbal comments received during this public meeting. Table III-1, which starts on page III-22, provides a summary of the issues raised in these response to the Draft EIR.

PUBLIC MEETING TRANSCRIPT

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
Public Meeting
Tuesday, September 18, 2007

COMMENT NO. PM-1

MR. ATTAWAY: I think we're going to get started. I've got a pretty loud voice. This okay for everybody? Everybody okay? All right. Well, good evening, everyone. Welcome to the public meeting of the Autry National Center proposed Griffith Park campus improvement project. I'm David Attaway, and this is Paul Davis. We're with the Department of Recreation and Parks and we'll be overseeing the public meeting tonight. The Department of Rec and Parks is involved as the lead City agency in the environmental review process for the project because the project site is within Griffith Park, of course, and Griffith Park is under the jurisdiction of Rec and Parks. And also, since, I think, late 1980s, the Autry National Center has had a lease agreement with Rec and Parks to operate the museum in Griffith Park. So that's the park association with this process.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to hear from you all, hear your comments and concerns that you have on the draft environmental impact report that was prepared for the proposed project. That document was released for public agency and public review on August 16th, and going through a 47-day review process which will end on October 1st; so we've still got a couple more weeks in the review process. We wanted to have this public meeting to see -- give everybody another opportunity to comment. All your comments will be carefully considered in the completion of the final environmental impact report, and more importantly, they will -- all your comments will be recorded tonight. Pam on my left here, she will be -- she's a stenographer, and she'll be taking all comments that are made at this meeting, and it will be transcribed for the record. What I like to see if everybody has an agenda, kind of gives a nice overview where -- how we have this meeting organized tonight. The -- you know, I'm opening up for the introductions, and then we're going to lead into a brief overview of the project, and then that will open it up to public comments. Now, anybody who had a desire to comment is required to fill out a speaker card, and that's how we'll call everybody up by order of how we receive those cards. And then once the public comment session is over, then I'll have some closing remarks on the overall process and where we're going to be going from here.

So, with that said, what I want to do is talk about some of the ground rules for making a public comment. We have podiums on both sides, so whatever one's convenient for you to speak at, go to the podium, speak in the microphone clearly. Give your name and any affiliation you may have with an organization, so on, so forth. Pam's going to have a real challenge transcribing all this, so please be as clear in your comments as possible, and more importantly, what we want to know is what, again, your comments you have, any concern, and please provide us some level of

detail as to why you have those concerns because then that will allow us to better address -- address your comment. And then also, I am aware that there's some who may be interested in extending this review period, and if there are comments made along those lines, again, please give your reason why you want it extended, some detailed reason so we understand why there's a necessity to extend this review period. Okay?

So Paul, anything else you can think of?

MR. DAVIS: Nothing.

MR. ATTAWAY: Okay. With that said, what I'd like to do is introduce John Gray. He's the president of the Autry National Center. He's going to start off with a brief presentation of the project. John?

MR. GRAY: Thank you very much. And welcome everybody to the Autry National Center and Wells Fargo Theater. My name is John Gray, and I'm the president and CEO of the Autry National Center.

The mission of the Autry National Center is to explore the experiences and perceptions of the diverse peoples of the American west. Tonight's hearing is an important step in the public approval process for the Autry's plans to improve and modernize our site at Griffith Park. This project will further our mission by creating important synergies between the Autry National Center's display, interpretation, conservation, and education roles. We look forward to telling the complex and complicated stories of the American west with an accessible, inspiring, and scholarly campus that provides visitors with a deeper understanding of the art, history, and cultures of the American west. The Autry's plans are exciting and innovative. These improvements will result in an enhanced visitor experience, expanded exhibition and classroom space, and greater educational and research services for visitors and scholars. We intend to create a facility that honors and explores the diverse traditions, ideas, and artifacts that define the American west in an environment in which visitors of every kind feel welcome and represented.

The design takes the Autry from being a museum in a parking lot to a museum in the park. The first thing people will see is green space, native landscaping unique to Griffith Park, and a building that relates far better to its surrounding environment. Importantly, this design enables the true western experience that begins in the beautiful outdoor landscape of Griffith Park without any expansion beyond the site boundary where the museum exists today. We are proud to present a building design that respectfully celebrates the convergence of the diverse cultures that shape the American west. To that end, the Native American voice has been critically important to the Autry's plans. This plan provides greater access to the art and artifacts that tell

the important stories of Native Americans and respects the history of Native Americans in the west by conserving the collection for future generations.

I am thrilled that Brenda Levin is our project architect. She led the historic renovation of Griffith Observatory and has great sensitivities to the community's goals for Griffith Park. Brenda will give you more background about the plans for the building and the new landscaping. Thank you very much, and here is Brenda Levin.

MS. LEVIN: Thanks, John. Tonight I want to give you an overview of the project and plans, and we start with the existing conditions. You arrived through them, so you're fairly familiar. As John said, one of the primary goals of this project is to return the Autry to its park setting. We are moving the -- eliminating the parking along Western Heritage Way and moving to the -- to the south in this area that's a gully of non-useable land.

In phase two, we are adding a two-story parking structure below grade and building a two-story institute which will sit on top of the parking deck. This will expand the green space and landscaping over half of the lid of the parking deck and extend the south lawn and the landscape area. The south lawn will be retained always for public access and expanded, and the horse trail is preserved as well.

I'm pleased to be working with Walter Hood on the landscape design. He describes the project as being four gardens including the interpretive landscape, which is right here, the sacred garden for Native Americans, and the ethnobotanical garden with plantings from the Native American community, and of course, the south lawn. The introduction of all new landscape materials will be native to California.

The design of the building is very close to the existing footprint with two additions, one to the east, and one to the west in the existing parking area as well as the infield of the courtyard. Much of the goal of the project, as John mentioned, is to bring programmatic content out into the landscape and bring the landscape and the outdoors into the museum building and create this truly western experience. The interior of the museum -- this is the entry level, the south and the west courtyard -- will use the museum inside out model, and that means that the inner workings of the museum and storage will be visible to the public bringing visitors closer to the display and objects which will begin just beyond the front door, and this landscape experience, the convergence hall canyon continues through this north-south access of the building. This gives you a view of what that's going to look like.

