

INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

August 01, 2024

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>
Griffith Park Pony Ride comments		Referred to General Manager
1) Ron Bitzer comments regarding Homeless Campers' Incidents at Alexandria Park and Laurel Grove Park	#9679	Referred to General Manager
2) Fred Jacob comments regarding Huge Amounts of Sand on the Bike Path of Venice Beach	#9680	Referred to General Manager
3) Dawn Wolf Socha comments regarding the Griffith Park Bridge Home Shelter	#9681	Referred to General Manager
4) D Chew comments regarding the Griffith Park Bridge Home Shelter	#9681a	Referred to General Manager
5) Jymie Darling comments regarding Noise Complaint coming from LAEC	#9682	Referred to General Manager
6) George the Great comments regarding Power Washing for Echo Park	#9683	Referred to General Manager
7) Coco Kest comments regarding Renovation for the Big Dog Park at Rosendahl Park	#9684	Referred to General Manager

8) Helen Fallon comments regarding Playground on Venice Ocean Front Walk	#9685	Referred to General Manager
9) Robin Murez comments regarding Venice Beach Playground	#9685a	Referred to General Manager
10) Preserving Public Places Committee comments regarding Venice Beach Playground	#9685b	Referred to General Manager
11) Yael Pardess comments regarding the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project	#9686	Referred to General Manager
12) Peter Keusch comments regarding the Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project	#9686a	Referred to General Manager
13) Regina Williams comments regarding the LAEC Rate Increase Proposal	#9687	Referred to General Manager
14) Mauro Gracia comments regarding Park Service Request for Sycamore Grove Park	#9688	Referred to General Manager
15) Ron Bitzer comments regarding the Valley Plaza Park Stormwater Capture Project	#9689	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Rosa Cartagena, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: North Hollywood Fact Pattern

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Ron Bitzer <

Tue, Jul 16, 2024 at 7:32 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 Sun, Jul 14, 2024 at 1:04 PM Ron Bitzer < > wrote:
Council District #2 staff should be able to assist and help RAP staffers with the attached fact pattern. Ron Bitzer, North Hollywood

Embargoed until July 18, 2024

Ron Bitzer,

North Hollywood Homeless campers at 6911 North Laurel Grove Ave. now use two or more hijacked City resources 24/7: namely (a) the shaded patio of a City Recreation and Parks full time office building and (b) dead branches from Park treesused for fuel. The “kitchen” area includes a spice rack.

A homeless encampment at a public office has created anxiety among City RAP Valley Sports employees.



The number of campers on Laurel Grove Ave. has been steadily increasing --- a possible “spillover” effect following five recent City clean ups at nearby Valley Plaza Rec Center, Alexandria Park and Laurel Grove Park (Oct. 16, March 27, May 23, June 12, July 10).

On July 12th before 12 noon LA Fire Department crews responded to a report of a grass fire near the 170 freeway. A motorist was apparently traveling north when the incident unfolded. Although passengers view this park 24 hours a day, the freeway --- constructed on 90+ acres of park land in the 1960s ---- allows most travelers to ignore the homeless and the Park by virtue of the speed of their vehicles.

RAP female office workers, on the other hand, point to the plexiglass barrier between them and visitors / patio campers just feet way. The Mayor’s Office has deferred any action by the City for 90 days, it has been reported.



Evidence of the freeway-adjacent fire
July 12, 2024

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Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Bike path North of Venice Beach IS FULL OF SAND !

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Fred Jacob <

Tue, Jul 16, 2024 at 8:42 AM

Good Morning,

You may also visit the MyLA311 website to create a service request at: <https://lacity.gov/myla311>

On Mon, Jul 15, 2024 at 2:23 PM Fred Jacob < > wrote:

The path is heavily laden with sand and very dangerous. I almost skidded and fell while riding my bike at a slow speed today.
It appears that maybe one of your vehicles dropped huge amounts of sand (in error?). The path is laden with sand for at least a mile, leading to Santa Monica Pier.

Your office needs to address this as an emergency.

Fred Jacob



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: How 'NonProfits' Became Big Business /Riverside Bridge House Shelter

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: DW Socha < >

Wed, Jul 17, 2024 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 and staff.

On Wed, Jul 17, 2024 at 8:46 AM DW Socha < > wrote:

Attached is an article I hope you read, which mentions PATH, the beneficiary of the Riverside Bridge Home Shelter. The city has invited this chaos into Griffith Park South and the taxpaying citizens are paying the price in more than one way.

The Ambassador Program will just kick the can down the road, while PATH stands there with its hand out for another year. **Their next pitch will be to have permanent supportive housing built on the site, which they will of course own.**

https://www.westsidecurrent.com/opinion/column-los-angeles-neglects-quality-of-life-for-all-homeowners-businesses-and-commuters-left-to/article_b95e616a-41f3-11ef-9b0d-bb33bef81395.html

From: DW Socha < >
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 4:55:38 PM
To: Jimmy.Kim@lacity.org <Jimmy.Kim@lacity.org>; Brenda.Aguirre@lacity.org <Brenda.Aguirre@lacity.org>; Takisha.Sardin@lacity.org <Takisha.Sardin@lacity.org>; RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>; RAP.COMMISSIONERS@LACITY.ORG <RAP.COMMISSIONERS@LACITY.ORG>
Subject: Riverside Bridge House Shelter

*Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department
Office of Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 86328
Los Angeles, CA 90086-0328*

I was at the Rec and Parks Public meeting last week and made public comment about the Riverside Bridge House. As you consider whether or not to offer a one year extension on this lease, I wanted to follow up on Commissioner Simril's question re: Community Engagement.

Last night, I attended the Homelessness Committee meeting which is held every month at the Los Feliz Library. It struck me that Amanda Blide (committee member) and Indu Subaiya (Chairperson) didn't seem to know that A) the Bridge House is on Parks land; B) that a fire had happened inside the shelter, which damaged part of the interior and endangered lives; C) people who enter the shelter are only supposed to be there for 160 days, yet some have been kept there for years; D) the shelter is not operating at capacity.

I mention this because last month, this committee meeting didn't even have time set aside for public comment, so the meeting was simply theater in which the people sitting at the table told the community members what was what. Then this month, the community had to enlighten these supposed leaders about what this shelter has actually degenerated into. There is a HUGE disconnect between the Neighborhood Council and the community.

Please deny the extension of this lease.... for all of us. Apparently, there are 1200 empty city units (according to the Westside Current) that can become the permanent homes for the people at the Riverside Bridge House. Please force the city to make use of them.

Thank you

Dawn wolf Socha



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: July 18, 2024 - Item 4 - General Public Comment (Continued Comment of 6/20/2024 - Item 24-140 - Bridge Housing- Extension)

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: D Chew <

Fri, Jul 19, 2024 at 9:43 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 Thu, Jul 18, 2024 at 2:18 PM D Chew <

July 18, 2024 - Item 4 - General Public Comment
(Continued Comment of 6/20/2024 - Item 24-140 - Bridge Housing- Extension)

Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners,

I appear in front of you again to address the travesty of the "Bridge Housing Project" located at 3210 and 3248 Riverside Drive. Eventhough this is an emergency use, it must be removed. The time allotted has lapsed and is endangering the property's purpose of passive recreation and the City's right of land ownership.

1896, Griffith J. Griffith deeded the land over to the City of Los Angeles. The Deed is framed in the City's Archive. To paraphrase "the lands to be used as public park for the purpose of recreation, health, and pleasure for the use and benefits for the inhabitants of said City of Los Angeles, forever", if not the lands will revert back to the Griffith Family.

Nowhere has this project extended the purpose of Griffith Park. The project has and if not corrected will revoke Griffith's Deed. The project has not helped the recreation, the health, and pleasure of its use to Los Angelenos. Facts are that people have been restricted because of the project. People don't recreate near the property. People walk their dogs on the opposite side of Riverside Drive because of the danger. It's unhealthy to be around the project, non-beneficial trash is found. Angelenos are not pleased that this project has not met its goals. You should walk over to view the project yourselves, remember that 84% of the unhoused have been there since the opening.

My desire is that the present Griffith Park Adult Community Center, 3203 Riverside Drive, be housed in a permanent facility, that isn't in a double wide trailer. The other 28 Senior Centers can offer much more to their citizens. Their facility has a nutrition program that feeds participants and walk-ins, the Griffith Park Center is small and is limited. We were promised a senior center and were to break ground. The limit of use, programs, and activities are because its the size and appeal. WE NEED TO BUILD A SENIOR CENTER, NOT TO BE WITHHELD.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Noise complaint

1 message

LA Parks Public Information <RAP.PublicInfo@lacity.org>

Thu, Jul 18, 2024 at 9:39 AM

To: Jymie Darling <

Cc: Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>,

< >, Lesa Williams <l

<

>

, Leigh Claywell
>, Kaelya Sommer

Hello,

Thank you for contacting us. You may reach out to the center at 818-840-9063. You can also contact Griffith Park at 323-644-2050.

Thank you,

Neyda

On Wed, Jul 17, 2024 at 5:08 PM Jymie Darling <

> wrote:

Dear RAP and Mayor Bass,

The Los Angeles Equestrian Center has repeatedly caused a noise in traffic complaints in the residential area right outside the equestrian center. Today they had an event in a small building that had a live band and a DJ who was screaming into the mic.

The noise level is far beyond what the tiny little White House needs and permeated my condo on the perimeter outside the center. It was also disruptive to riders in the rancho.

I have filed a noise complaint and nuisance complaint with the Los Angeles police department today also

Can you please get the management who does not want to be good neighbors, to comply with noise ordinances within the city limits and residential areas. Thank you.

Jymie Darling

Sent from my iPhone

Department of Recreation and Parks**Public Information Office**Email: rap.publicinfo@lacity.org

Phone: 213-202-2700

Website: www.laparks.org

Follow us on social media for everything under the sun at LA Parks!





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Power Washing of Filthy Areas

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: George The Great <

Fri, Jul 19, 2024 at 12:28 PM

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 Fri, Jul 19, 2024 at 12:10 PM George The Great < > wrote:
Your attention is greatly appreciated regarding the matter in the video attached.

The kids area needed cleaning before the Lotus Festival. None given. Except for the benches which were touched up. Now, after the festival, it is worse.

Video taken on a Monday, July 15, 2024.

 [nocareputinkidsarea.mp4](#)

Tax Payers
Community Members
On behalf of parents who take their kids to play in this area.

On Tue, Jul 9, 2024, 3:02 PM George The Great < > wrote:
This is another follow-up of a previous follow-ups.

1. Power Washing and general cleaning of the area mentioned in the video.
2. Most of the signs in city park limits have graffiti on them.
3. We have been observing and recording the work painters have been doing. They are touching up and not necessarily painting benches, walls and other areas completely. We advice that a supervisor checks restrooms and washing areas, benches around kids play area. Dirt/grime in corners and gaps on benches were left as it was. Should have powered wash benches to remove any dirt, leaves, and or gime.
4. All the resources going into preparing the park for the Lotus Festival. Why not do it right away? This is the only time the park gets this much attention.
5. Restrooms stink even in early hours. They are filthy.

 [powerwashingwherebirdpoop.mp4](#)

As always,

Tax payers
Park Goers
The Community United

On Mon, Jul 8, 2024, 4:16 PM George The Great < > wrote:
We are following up on this issue.
Reported a few times to park's commissioner.

We hope that something is done this time since today a lot of parks and recreation activities are going on, due to Lotus Festival.

 [Badpaintingwasharea.mp4](#)



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Bill Rosendahl Del Rey Park - Dog Park

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jul 25, 2024 at 7:13 AM

To: Coco Kest <

Good morning,

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

On Sat, Jul 20, 2024 at 4:38 PM Coco Kest <

> wrote:

Re: Bill Rosendahl Del Rey Park

Dear LA Parks and Recreation Commissioners,

Following is the issue at the large dog park that we have been frustrated with for over 2 years. We have contacted the Del Rey Community Council, Councilwoman Traci Park's Office (Jacob Burman and Matt Halden) and numerous people at Los Angeles City Parks and Recreation Department. The few times that have responded to the many people that have contacted these representatives we don't get answers. We are reaching out to the you for your help is resolving this issue.

- Petition (attached) "We, the undersigned, would like the "Big Dog" park at Rosendahl Park in Del Rey opened to increase the area for our dogs to run. The large dog park has been petitioned off for over 2 years awaiting renovation. The new fencing and gates have been installed, yet the park still only remains half opened. Guests of the dog park have called, emailed, and left voice mails for the City, asking for a time-line and for reasons for not opening the "Big Dog" park during construction while the "Smal Dog" Park remained open. Most. attempts at communication have gone unanswered. We are asking that the park's temporary fencing be removed immediately so that our dogs can run the length of the original park and people can use the benches. We are also asking for an updated time-line and a list of future updates"

More than 100 dog owners have signed the petition. These signatures were collected over 2 days and 3 hours in the dog park and represents a fraction of the people who use the large dog area on a regular basis.

- On October 6, 2022 the Board of Parks and Recreation Comissioners approved the allocation of \$742,978.01 for renovation at the Bill Rosendahl Del Rey Park (attached) which included the completion of the closed off section of the large dog park. Traci Park was supportive of the project. The improvements were to begin in the Winter of 2023, work was started not until January 2024. Work is now completed, but the restrictive fencing remains.

- We have heard, that a shade structuret, that will cost over \$100,000 and not necessary, will be installed in the newly renovated section. The plans are currently in review with planning and safety. Given our experience in the years it has taken to do the improvements this could take months to be completed. There are currently no obstructions in the e.g. holes in the ground for pylons, pre-construction material that represent a safety issue for people or dogs to use the renovated section of the park.

Over the past 2 years many people have written and phoned various LA City Departments and we have, if ever, had our calls returned or correspondence acknowledged. What we are asking is very simple - removed the fence and allow us and our dogs full access to the large dog section. When the shade structure is ready to be installed fence it off again Give us some idea of when we will again have full access. Any help you can give me and a 100+ dog parents would very much appreciated.