The exterior of the building finds its roots in the evocative nature of the western landscape, whether that be space, light, horizontality, color, or simplicity of forms. The style will not be set in a specific time or place. Screens around the building forming the perimeter of the site along

with this iconic image of horses will be created in partnership with the Native American -- with a Native American artist.

Among other improvements, there will be a large new community room right here that will be available to the public. The room will be accessible through a new stair that will be installed in the tower and within view of the south lawn just above the cafe.

I'm very excited about this project. I've worked on three projects in Griffith Park, the Observatory, Travel Town, and now the Autry Museum. And in addition to creating a new cultural monument in Los Angeles, this is my backyard as well. I'm a resident of Los Feliz, so thank you very much.

MR. DELVAC: Honorable department staff, William Delvac on behalf of the Autry National Center. Tonight we are in an important juncture in this project when for the first time we begin to hear the public's interest in the project. I think what you will see before you is a thoroughly developed EIR. We commend staff for its hard work on that. Quite strikingly, this is a project that probably could have proceeded on a lower level of environmental review, probably on a mitigated negative declaration, but I think it's evidence of the Autry's commitment to a full and detailed public participation project, and frankly, the department's commitment to the same goal that brings us here tonight to consider the EIR. There is a long process ahead. This is a very important step. The Autry is excited to be here, and if there are any questions or concerns, I'd be pleased to answer them. Thank you very much.

MR. ATTAWAY: Thank you. The next thing is open it up to the audience for public comment. Like I said, we're going to go right through the speaker cards as we received them. Paul will call everybody by name. Just want to emphasize that we are going to have a time limit. That's what this device is going to do over here. We're going to give everybody three minutes to make your comments, and then when -- the red light will come on once it reaches a three-minute mark. Just want to say that this is not a forum for debate. We're here strictly tonight to collect your public comment and not to get into any major dialogue. We'll handle that through the completion of the final EIR. All your comments will be reviewed, evaluated, and addressed in that document. With that said, Paul, go ahead and call the first speaker. And again, you can use either podium. Please state your name, affiliation, so Pam can hear you and get it all recorded.

RESPONSE NO. PM-1

The comment is from the public meeting and welcomes public meeting attendees, gives an overview of the meeting format, and provides a brief overview of the proposed project. No response is required.

COMMENT NO. PM-2

MR. DAVIS: Okay. First speaker is Scott Wilson.

MR. WILSON: My name is Scott Wilson. I have been a member of the Autry since it opened, I believe, and have enjoyed some of the sessions, some of the attractions here, and consider myself to be a friend. I also have been a member of the Southwest Museum for much longer than that, for some 50 years, and I would have to say that I think that my children got a better museum experience at the Southwest Museum than my grandchildren have at the Autry Museum.

I didn't want to start out in the negative because I appreciate the skill and prestige of the architectural designer and the landscape designer. I know them both, and of their -- what they have accomplished in one thing or another. I have some questions. I am a landscape architect. I am involved with the restoration of the Los Angeles River, and I would -- one of the first things, and I don't have this well organized as the prior speakers, but we were talking about the south lawn, and Mr. Hood probably didn't plan on having native grasses for the lawn. I don't know. Native grasses don't make very good turf. A lawn takes up, for the benefit of the audience that doesn't know, a lawn requires some 50 inches of rainfall, and we're going into an increasing drought and shortage of water, and I would think that to minimize that would probably be a better use of the water.

I would hope that this would be a lead building. I hope that the landscaping would be. I would think that the Audubon facility might be a good example of that where it made no demands on the sewer system, it made no demands on the power system, it made no demands on the water system. It's -- it's -- was self-sustaining.

RESPONSE NO. PM-2

Please refer to Response to Comment No. 11-21 for a discussion of the proposed project's LEED aspects. As discussed in Section II, Corrections and Additions, of the Final EIR, the proposed project would include the use of reclaimed water for landscaping. Furthermore, the proposed project may incorporate advanced water conservation measures including the use of sensor/dual flush fixtures to further reduce the proposed project's water demand.

COMMENT NO. PM-3

From -- from one of the -- my suggestion for no project has to do with the environmental part of it, and I touched on that briefly. I would hope that we would be able to -- the grading here runs towards the street. They have indicated a swale at the front to match the swale across the I think it's Griffith Park Drive here, and that would intercept the water that's running downhill. I don't know what happens to it then, but it should go into a cistern perhaps so that the water could be used to water the landscaping. I see that the red light has come on.

RESPONSE NO. PM-3

Please see Response to Comment No. 11-21 for a discussion of the proposed project's inclusion of permeable pavement and bioswales in a manner similar to the Los Angeles Zoo Parking Lot Sustainability Project. Water that flows through the bioswales or permeable pavement would either flow into pipes beneath the surface that would connect to the main existing system or reinforced concrete channel or would infiltrate into the ground. In addition, the proposed project would include the use of reclaimed water for landscaping as an aspect identified by the LEED Green Building Rating System.

COMMENT NO. PM-4

MR. DAVIS: Yes. What we'll do is we'll give others a chance to speak now, and then if there's time permitting at the end of the hearing and you still have further comments, you can come back.

MR. WILSON: One of my concerns would, if I'd had more time -- I didn't expect three minutes. One of my concerns was the fact that there was a beautiful collection of materials that had been assembled over many, many years at the Southwest Museum. It now is in your control, and I would hope that it was kept together and the use of it was maximized so that -- and I would, if I had my druthers, they would be at the Southwest Museum, and then that would make this facility unnecessary. Other places don't take park space. We're short of park space in Los Angeles.

MR. DAVIS: Okay.

MR. WILSON: I'll go.