Coco Kest

<Petition to open unopened part of the Del Rey Rosendahl Park "big dog park".pdf>
<22-259.pdf>

APPROVED

OCT 06 2022

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 22-259

DATE October 06, 2022

C.D. 11

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: BILL ROSENDAHL DEL REY PARK – OUTDOOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS (PRJ21649) PROJECT – COMMITMENT OF PARK FEES – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(1) [INTERIOR OR EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS INVOLVING REMODELING OR MINOR CONSTRUCTION WHERE THERE BE NEGLIGIBLE OR NO EXPANSION OF USE], CLASS 2 [REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING STRUCTURES WHERE THE NEW STRUCTURE WILL BE LOCATED ON THE SAME SITE AS THE STRUCTURE REPLACED AND HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME PURPOSE AND CAPACITY], CLASS 4(12) [MINOR TRENCHING AND BACKFILLING WHERE THE SURFACE IS RESTORED] AND CLASS 11(6) [CONSTRUCTION OR PLACEMENT OF MINOR STRUCTURES ACCESSORY TO (APPURTENANT TO) EXISTING COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL OR INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15301(a), 15302, 15304(f) AND 15311 OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz _____ M. Rudnick _____
H. Fujita _____ *fu* C. Santo Domingo *DF*
B. Jackson _____ N. Williams _____



General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

If Approved: Board President *Sylvia Pagan* Board Secretary *Sakiko Sarden*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the scope of work and the total budget of the Bill Rosendahl Del Rey Park – Outdoor Park Improvements (PRJ21649) Project (Project), as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Authorize Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to commit from the fund and work order numbers a maximum of Seven Hundred Forty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy Eight Dollars and One Cent (\$742,978.01) in Park Fees for Project;

<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>	<u>FUND/DEPT./ACCT. NO.</u>	<u>WORK ORDER NO.</u>
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP000818

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<u>FUNDING SOURCE</u>	<u>FUND/DEPT./ACCT. NO.</u>	<u>WORK ORDER NO.</u>
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP001779
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002239
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002776
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002563
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002681
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002396
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002366
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002850
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002438
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002837
Park Fees	302/89/89716H	QT072298
Park Fees	302/89/89716H	QT073387
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002185
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002836
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002745
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002856
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	QP002912

3. Approve the Project to be bid and constructed through the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) list of pre-qualified on-call contractors;
4. Approve the authorization of change orders as authorized under Board Report No. 06-136, for the construction contracts for this Project in the budget contingency amounts for such contracts as stated in this Report;
5. Determine that the project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1) [Interior or exterior alterations involving remodeling or minor construction where there be negligible or no expansion of use], Class 2 [Replacement of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and have substantially the same purpose and capacity], Class 4(12) [Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored] and Class 11(6) [Construction or placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing commercial, industrial or institutional facilities] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15301(a), 15302, 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;

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6. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing a Notice of Exemption (NOE); and
7. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

SUMMARY

Bill Rosendahl Del Rey Park is located at 4601 Alla Road in the West Los Angeles community of the City. This park is approximately 4.80 acres which provides tennis courts, basketball courts, children's play area, dog park, a restroom building and picnic area. Approximately 3,504 residents live within a one-half (½) mile walking distance of Bill Rosendahl Del Rey Park. Due to the facilities, features, programs, and services it provides, Bill Rosendahl Del Rey Park meets the standard for a Community Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan

PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of work of the Project includes the following:

- Installation of shade over play area and in dog park.
- Improvements to turf in dog park areas.
- Installation of new storage/maintenance shed.
- Replacement of tennis court windscreen.
- Improvements to fencing.
- Installation of picnic areas with shade.
- Irrigation upgrades and improvements to site drainage.
- Replacement of the pour-in-place surfacing around the children's play area.

The Office of Council District 11 is supportive of the proposed Project.

PROJECT FUNDING

Upon approval of this Report, Seven Hundred Forty- Two Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy Eight Dollars and One Cent (\$742,978.01) in Park Fees can be committed to the proposed Project, which will be the total budget for this Project, inclusive of the budget contingency amounts recommended for authorization above.

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See below the anticipated pre-qualified on-call contract(s) and budget contingency amount(s) that will be used for the Project:

On-Call Contract	Contingency Amount
Park Facility Construction	\$81,000.00
Playground Construction	\$22,000.00

The Park Fees were collected within five (5) miles of Bill Rosendahl Del Rey Park, which is the standard distance for the commitment of Park Fees for community recreational facilities pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.33 E.3.

FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

Source	Fund/Dept/Acct	Amount	Percentage
Park Fees	302/89/89718H	\$ 607,246.56	82%
Park Fees	302/89/89716H	\$135,731.45	18%
Total		\$742,978.01	100%

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

RAP Staff has determined that sufficient funding has been identified for the Project and construction is anticipated to begin in Winter 2023.

TREES AND SHADE

It is not anticipated that the proposed Project will impact the existing trees at Bill Rosendahl Del Rey Park. The proposed Project plans to add shade to the play area, dog park and future picnic areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists for the following:

- exterior alterations involving minor construction where there be negligible or no expansion of use;
- replacement of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and have substantially the same purpose and capacity;
- minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored;
- placement of minor structures accessory to (appurtenant to) existing institutional facilities.

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According to the parcel profile report retrieved September 19, 2022, this area resides in a liquefaction zone, but the construction of this Project will not create conditions that could lead to liquefaction. The site is also in the coastal and methane zone. The project, however consists of maintenance of outdoor structures and the construction of a small shed. The project will be constructed according to City of Los Angeles building code and will not affect coastal resources or expose the public or park staff to increased methane seepage. Therefore, there is no reasonable possibility that the proposed Project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern or have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. No other known projects would involve cumulatively significant impacts, and no future projects would result from the proposed Project. As of September 19, 2022, the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Envirostor at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWCB) (Geotracker at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>) have not listed the Project site or any contaminated sites near the Project area (within 500 feet). According to the Caltrans Scenic Highway Map there is no scenic highway located within the vicinity of the proposed Project or within its site. Furthermore, the proposed Project is not located in proximity of a known historical resources and will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historical resource.

Based in this information, staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners' (Board) determines that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1), Class 2, Class 4(12) and Class 11(6) of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(a), 15302, 15304(f) and 15311 of California CEQA Guidelines. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of this commitment of Park Fees will have no fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund. The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by Park Fees or funding sources other than RAP's General Fund. The maintenance of the proposed park improvements can be performed by current staff with minimal impact to existing maintenance service at this facility.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

Goal No. 1: Provide Safe and Accessible Parks

Outcome No. 2: All Parks are Safe and Welcoming

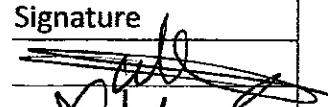
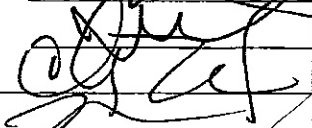
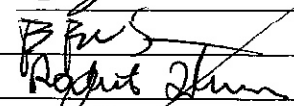
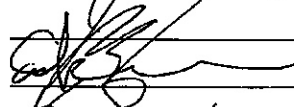
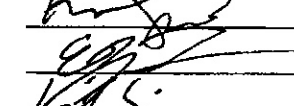
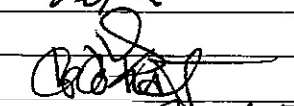
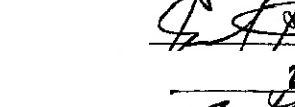
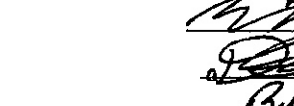
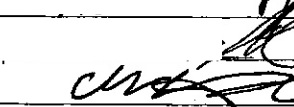




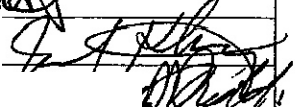
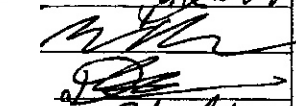


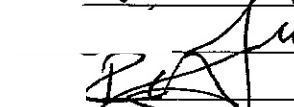


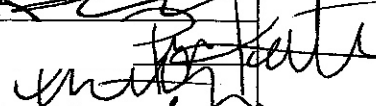
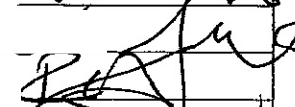


Result: The installation of these improvements will enhance the park users' experience.