MR. DAVIS: All right. Thank you.

RESPONSE NO. PM-4

Please see Topical Response F regarding the location of the Collection and its impact on the Southwest Museum.

COMMENT NO. PM-5

Okay. The next speaker I have is Michael Alexander.

MR. ALEXANDER: How do you do? I'm Michael Alexander. I'm a resident of Mount Washington who like prior gentleman's grandchildren went through the Southwest Museum when I was in day camp in the early '50s. I'm also the current chair of the California Arts Council and the director of Grand Performances, which does free concerts in downtown Los Angeles.

I am concerned that we all remember that museums are more than just exhibitions, that they have collections and they have responsibilities to protect and preserve and study those collections, not just for the current time but for the future as well. And that it's my understanding that this, the Southwest Museum was only able to exhibit something in the neighborhood of 1 to 3 percent of its total collection in the exhibit spaces; and so I am also keenly aware that we need a safer space than was in our neighborhood prior -- or today for the preservation of that collection and am confident now that the Autry is going to continue to use the Southwest facility for exhibitions and keep it open for the use by the public and at the same time have a facility where the study and the preservation and the research work can continue to be done in much better environment than the tower where so much of the collection was in terrible danger of being destroyed by rain and rats. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

RESPONSE NO. PM-5

This comment addresses general support for the project and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

COMMENT NO. PM-6

MR. DAVIS: Okay. The next speaker I have is Jenny Krusoe.

MS. KRUSOE: I'm Jenny Krusoe, and I'm the former executive director of the Center for the Arts in Eagle Rock, and I'm the project leader for Legacy LA which is in Hazard Park, and I am probably going to add my voice to what the gentleman said before me, but I would like to read part of a letter that I submitted.

One of the things that I'm very happy about is that the environmental impact report did bring up on page 21 of the executive summary the importance of the collection, and I am in total support of the Autry's proposal -- proposed plan and am grateful that this expansion will protect the collection for generations to come. Over the past two months, I've looked, read almost everything I could find on the Southwest Museum and any public comment and had the opportunity to have three tours of the preservation activities, and I believe strongly that the Autry is taking on the Herculean task of preserving and protecting the integrity of this collection, which is over 250,000 objects. The Autry has developed a plan that's a multiyear plan, and about 60 percent of the objects have been restored or conserved. They also have raised approximately \$4.5 million in foundation and government support to conserve this very important collection, and they have raised -- invested \$2 million in the rehabilitation of the Southwest Museum, which is an incredible landmark and raised another \$2 million. I totally believe that the Autry should be supported in their efforts, all their efforts on behalf of the collection of the Southwest Museum.

I also believe that to preserve the past is to effect the future, and this expansion will allow scholars and visitors and graduate students and Indian communities to study these Native American materials in an environment that is safe for this collection. I believe it is vital that this collection be housed in a state of the art facility, one where it is protected and shared and studied.

Again, I think this community should do everything in its power to support the Autry and this proposal. The cornerstone of the Southwest Museum is a stone incised with the image of a bird with a Spanish proverb that translates to "Tomorrow is the flower of yesterdays," and to me, let's not let this opportunity go by to have a more enlightened future by supporting the Autry at this moment. Thank you.

RESPONSE NO. PM-6

This comment addresses general support for the project and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

COMMENT NO. PM-7

MR. DAVIS: The next speaker I have is --

MS. TYREE: Myriel Tyree.

MR. DAVIS: You got it.

MS. TYREE: Both names are a humdinger. Myriel Tyree. And I'd just like to go on record as saying I also approve of the planned proposal. I love the idea of another classroom because there's only one there that is used by the police and all these different groups, and this facility could use some more room for the public, and I appreciate that the south lawn will remain so that kids can throw their Frisbees and the guy with the bagpipes in the morning can still do his bagpipe thing, and I appreciate that there will be parking in the back, and we definitely need more of that. Even the zoo; right? And -- but most important, I -- I really appreciate that these artifacts that are, you know, you know, a century old and older are being preserved by the Autry National Center which, you know, even though people tried to preserve them, you know, money is not always there; so I do appreciate what is going to be happening hopefully, and I'm all for it.

RESPONSE NO. PM-7

This comment addresses general support for the project and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

COMMENT NO. PM-8

MR. DAVIS: Next speaker is Ann Kelleher.

MS. KELLEHER: Good evening. I'm Ann Kelleher. I'm a docent and a volunteer at the Autry. I've been here since 1989, and I just wanted to say that I think that the design of this building has indeed incorporated the landscape. It is making it a better design than it is today with the trees in front and not all those cars blocking the view of the museum. And I'd like to add that the saving of the Southwest Museum's collection is really prime and I think Mr. Lummis would be delighted in what the Autry is doing for them in saving his building as well as the collection which was in doubt for quite some time. And, again, this is a wonderful learning place for the children of Los Angeles and all the surrounding areas. I myself have probably toured 500 kids through this building. They did not know anything of their heritage in the west, and I think that they came away learning just a little, and I think that this is a wonderful thing. Thank you.

RESPONSE NO. PM-8

This comment addresses general support for the project and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

COMMENT NO. PM-9

MR. DAVIS: Next speaker is Carol Henning.

MS. HENNING: My name is Carol Henning. I'm -- is this on? I'm with the Sierra Club. Okay. Actually, I just have two questions, and the first question is a simple one. Mr. Gray said there would be no expansion beyond the site boundary. How large is it? I've read 10 acres, 11 acres, 13 acres. How much land do you actually have? Does anybody know? How big is this site?

MS. LEVIN: 12.75.

MR. DAVIS: So your comment is that you want to know how big the site is. There's confusion in the document or something? Can you be more specific?

MS. HENNING: You know, newspaper articles, magazine articles, they all seem to have it a little different, and so I just wondered how big it actually is.

RESPONSE NO. PM-9

As stated in Section II, Corrections and Additions, of the Final EIR, the grounds of the Autry National Center's Griffith Park Campus is situated on approximately 11.93 acres of land.

COMMENT NO. PM-10

But let me go on to the second question if nobody can answer the first one, and the second question is: How much of its collection will the Southwest Museum get to exhibit once that facility has been rehabilitated?

MR. ATTAWAY: Well, again, as we indicated at the beginning of the presentation part, all the questions will be recorded tonight and they will be addressed in the final environmental impact report; so we're not in a position to be addressing all those comments tonight in this forum. So make all your concerns known, and I assure you, we will address them as best as possible.

MS. HENNING: All right. Thank you.

RESPONSE NO. PM-10

This comment is part of the transcript from the public meeting held to solicit comments regarding the Draft EIR. Please refer to Topical Response E for a discussion of how the Southwest Museum is not part of the proposed project.

COMMENT NO. PM-11

MR. DAVIS: Next speaker is Marian Dodge.

MS. DODGE: Good evening. The Autry has been here for some time in Griffith Park, and I deplore the continued privatization of public land. Griffith gave this land to the plain people of Los Angeles for their free use, and gradually all of the open space in our parks is slowly being given away to private entities who charge substantial fees for admission to their facilities.

RESPONSE NO. PM-11

Please see Topical Response B, which discusses the ground lease between the City of Los Angeles and the Autry, as well as the relationship of the Griffith Park Campus and the park itself.

COMMENT NO. PM-12

I would echo the sentiments of Mr. Scott regarding moving the -- keeping the collection at Southwest and preserving the open space,

RESPONSE NO. PM-12

Please see Topical Response F regarding the Southwest Collection.

COMMENT NO. PM-13

and then I also have a question for you and that is: What is the City's role in funding regarding the Autry? Thank you.

RESPONSE NO. PM-13

The City of Los Angeles does participate in funding Autry programs. The Autry submits annual proposals to the Cultural Affairs Department of the City for operating grants. In addition, in 2006 the Autry received a one-time grant from the City's Beautification program specifically related to its stewardship of the Southwest.

COMMENT NO. PM-14

MR. DAVIS: The next speaker is Susan Baldwin.

MS. BALDWIN: Thank you. I would like to pass my comment on to the next speaker, and I plan to submit in writing. Thank you.

MR. DAVIS: Okay. Just to make that clear, you're giving your three minutes to Susan Lummis?

MS. BALDWIN: Correct.

RESPONSE NO. PM-14

This comment is acknowledged and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

COMMENT NO. PM-15

MR. DAVIS: Susan Lummis? Okay.

MS. LUMMIS: Thank you for that three minutes.

I'm not used to talking with my back to people, so I'm going to try to cheat out as we say in the theater. I'm Susan Lummis, the director of the Los Angeles Poetry Festival, and my friend over there advised me that I should also mentioned that I'm related to Lummis by virtue of the fact that he was my grandfather.

I have spent some time meeting with people at the Southwest Museum, meeting with people at the Autry, both the people who have the hands-on, do the hands-on work with the actual collection and the archive, and the people at the highest decision making level, and I feel in my judgment they are people of good will, of good faith, of integrity, of good character, and I think good intentions.

At this point I am very optimistic about this expansion for these two reasons. One, the collection cannot remain at the Southwest, with all respect to my grandfather and his brilliant architecture.

They are crowded in there in a way that is frightening. He couldn't have imagined the amount of collectibles that would come into the museum. And these are beautiful things. I wish in three minutes I could convey to people how lovely they are and not just refer to them in this abstract way as the "collection." But they are things made by women working alone, making things of symmetrical beauty and loveliness and should be respected. And there will be space for them so that we can stop worrying about them. That's one thing.

The second thing that interests me is that in this expansion it can become my impression as a center for culture in Los Angeles that it makes both the Southwest and the Autry things greater than they have been so far and they could in fact effect and raise the level of culture in Los Angeles in a way that could conceivably touch all of our lives. I'm very optimistic about that. I won't use the word "excited" because it's used all the time on the late night talk shows. They're excited about; so I'll just say that I'm splendidly hopeful. Thank you.

RESPONSE NO. PM-15

This comment addresses general support for the project and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

COMMENT NO. PM-16

MR. DAVIS: Next speaker is Bill Rumble.

MR. RUMBLE: My name is Bill Rumble, and like Susan Lummis, I am splendidly hopeful for this project. My hope is not based on theory, however. My hope is based on the experience of living with the wonderful project that I think is underway in my neighborhood, Mount Washington. And the process is simply the wonderful restorative efforts that the Autry center is carrying out and saving a real landmark in our community, the Southwest Museum, and I want to extend my appreciation to them for that.

As a director of the Mount Washington Association, we represent several hundred homes up in Mount Washington, and our concern has been that collection. We're just tickled pink with the restorative efforts and the conservation that's been going on, and we see now that that same sensitivity is reflected in the Autry's plan for its Griffith Park project here.

You know, before I retired after 29 years as a bilingual program coordinator and teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District, I brought not simply my daughter but also classes over here and had a wonderful experience each time. With my daughter, who is biracial and who has a Latino mother and a Anglo father, I admit to coming over here with a bit of trepidation concerned that her story or the story of her ancestors would not get a decent -- Latino ancestors would not get a decent telling over here. We met docents, saw the sensitivity in which all groups are represented in this community, and I'm just wonderfully impressed by the attention to the

Native American community reflected in the sacred area of the new plan, the interpretive garden on the way in, and so on.

I have to admit that when my high school students came over here, literally bouncing along the south lawn, there was not the opportunity to reflect. There was simply the south lawn and high school spirits, but you know, this is a special place. It's going to become even better. Equestrians will be able, as I understand, to ride right up to the front of this place and maybe tie up their horses and get out. The Native American population will be represented at an ever increasing level, and I am confident that the sensitivity that I know is represented in the highest levels of the Autry toward bringing the community into this facility and really creating a vibrant 21st century model for a museum will be reflected in this new project. I support it completely, and I hope that after all is said and done with the process end of things that it will receive a resounding support from the community by the City as well.