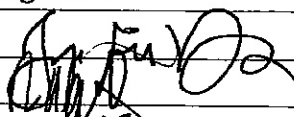
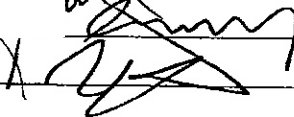
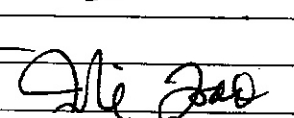
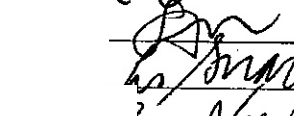
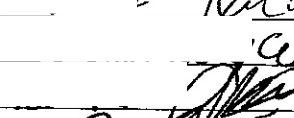
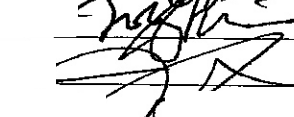
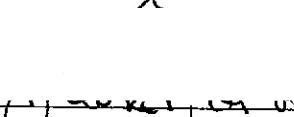

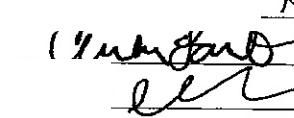

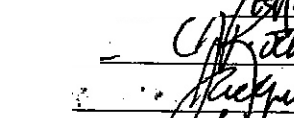
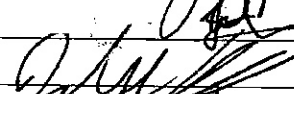

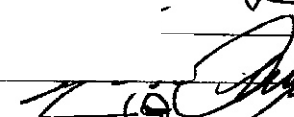
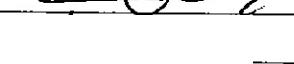


This report was prepared by Meghan Luera, Senior Management Analyst I, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

Signatures were from Friday June 28 - July 1

Purpose of the Petition: We, the undersigned, would like the "Big Dog" park at Rosendahl Park in Del Rey opened to increase the area for our dogs to run. The large dog park has been petitioned off for over 2 years awaiting renovation. The new fencing and gates have been installed, yet the park still only remains half opened. Guests of the dog park have called, emailed, and left voice mails for the City, asking for a time-line and for reasons for not opening the "Big Dog" park during construction while the "Small Dog" Park remained open. Most attempts at communication have gone unanswered.

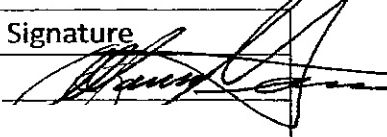

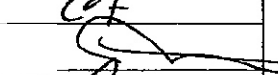

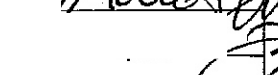

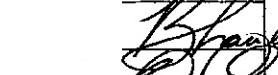
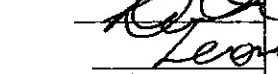

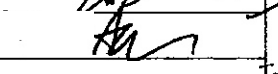


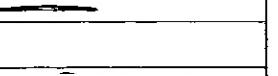






We are asking that the park's temporary fencing be removed immediately so that our dogs can run the length of the original park and people can use the benches. We are also asking for an updated time-line and a list of future updates.

Name	Address	Signature
Ayda Motewajeh		
James Crosby		
Christian Hunt		
Jonny Blosson		
Bradley Bush		
Robert Frashure		
Jason Justice		
Erika DeMartini		
Karissa Swartz		
Ezra Quintal		
Vincent Kyj		
Utsav Benatwala		
Ecco West		
Jadynne Kroskity		
Michael Rinaldi		
Mara Bogge		
Daniel Chen		
Rebecca Chen		
M. Bean		
Christopher Chen		
Puja Kantawala		
Kristal Haddadon		
Jordan Messer		
Rachel Hinkle		

Name.	Address	Signature
Jade Domingo		
Jason Pellack		
Aaron Munoz		
Tyler Larson		
Josh Katz		
Julie Tsao		
SARA THORNTON		
Luisa Suarez		
LYNIE UBOA		
Erin Farrell		
Chinchire Navarrete		
TONY SUAREZ		
Jen Huh		
DAN GOLDEN		
MATTHEW HARRICKS		
VITORIA TURBELLO		
Jessica Davis		
Robert Soloway		
ANDREW McALLISTER		
AUDRA LAMB		
Isabel Nguyen		
Elliot Lupin		
Roberts Velis		
Gynda Nowilkow		
Rockelle Robertson		
Jackie Stanley		
Josh Nowilkow		
John Kezda II		
Aimee Marguardt		
Natalija Stojanovic		
Priya Sathya		
Julia Nani		
Angela Stark		
Joe Riven		
Michael Kowalski		

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Name	Address	Signature
Alfonso Guerrero		
Thomas Avalos		
Celia Williamson		
Don McGee		
Judy Micklewright		
Jason Micklewright		
Brook Cameron		
James Lin		
Nancy Lachley		
Silvia Lopez		
Blairade Martebello		
Danny Moore		
LEON WOOD		
YECHIN Zhu		
Leah Dennis		
Alvin Wee		
Sumantra Saas		
Jessica Scholl		
Chris Umber		
Mario R. Paredes		
Livia Costas		
William Gambles		
Kathy Newner		
Mitchell Huckaby		

Name.

Address

Signature

Sheth Keith Wallace

Jayke Yasunaga

Laure Brazee

Patricia Gonzalo Ruiz

CAROLYN EMOLLE

Cynthia G.

Heidi Shin

BEIRAT UT

TODD Reynolds

Nelle Cooke

KATHIA BEYHAM

LUCIA MORALES

Eric Krakrot

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

6 Lucia Morales
[Signature]



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Replacement of Playground on Venice Ocean Front Walk

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jul 25, 2024 at 8:01 AM

To: Fallon <

Cc: "matthew.rudnick@lacity.org" <matthew.rudnick@lacity.org>, "jimmy.kim@lacity.org" <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>, Sean Silva <sean.silva@lacity.org>, Juan Fregoso <Juan.Fregoso@lacity.org>, "craig.raines@lacity.org" <craig.raines@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 Sat, Jul 20, 2024 at 4:53 PM Fallon <

> wrote:

Dear Commissioners: The stated goal of the City of Los Angeles' Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) is to develop additional "Accessible Play" playgrounds (laparks.org/uap). The replacement of the OFW playground MUST be universally accessible and fully inclusive. Currently there are only a few such playgrounds available, only two in CD11, but none in Venice. The nearest one to Venice is a neighborhood playground on Alla in Del Rey.

The demolition of the playground on OFW offers a unique opportunity to engage in best practices and install a State of the Art, fully universally accessible playground that will meet the needs of ALL children between two and twelve. The Venice Neighborhood Council, on which I serve, was told that this goal would be met when RAP appeared before the VNC after the playground was torn down. Why is fulfilling this goal no longer the case?

The latest playground proposal presented to a few community members on 7/2 can best be described as pirates of the Caribbean washed up on the beach and Gidget showed up with her surfboards (https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/agtmtst4hkrk7hgvghn5ou/Venice-Beach-PARK_Option-2.pdf?rlkey=htar6reo9lcnlqygi75e4z5ia&dl=0). RAP acknowledged that this proposal has only one pretense at universally accessible play equipment—a ground level octopus that can be touched. This proposal also includes no integrated shade structures. The lack of accessibility for all and lack of shade structures should be unacceptable.