RESPONSE NO. PM-16

This comment addresses general support for the project and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

COMMENT NO. PM-17

MR. DAVIS: Next speaker is Eliot Sekuler.

MR. SEKULER: Sekuler. That's close enough.

MR. DAVIS: Okay.

MR. SEKULER: My name is Eliot Sekuler, and I am the vice president of the (inaudible) neighborhood council and the communications chair for the Mount Washington Association, and as a -- I'm also the former co-chair of the Southwest Museum Coalition, and as such, I was a very, very vocal opponent of this project for quite some time and spent many times almost in combat with Bill Delvac and John Gray in City Hall and other meeting rooms, and I've come full circle on this project. My initial concerns regarded the Southwest Museum, which is one -- is perhaps the most visible and celebrated building in my neighborhood, Mount Washington, and I was concerned about the preservation of that cultural landmark. I was concerned that the Autry did not have -- was not acting in good faith in terms of its preservation. I was also concerned about the cohesion of the Lummi collection which I truly believe is one of this City's greatest, and I saw it as a either or proposition. I thought that we could either have a revitalized Southwest Museum in Mount Washington or a new facility here. As I say, I've come full circle. I now see it as a win-win for this City. I really believe that we will have a -- I've really come to believe that the Autry does intend to build to revitalize the Southwest Museum in my neighborhood in Mount Washington, show a great deal of that collection and create really a truly

a better and improved cultural landmark on that facility while preserving the vision of the Southwest Museum's founder in doing so. And in addition, I think there are going to be adding an additional cultural resource to this City, one that's based on that important collection which will allow for greater visibility for it. I wholly support this project.

RESPONSE NO. PM-17

This comment addresses general support for the project and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

COMMENT NO. PM-18

MR. DAVIS: Next speaker is Ann Walnum.

MS. WALNUM: I wish to give my time to Scott Wilson so Scott can finish his remarks.

Scott, are you willing to do that? Thank you.

MR. DAVIS: Scott, do you want to do that now?

MR. WILSON: I made most of the points that are recorded of what I was saying before, but I'm quite concerned about the landscaping. Mr. Hood is a fantastic designer and has done all kinds of wonderful things, but not most of them in Southern California and with Southern California vegetation, and this is a concern of mine.

The amount of paving seems to have increased substantially. I don't know how much in looking at the drawings this evening and before, and I would like to see that all of the paving that's put in or all the pavings that exist would be modified and the paving that's put in would be permeable paving so that the water instead of running off into the river carrying all the trash with it would soak into the ground, would be part of the water table, and would make a contribution rather than being a diminishing effect on the water supply that's so critical at this point in time.

RESPONSE NO. PM-18

As discussed in Section IV.D, Hydrology, of the Draft EIR, the proposed project would result in an approximate 5 percent increase in impervious areas over existing conditions. This percentage would be reduced by the parking reduction variance the Autry will seek, which is discussed in detail in Section II, Corrections and Additions, of the Final EIR. Please also see Response to Comment No. 11-21 for a discussion of the proposed project's inclusion of permeable pavement and bioswales in a manner similar to the Los Angeles Zoo Parking Lot Sustainability Project.

COMMENT NO. PM-19

I philosophically do not believe that whether Mr. Griffith, Herb Griffith, planned for museums to be in here. He did put the Observatory in, and so this would seem to open up this kind of a structure, but that's a public structure and that's been noted. I think that for a city that has the smallest amount of park space for any major city in the United States to be giving away pieces of land like this substantial -- I thought it was ten acres. Perhaps it's more. I don't know. But to take it away from the existing park structure that's here I think is a mistake philosophically. I do not believe museums and parks are in the same category, and in other countries and other cities, I find that this is true. Other places have blended together as we have and from an environmental standpoint and from the philosophic standpoint, I suggest that there be no project. Thank you.

RESPONSE NO. PM-19

This comment does not raise specific environmental information related to the project EIR, but is acknowledged and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration. Please refer to Topical Response G regarding the Griffith Park Master Plan. Also refer to Section IV.E, Land Use, of the Draft EIR for a discussion of the proposed uses, the project's consistency with existing land use regulations and polices, and the project's compatibility with surrounding land uses within Griffith Park.

COMMENT NO. PM-20

MR. DAVIS: Okay. The next speaker is Sam Miller.

MS. MILLER: My name is Sam Miller. I represent the Griffith Park Service Association, longstanding member. I come to you with a different perspective. We're not here to talk about the complex, the good, the bad, whether the project is a good idea or not. It's pretty much a forgone conclusion. Our concern is the trails, and we have to admit that we're very pleased to note that all of the thought that has gone into the equestrian trails around the center. As I say, a lot of good thought.

Since the fire a lot of us are having a really hard time and cannot get into the park to ride the trails. That's why this is so important to us. And our concern is: When is this construction going to start? Where are the staging areas? How is this going to affect us with the trails that we have now? Where are the trucks going to be? Where is all this happening? How are the trails that are around there going to be maintained while this construction is going on? We know that hikers have been allowed in by Parks and Rec but for some reason they're not allowing horses in on the same trails. As I say, we don't think construction should start on this when this is approved until we can have access to ride in the park. We'd like to have it addressed as to how long this is going to take, where it is going to start, where the staging areas will be, and what effects that will have on us. Thank you.

RESPONSE NO. PM-20

During construction of the proposed project, the western loop of the existing equestrian trail (that segment which runs immediately west of the Zoo wastewater treatment facility) would be closed for approximately 3 to 4 months around the middle of the Phase 1 construction schedule (months 12 to 16). However, it is likely that this would not be a continuous closure. While this portion of the existing equestrian trail would be closed at times, the existing equestrian trail located in the project vicinity would not be disturbed along the segments adjacent to the freeway and golf courses or along the segment located to the north of the Zoo wastewater treatment facility during either Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the project. Therefore, the existing equestrian trail in the project vicinity, with the exception of the western loop, would remain open and accessible. Furthermore, upon completion of the proposed project, equestrian trails around the project site, including the western loop, would continue to operate and provide access in the same manner as existing conditions.