The results of a VNC survey (OFW PLAYGROUND SURVEY RESULTS (venicenc.org) showed that RAP's initial "circus" themed playground was favored by an overwhelming number of our Stakeholders with a few suggested tweaks. The project appears to have been hijacked by a small handful of parents of very young children, demanding a "neighborhood playground" and equipment that is unchallenging for older children and not universally accessible. The current proposal they support is a static, unimaginative playground. This does not represent the best and highest design standards and does not encourage imaginative and challenging play for children of all ages and physical ability.

At this point, does anyone actually know what is currently being proposed? The latest communication from CD11 regarding the playground and comments made by CD11 representatives during their 7/2 meeting gave the impression that there is a rush to do something quickly, even if that something doesn't even remotely meet the highest playground standards based on research and best practices.

Our Beach and our unique and colorful Boardwalk are among the most visited tourist destinations in Los Angeles. A Playground at the Venice Beach MUST be a playground designed to be universally accessible to not only Venice residents but to the many Los Angeles and tourist families who come to Venice Beach seeking recreational opportunities. Please ensure that the playground installed at the Venice Ocean Front Walk will provide Los Angelenos and visitors alike with a unique, state of the art, world class, imaginative and fully universally accessible playground.



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Community Support for RAP's Venice Beach Playground Kompan Circus design

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: robin murez >

Thu, Jul 25, 2024 at 9:19 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, Jul 24, 2024 at 7:50 PM robin murez < > wrote:

Dear Commissioners, Executive Staff, Councilmember Park and CD11,

In case you haven't seen the Venice Beach Playground Kompan Circus design survey results, please take a look.

Over 75% of Venice families indicated that they LIKE or LOVE most every element of that design. You got it right!

We distributed the survey as broadly as possible to happy and unhappy families. Approximately 130 families responded immediately.

Attached is the full survey results and 3 exemplary slides of the largest features. The blue and red portions of the pie charts are the LIKES and LOVES. Some of other sections also support with comments.

The Venice Neighborhood Council and community appreciate that RAP and CD11 is bending over backwards, doing outreach. However, as we all know, some people are not ever happy and some are not well versed in playground design. Please do not allow a minority to derail this project further.

Your Kompan Circus design is a creative, state of the art, challenging (yet safe), age appropriate, universally accessible, imaginative, sustainable, low maintenance, well integrated (shaded) design that is thematically brilliant for Venice Beach.

Venice Beach deserves a world class playground, on a par with its other recreation and natural features.

If it's possible to install a TEMPORARY SWING SET AND JUNGLE GYM, immediately while awaiting the large playground, that might go a long way toward bridging alliances.

Thank you for all you do to make Venice parks wonderful.

Sincerely,

Robin Murez

2-5 years playground equipment

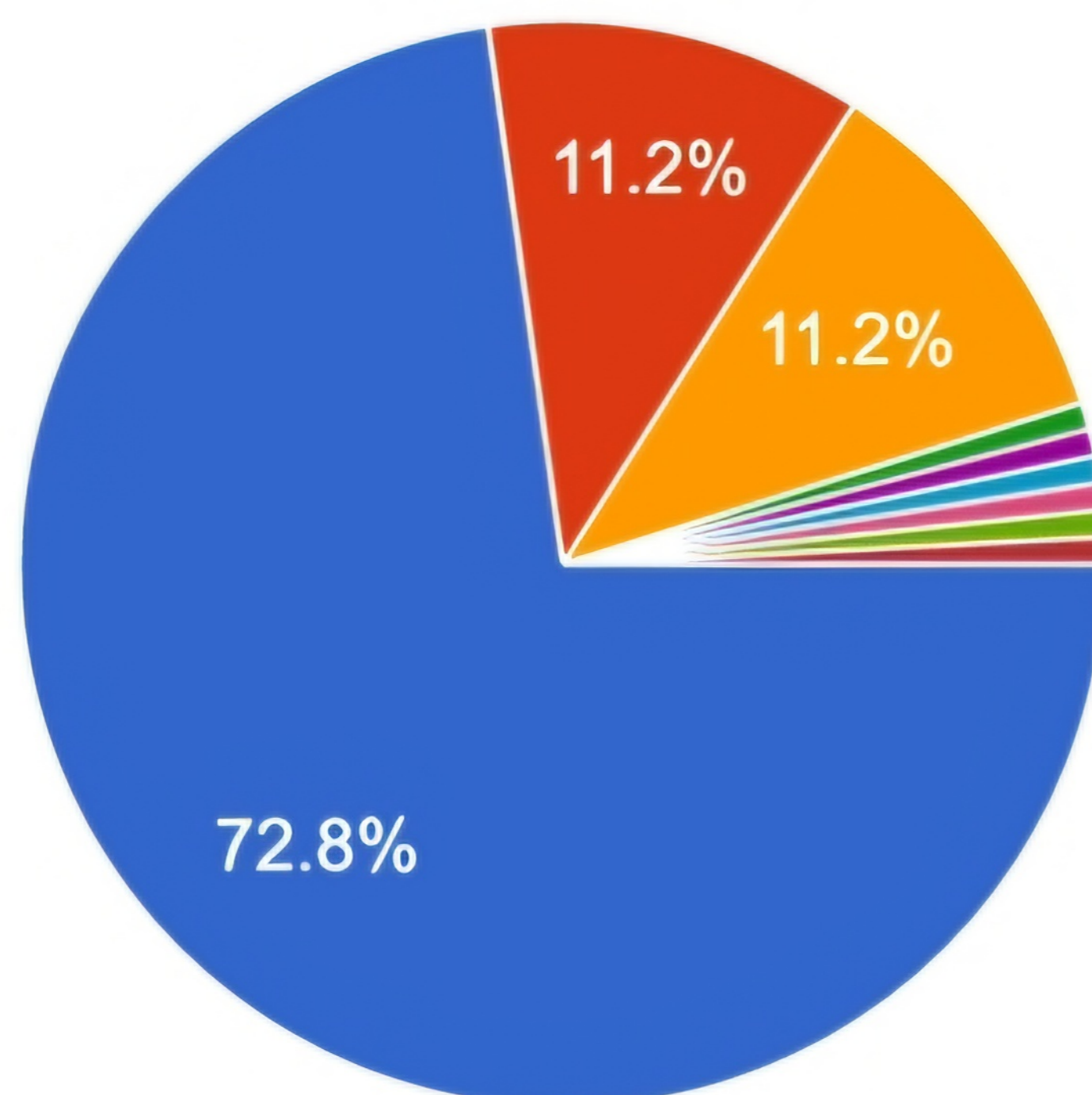
Table 1-1

BIG TOP / SMALLER CAROUSEL



Big Top/ Small Carousel: Would this add value to the park?

125 responses



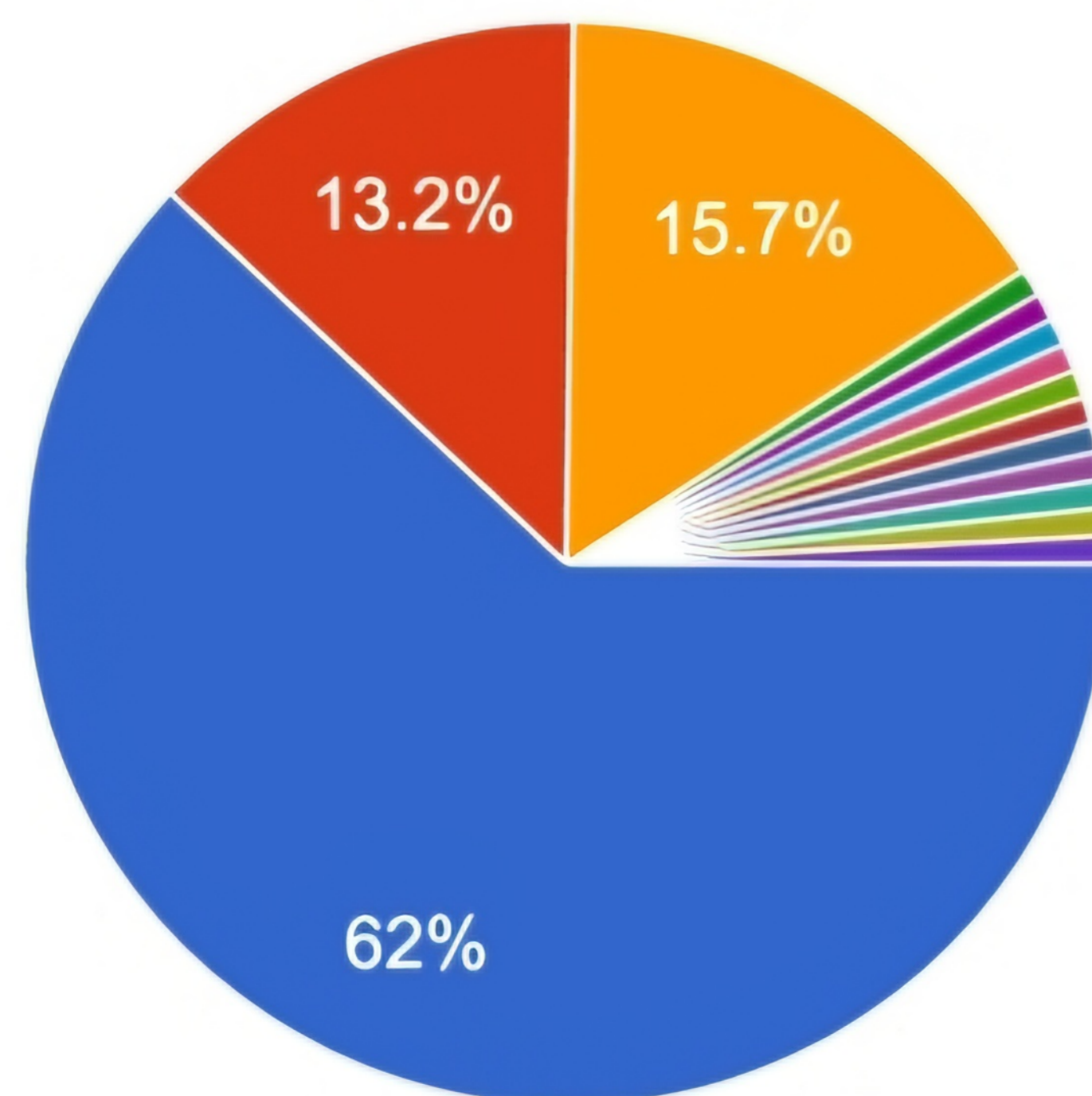
- Yes
- Yes and add even more
- No
- I appreciate the shade provided by the cover but otherwise might prefer a mo...
- What? Hello how is this better than th...
- It would attract homeless to sleep ther...
- This looks awesome. My only feedbac...
- maybe
- I've never seen carousel at a playgrou...

5-12 Year Old Playground Equipment



Carousel: Would this add value to the park?

121 responses



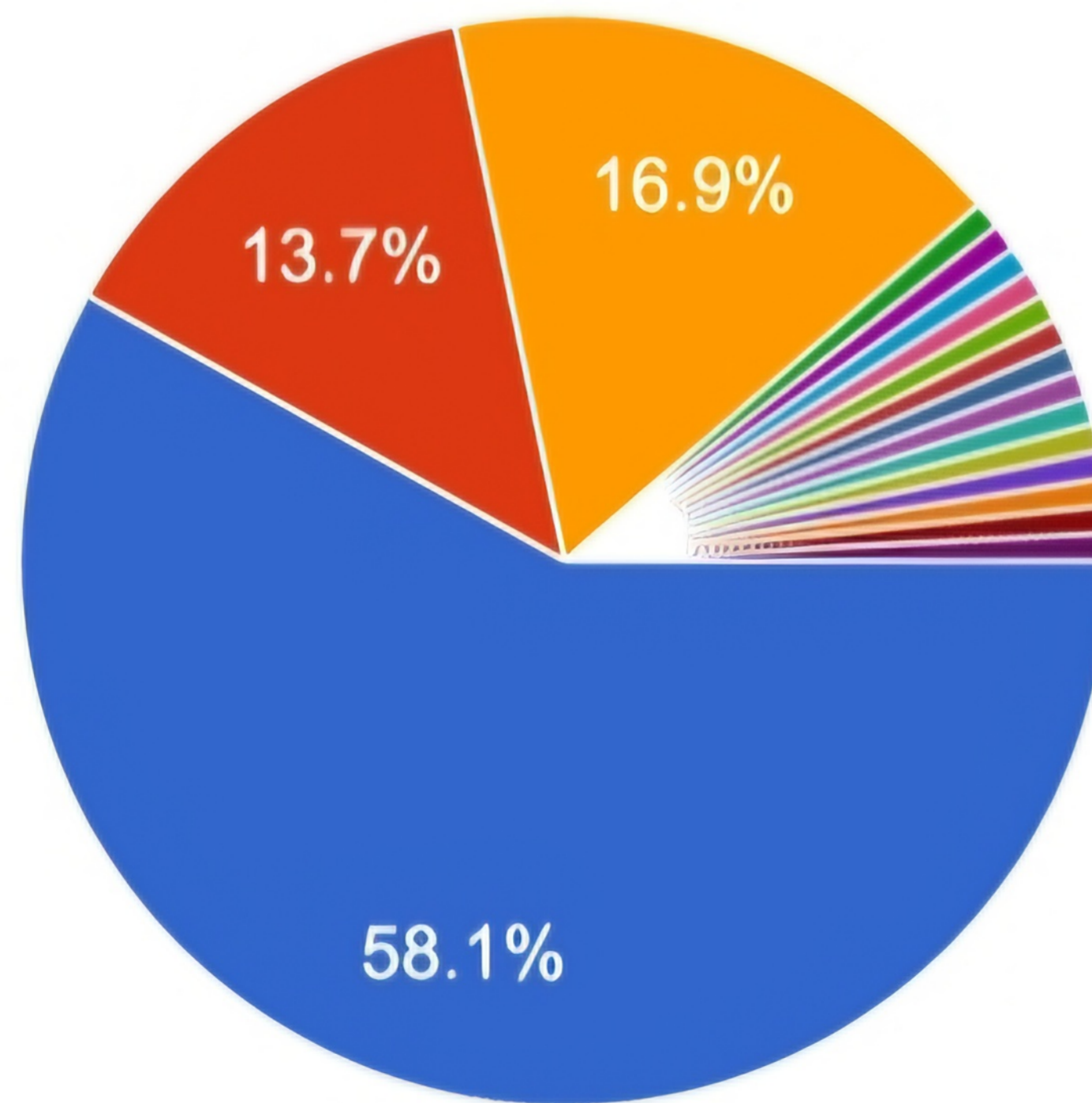
- Yes
- Yes and add even more
- No
- seems way over the top
- I think something less themed and in li...
- I would prefer a more natural aestheti...
- Too many parts. older kids would brea...
- I worry the netting is sort of of redund...