COMMENT NO. PM-21

MR. DAVIS: The next speaker is, I believe, Samantha Kirkberg. Kirkberg?

MS. KIRKABEE: Kirkeby. I'm a little nervous. I wasn't really going to speak, but I feel like I'd like to. I'm an owner and an avid rider of three horses in the Glendale area. (Inaudible) who's in our audience. I also consider myself a friend of the Autry Museum. My father was a western screenwriter, wrote many John Wayne, Audie Murphy movies, Kirk Douglas movies; so the western culture is very important to me.

I come here tonight with a general feeling of frustration and helplessness with the current situation with our trail system. I feel like our trails is slowly being chipped at, chipped away at and eroded by various -- by all sorts of things. Recently act of God, our fire, but nonetheless, I find myself -- I have three stallions, young, strong horses that need to get up the mountains, and I can't go up there. Today I spent about four hours on the trail, you know, making my way around bikers and joggers and tractors and weed cutters and trucks and buses with the diesel fumes and increasing traffic on Riverside and drums, and I spent a lot of time riding on the streets past the country club today because I'm not allowed on those trails, which I'm confused about. But anyway, that's not your problem really.

My concern with the project is what happens to our very limited trail access now from the Glendale side of the park. During construction phase I would definitely propose that the construction not begin until we have access to our mountain trails and the horse riders have somewhere to go other than endless riding around the golf course, which if I do one more time, my head will explode. I would like to suggest that the people struggling to keep horses here in Los Angeles financially and spiritually are the caretakers and guardians of the modern American west, and the irony is not lost upon me reading this, that "the new design enables a true western

experience" as I struggle to retain my own. And those horses I feel are being pushed more and more out of Los Angeles.

I do applaud the seeming effort to involve horses more in the museum. I'm thrilled about that. It appears there will be actually a new trail in front of the museum in addition to the old trail behind. I'm a little confused about that if there will actually be both trails open when all this is over, but any hundred feet of new trail in the park is a thrill to me and I'm all for it, and it would be great if the Autry Museum and the horse people of Los Angeles could get together more and embrace each other and if the Autry could be more of an advocate and a protector of our modern day cowboys in Los Angeles. Thank you.

RESPONSE NO. PM-21

Please see Response to Comment No. PM-20 for a discussion of effects of the proposed project on surrounding equestrian trails. In addition, please see Response to Comment No. 31-41 for a discussion of how existing equestrian trails around the project site would continue to operate and provide access in the same manner as existing conditions. While the Autry did explore the possibility of designating the proposed park trail, which would run along Western Heritage Way in front of the Campus Building, for equestrian uses, subsequent concerns were raised regarding the compatibility of such uses with groups of school children crossing the trail to and from the bus drop-off area. Therefore, as a result of such concerns, the proposed park trail would not be designated for equestrian uses. This proposed park trail, which would be made of decomposed granite, would be maintained by the Autry, while existing equestrian trails in the vicinity would continue to be maintained by the Department of Recreation and Parks.

COMMENT NO. PM-22

MR. DAVIS: Next speaker is Mark Kenyon. Mark? No Mark. We'll hold it and see if he comes back. We'll go on, then, to Charles Fisher.

MR. FISHER: Good evening. Charlie Fisher. I am a professional historian who been working in Los Angeles for over 20 years. I was born and raised in the Los Angeles area, and the Southwest Museum was always a part of my background growing up on Mount Washington. I presently live in Highland Park.

One of the problems I see with this design besides the obvious issue that we've had with the collection and the distribution of the collection and how it's going to be displayed. When I started really looking at the design for this building, I was actually appalled at the experiment in new brutalism that this particular design is showing. This building I know has been criticized in the past by several architectural groups, but personally, I always found it fairly pleasing in spite of the issues. I feel that what we're looking at in the new design, especially the damage to the tower is appalling. The tower right now has a certain articulation and a certain charm and what

we're looking at in the form of a square box does nothing for me, and I'm sure it will do nothing for those who eventually see it if this design comes to fruition.

RESPONSE NO. PM-22

This comment reflects a more detailed statement regarding the project appearance and tower appearance that was included in the commentor's written comments, Letter 30, of this Final EIR. As such, the comment is addressed in Response to Comment Nos. 30-1 and 30-2. As described in Response to Comment No. 30-2, the tower is proposed to be stripped to its structural frame and re-clad in louvered channel glass, allowing vertical slivers of views through the form. During the day, the glass would take on the hue of the sky, while at night it would glow from internal lighting. While the tower would continue to be the beacon it currently is, it is intended to respond to the characteristics of western light and sky rather than be a representation of an architectural style or element. For this reason, and others stated in Response to Comment Nos. 30-1 and 30-2, the Draft EIR concluded that the change in the project appearance would not have a significant impact on the environment. Notwithstanding, this comment is acknowledged and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

As the design of the project promotes the reuse of existing developed areas and the integration of new construction with existing topography and structures, the end result would be a visually unified project that harmonizes structures and landscaping.

COMMENT NO. PM-23

I'm also appalled that even though the EIR does explore the alternative expansion at the Southwest Museum site and states in the documentation that it is possible and can be done, it states that it does not meet the goals of the Autry, which is basically if you put it down in a nutshell is concentrating everything of importance right here in the Griffith Park site; so I have concerns about the impact of this large expansion in Griffith Park, and I have concerns about the future use and viability of the Southwest Museum site because of these issues.

RESPONSE NO. PM-23

The Alternatives analysis was completed in accordance with the direction set forth by CEQA. In addition, the EIR evaluates all of the potentially significant impacts of the proposed improvements to the Griffith Park Campus. Please refer to Topical Response E for a discussion of the future use of the Southwest Museum.