SUPER SPHERE



Super Sphere: Would this add value to the park?

124 responses



- Yes
- Yes and add even more
- No
- seems over the top and tough to find
- As long as this can potentially be acc
- Yes amazing
- This makes me very nervous as a pa
- Looks like a good place for transient



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: PLS REPLY - Venice NC motion - Venice Beach Playground Questions

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jul 25, 2024 at 10:38 AM

To: Preserving Public Places Committee <publicplaces@venicenc.org>

Cc: jimmy.Kim@lacity.org, matthew.Rudnick@lacity.org, Cathie Santo Domingo <cathie.santodomingo@lacity.org>, Sonya Young-Jimenez <sonya.young-jimenez@lacity.org>, Darryl Ford <Darryl.Ford@lacity.org>, Craig RAINES REC AND PARKS <craig.raines@lacity.org>, traci.park@lacity.org, Juan Fregoso <juan.fregoso@lacity.org>, Sean Silva <sean.silva@lacity.org>, Brian Averill <Brian.Averill@venicenc.org>

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 Tue, Jul 23, 2024 at 11:48 AM Preserving Public Places Committee <publicplaces@venicenc.org> wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, Executive Staff, Councilmember Park and CD11,

I fear our Parks Capital Improvements Motion fell through the cracks.

The Motion, with specific questions for you regarding plans for the Venice Beach Playground and other capital improvements for our Venice parks, was unanimously passed 17,0,0 by the Board of Officers of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) May 21, 2024. See Attached.

The VNC found overwhelming support by a majority of stakeholders for your Kompan "Circus" theme playground design. See survey results link below.

We commend RAP for developing that creative state of the playground design.

These questions were developed through extensive community outreach including meetings and surveys by 2 VNC Committees. The questions are intended to assist you in merely **tailoring the Kompan design**, as feasible, to specific interests of Venice stakeholders.

Community requests include the following elements. If not possible, please explain:

- More swings.
- Shade (for seating).
- Fencing for security for toddler area.
- Sand as ground surface (at least in parts).
- Sustainable and/or recycled materials where possible.
- Natural (wood) playground equipment and seating (at least in part).
- Balance features.
- Suspension Bridges connecting elements.
- Trees & additional plantings.
- Toddler Excavators.
- Water features.

Please reply to these questions.

Our hope is to enable you to move forward, as supported by the majority of Venice stakeholders, with your world class playground design for Venice Beach.

This being the unique #1 tourist destination in Los Angeles, “Coney Island of the Pacific,” “Circus by the Sea,” and enjoyed by Venice families who proudly share it with the world.

Sincerely,

Link to VNC Venice Beach Playground Survey Results: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting661343786f069.pdf>

Robin Murez
Chair, Preserving Public Places Committee
www.VeniceNC.org
PublicPlaces@VeniceNC.org



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294
venicenc.org



June 12, 2024

Superintendent Young-Jimenez and Councilmember Park,

At the May 21st, 2024 Venice Neighborhood Council meeting, the Board of Officers passed the following motion 17-0-0.

The VNC requests a letter be sent to the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and Councilwoman Traci Park's Office asking that RAP consider capital improvements at all Venice parks, including, but not limited to items listed on the linked supporting documentation.

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting664bc39adb05c.pdf>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Averill".

Brian Averill
President
Venice Neighborhood Council



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Save San Pascual Park and San Rafael

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jul 25, 2024 at 8:06 AM

To: Yael Pardess <

>

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 Tue, Jul 23, 2024 at 1:11 PM Yael Pardess <

> wrote:

Parks and Recreation Director and commissioners

The matter of the Water Reclamation projects at San Rafael and San Pascual was brought to me on July 18th. I attended to the Parks and Recreation meeting and listed to many community members who spoke against this project. I read the detailed documents and plans and discussed the matter further to learn that the community at large was not widely informed.

There was a very limited outreach last year to 85 families only during the holidays. Not many attended and very few attended or spoke up.

This massive project concerns the area at large and will affect many communities, not just these 85 families.

This inadequate outreach may be intentional or not, but the community has a right to be part in these crucial decisions.

I live on CD1, but I walk these trails and enjoy the Arroyo very often.

Like me- thousands of people enjoy this area. The reclamation project will last years and will close off these areas.

42 Protected trees will be cut along with almost 100 significant trees that serve as habitat for wildlife and give a most needed shade in this heating climate.

Replanting young trees is not a viable sustainable solution. The replanted landscape proposed is very exposed in comparison with the dense wooded San Pascual park, and the valuable shade will be lost. The habitat will be totally destroyed. It will take at least 50 more years for the young trees to give any significant shade or adequate protection to same number of animals displaced .

What a waste of funds and precious resources.

The parks are a very important part of the whole arroyo wildlife corridor. Especially San Pascual with its dense wooded character.

This destruction- cutting many protected trees, killing or disturbing the existing wildlife is simply unacceptable. And for what ? For a golf course???? For exclusive small group playing a on a grass that already wastes precious water resources? Have we not learned that we need more mature trees? Has the city not declared it plans on protecting mature trees?

If water reclamation is important it must be reviewed and discussed by many groups such as indigenous tribal land leaders, The Sierra Club, the Community Forestry Advisory Committee (who did not know about it), ASNC, City councils 1 and 14 that are affected, Pasadena, and other protected tree groups.

I myself am a member of our protected tree committee of the Mount Washington Home Owners Alliance. Our goal is to educate the public, stop illegal protected trees removal and catch offenders. Such an act of needless destruction without conducting wide community discussions and environmental impacts is unacceptable!
Has any study been conducted to discuss alternative areas?

From my research and knowledge of the area, I am wondering why the project has not considered the area right across from proposed San Pascual?. It is a flat area, in part Parking lot, mostly bare and accessible. Selecting this area will save the densely wooded San Pascual portion.

Additionally- I am reviewing number of trees cut per city and reviewing the maps as they show in the city of Pasadena package online. I am seeing a clear discrepancy between city boundaries as they show up on Google maps, and as they show up on the "Draft initial study"