COMMENT NO. PM-24

But the bottom line also is the particular document does nothing and explores nothing in the possibility of doing some expansion and utilizing both sites together. The document states that it prohibits the Autry from having the interchange of ideas to work with the collection and with the

archeology and the -- but the problem I see is in the 21st century we have a media generation. This is something that companies and corporations and governments do all over the world where people can't necessarily be in the same room, they can certainly use the media to the fullest ability to have conversations and things of this sort. Plus the distance between these two properties is not that far. Somebody needs to quickly drive over from one to the other. It is important that we preserve our history. It is important that we preserve it both through new museums but also through the museums that were historically designed. And, in deference to Mr. Sekuler, I do not believe the present plan meets the vision of Charles Lummis. Thank you very much.

RESPONSE NO. PM-24

Please refer to Topical Response C as well as Response to Comment Nos. 30-5 and 30-6, which address the impact of a decentralized campus as well as the feasibility of Alternative E, Arroyo Campus Expansion. Driving between the two locations would especially impact the proposed project's objective of providing an enhanced visitor experience – it would be nearly impossible to require visitors to drive to two locations in order to gain the full experience of the exhibits.

COMMENT NO. PM-25

MR. DAVIS: Next speaker is Tony.

MR. SCUDELLARI: Thank you, sir. My name's Tony Scudellari. As you can tell, that's why he did not say my last name. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you. I'm a former member of the Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition. I'm also a past president of the Glassell Park Improvement Association and a former co-chair (inaudible) Glassell Park Neighborhood Council.

I think the most important thing which has been addressed is the preservation of this really historic collection, and I know that has already been discussed. And Autry has proven to be a real great historian of this important collection. The work that they were doing to preserve the collection and how it will be used in this new building is really significant, and I think because of that, there needs to be proper space for the artifacts and this new museum quality display space will do that while the Southwest Museum location in Mount Washington right now is not able to do that. The other thing is this proposal of the expansion seems to be sort of the best or the least invasive of the options as far as how it would affect the site; so as far as being able to use the land in Griffith Park, it makes a great deal of sense.

The other thing I'd like to add is having been with planning issues and being part of the Mount Washington Glassell Park specific plan, I know a great deal about the neighborhood in Mount Washington and Glassell Park as far as their concerns about development, and while there have

been people who have been talking about developing a site on Mount Washington, because of the ingress and egress issues of getting on and off the hill and because it's in a very residential area while this is not in a very residential area, you would have a lot more difficulty trying to develop that space versus doing it here. So I just wanted to add those comments. Thank you very much for your time.

RESPONSE NO. PM-25

This comment addresses general support for the project and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

COMMENT NO. PM-26

MR. DAVIS: Before I call the last speaker, I just want to let you know that this is the last one; so as soon as -- we're going to check and see if there were any more cards, but since it is just now 7:30, at the conclusion of this last speaker, if there's anybody that would like to extend their comment, I guess we will open it up to that, and we'll talk about that after this last speaker.

MR. ATTAWAY: As well as anybody that gave up their time, if they would like to speak as well, give you another opportunity.

MR. DAVIS: Okay. So the last speaker right now is Carol Jacques.

MS. JACQUES: Jacques.

MR. DAVIS: Okay.

MS. JACQUES: I'm kind of short. Okay. My name is -- good evening. My name is Carol Jacques, and I was born in Chavez Ravine, raised in Los Angeles, and my family moved west to Griffith Park Boulevard, the west side, and I raised my children in Mount Washington. I am a Chicana. I am an activist. I'm previous president of Mount Washington Association, and I am -- I was one of the founding members of the Friends of the Southwest Museum. I think I even came up with the name.

And I, like Eliot Sekuler and Tony Scudellari, have come full circle. And I truly believe that not everybody is going to get everything they want all of the time and that I trust the Autry and believe one of the things that they've really done that I've been so impressed with is they've become great stewards of the collection, and there's no way that I could support an expansion over there to hold these artifacts. They're precious, and they're doing a wonderful job of preserving and conserving, and they're going to be great stewards for the future because the truth of the matter is that the previous caretakers for many, many years did not care for the building.

They didn't -- I mean, they cared for it with their heart, but they didn't care for it with what it needed to preserve the building and conserve the building and preserve and conserve the artifacts; and so I think if we care about the Southwest Museum, and certainly we do, the Autry has made commitments to make it a vibrant public destination. They've committed to have a public space for exhibiting these exhibits, and they've done a wonderful job here at the Autry.

Even, I think, the name of their magazine "Convergence" talks about what we're doing now. We have so many people in Los Angeles, and we have to find ways to get along and, you know, have little green space and preserve our artifacts for the children and the generations that come; so I just want to say that I totally support -- I think it was very well put by Jenny Krusoe and by Mr. Lummis's granddaughter as well as those of us that have truly come full circle and are here in total support of the Autry. This is an excellent design. It doesn't take up a lot of space. It's underground parking. There's place for the horses. There's more educational room. I just say: What's not to love here? Thank you so much for your time.

RESPONSE NO. PM-26

This comment addresses general support for the project and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

COMMENT NO. PM-27

MR. DAVIS: All right. So I guess at this point if anybody would like to add to their comments or if someone hasn't spoken yet and would like to take an opportunity, just make sure that you announce who you are and feel free to, and we'll basically keep it to three minutes. But is there anybody that would like to speak further? Go ahead.

MS. BALDWIN: Thank you. My name is Susan Baldwin, and I'm pleased to be here tonight, sort of reemerged into this scene after an absence, sort of a long absence, and a lot of friends here. I'm glad to be here. And I just want to say that I actually live on Museum Drive and have for 14 years and one of -- from the very beginning, I noticed that that was a jewel of the neighborhood and such a beautiful historic building, and it always made me a little sad going there, though, because I couldn't understand why nobody was visiting the Southwest Museum. And then after doing a little research and knowing more about the neighborhood, becoming more involved in the community, I realized that it was just -- it was suffering. Again, bad stewardship. Not that they didn't care. Not enough money, not enough resources, and then to come to find out that there was this incredible collection there that needed preservation and care and nobody was coming up, nobody was stepping up to the plate. And when the Autry moved in and decided to buy that space and the collection, I thought, "Thank God. Somebody is doing it. Somebody is finally taking charge."

So from the beginning I understood everyone's concern about what was going to happen to the collection, what was going to happen to that building, and now I haven't really come full circle.

RESPONSE NO. PM-27

This comment is acknowledged and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

COMMENT NO. PM-28

I still was maintaining the fact that I would like and still concerned about the building and the space and that a lot of the historic architecture of the building be maintained as much as possible and that –

RESPONSE NO. PM-28

There is no evidence that the Autry has failed or would fail to maintain the Southwest. Rather, the Autry has undertaken a number of steps in its stewardship of the Southwest as noted in Section IV.C, Cultural Resources, of the Draft EIR.

COMMENT NO. PM-29

but I'm thrilled that this new expansion will be taking place that will preserve and manage this incredible exhibit. So thank you, and I'm in full support of the expansion. Thank you.

RESPONSE NO. PM-29

This comment addresses general support for the project and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

COMMENT NO. PM-30

MR. DAVIS: Anybody else?

MS. WALNUM: Please. I'll take back two minutes of my time. I am Ann Walnum. I drive on Museum Drive every day. I am one of two cofounders of the Friends of Southwest Museum Coalition. At a recent meeting almost everybody you heard tonight who said, "I've gone full circle from my original support of the Friends of Southwest Museum Coalition" were expressing the same viewpoint, but there were PM other people who retain their support for our Friends of Southwest Museum Coalition's stand that two rooms at Southwest Museum building are not enough for a museum. Thank you.

RESPONSE NO. PM-30

While not a part of the proposed project, the Autry has stated that it intends to devote at least two galleries of the Southwest Museum to exhibition rather than no more than two rooms.

COMMENT NO. PM-31

MR. DAVIS: Before I ask for any more speakers, I just want to try one more time. Is Mark Kenyon in the room? No. Guess he retired. Anybody else that would like to take this opportunity to speak?

MR. ATTAWAY: Well, if it's down to the final session here, the closing remarks, what I'd like to say, thank you for all those comments, and actually what I'd like to do is just go to the graph over here, kind of tells it all. This is an overview of the CEQA process, California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA. Shows right here the process starting here and we're now at the 40-day -- 45 -- actually 47-day review period. We just had our public meeting tonight; so the review process is still at this point going to close on October 1st; so I encourage you if there's any other comments that you'd like to present, put them in writing, send them to the address on the notice of intent, notice of availability that you received in the mail, and again, those will all be considered as part of this process. Again, as I indicated earlier, all your comments tonight will be considered, evaluated, and responded to to the greatest extent practical in the final EIR that will be prepared.

What I'd like to do is make sure that everybody in attendance tonight that you signed in because that's going to be critical to notifying you of the upcoming decision making process. What's going to happen with the final EIR once it's completed is that it will go to the Board of Rec and Park commissioners, and they will consider the project for approval as well as certification of the final EIR. And because the lease agreement that the department has with the office of national senator to require modification, that's going to require that this final EIR, the final decision on this process -- project, rather, is going to have to go to the city council.

So what in essence is going to happen is the board meeting will be a public meeting, and then en route to the city council, it has to go through a council committee. The -- which one is that, Paul? The Arts, Parks, and Health and Agent Committee. That's a public forum, and then ultimately it will go to the city council for the final decision on the project and certification of the EIR. So every one of those steps in the process is a public forum open for public comment, so you have some additional opportunities in the future if you want to present your concerns to the issues.

So with that said, that pretty much concludes our meeting tonight. Again, make sure that you've signed in because you won't be noticed of the board meeting. We have control over that part of it. Everybody has an interest in this project, we'll notify you of the board meeting. The council

meeting will be a little more difficult for us because that's run through the city courts process, but we'll do the best we can to keep you informed along the way. Paul, anything else come to mind?

MR. DAVIS: Think you got it.

MR. ATTAWAY: John, what I'm going to ask, if you want to provide an opportunity to go over, people can come and look at the design plans and if they have any comments, Brenda? So anybody like to come back here after we conclude public meeting, come back and ask any questions and they will answer to the best of their ability. Yes. Anybody have any questions at this point?

RESPONSE NO. PM-31

The comment provides a brief overview of the environmental review process for the proposed project and invites attendees to ask questions concerning the proposed project after the meeting. As such, no response is required.

COMMENT NO. PM-32

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just happened to walk in. I been at another meeting here at Griffith Park.

I'm not -- I didn't quite get the gist of what's really -- how much time are you -- do you believe you're waiting for before we can actually start construction on this project? The reason I'm asking this is because I started asking the same questions when they were renovating the Observatory, and then back in 1992, I finally made the recommendation that they should start the project before I die of old age; so I'm hoping that we can get some action here so all of us people -- because it seems to me that every time there's a project that someone making it, takes us forever to get us off the ground. So is anything that we can do so you can really push this and expedite this so we can get this thing off the road? I mean, I'm not going to wait forever either.

RESPONSE NO. PM-32

This comment is acknowledged and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration.

COMMENT NO. PM-33

MR. DAVIS: That's a good question. What we're going to do is we're going to go ahead and officially close the public hearing and then what I'd like to do is just allow you to address your question with that record rather than us trying to answer that question directly. I don't know. We don't know the answer to that question. There's a lot of steps which actually go beyond the

CEQA process; so it's probably best addressed to the architect or someone at the Autry to ask them how that's going to go.

So that officially closes the public hearing. Feel free to stick around and talk to the proponents if you so choose.

MR. ATTAWAY: Thank you for your time. Have a good evening.

RESPONSE NO. PM-33

This comment closes the public meeting and invites attendees to ask questions concerning the proposed project. As such, no response is required.