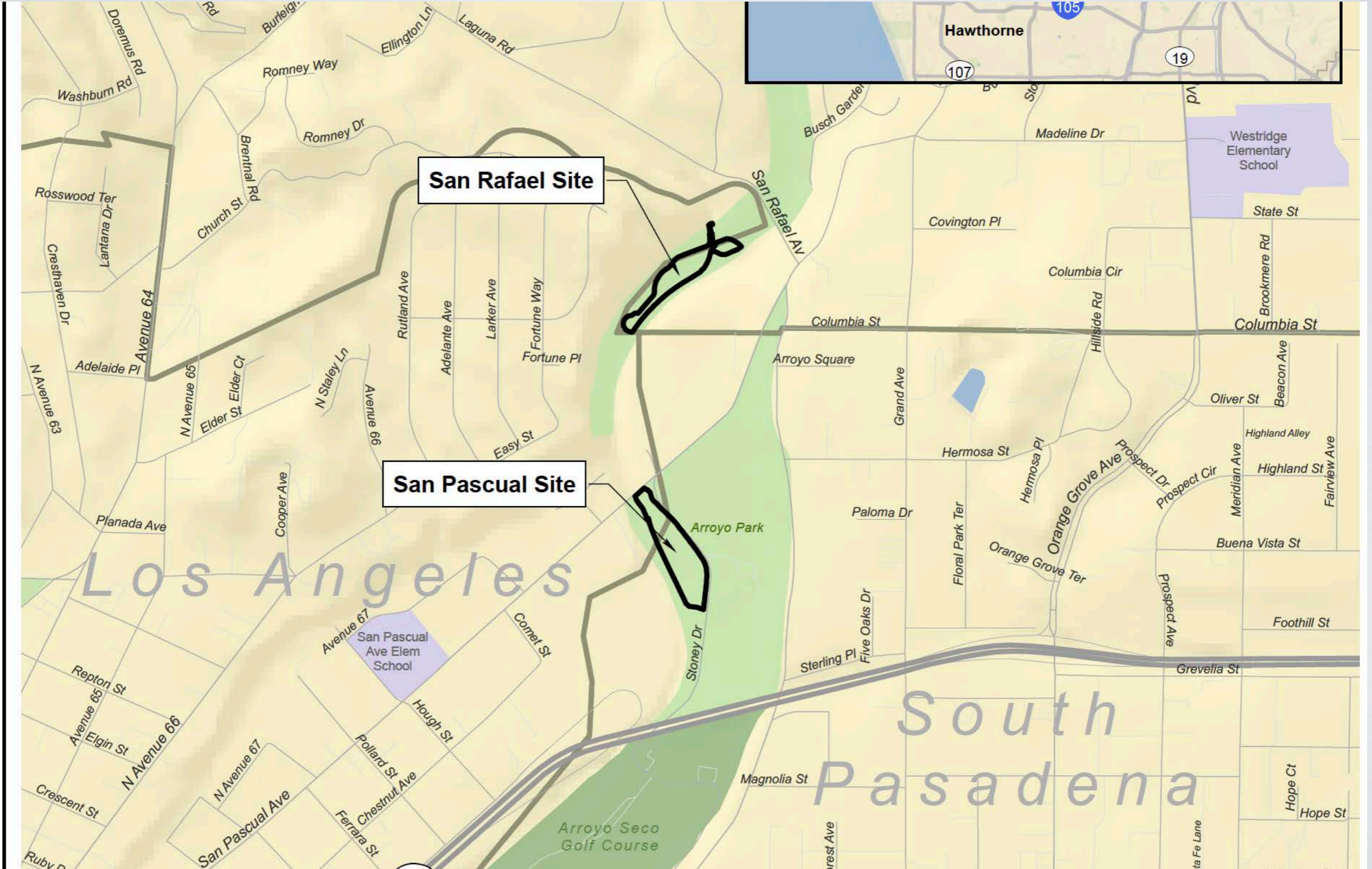
It shows San Rafel as being fully under Pasadena City boundaries. but in fact it fall half into the City of Los Angeles. Please see PDF attached.

If this is the case, it affects number of protected trees removed per city and people should know that.
I am asking you to put a stop to this project and listen to the community.
Thank you for your time.

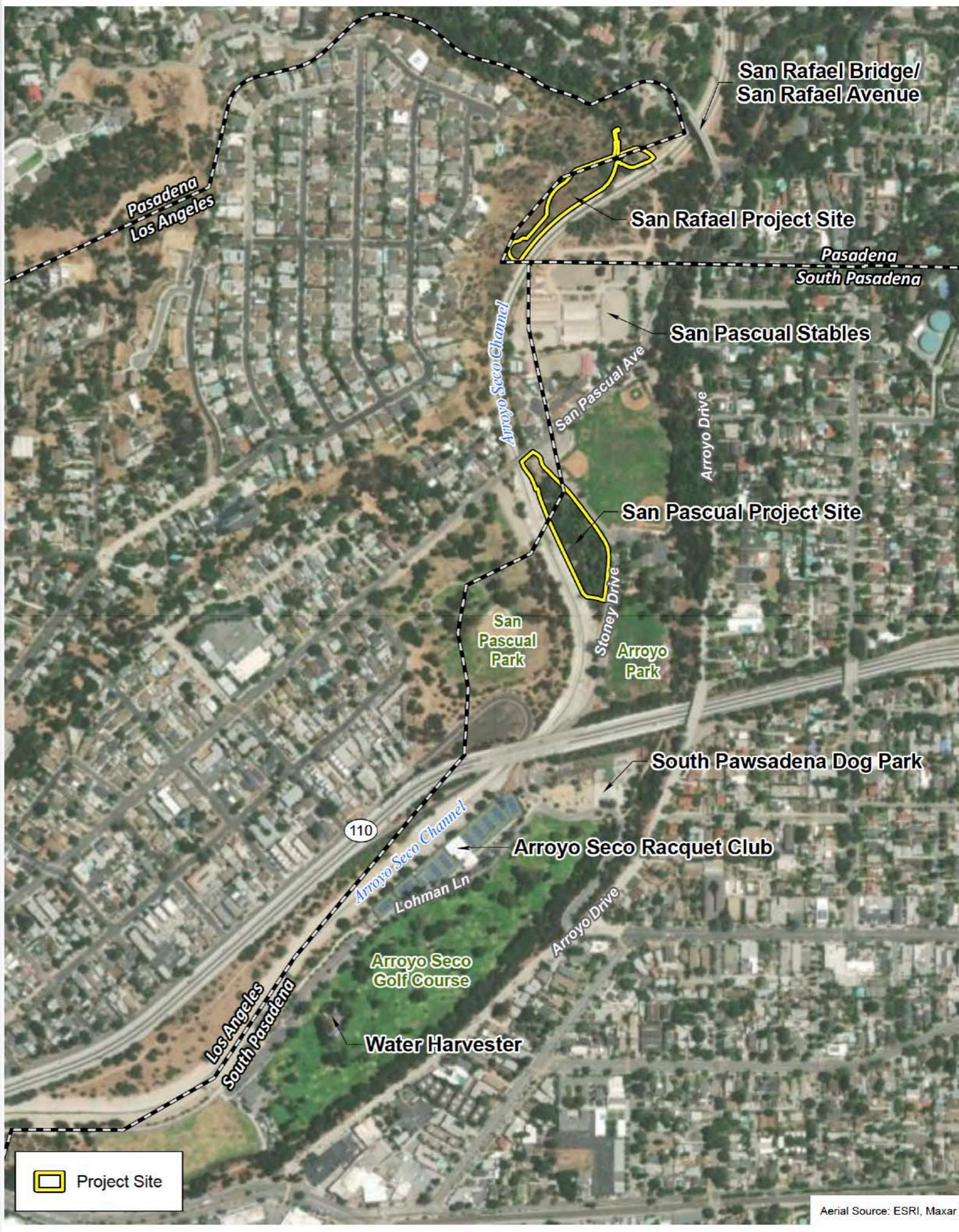
Arroyo-Seco-Water-Reuse-Project-
Initial-Study-Mitigated-Negative-
Declaration
PDF Document · 18.5 MB

Yael Pardess
Protected Trees Committee
Mount Washington Home Owners Alliance

SAN PASCUAL AND SAN RAFAEL INFO



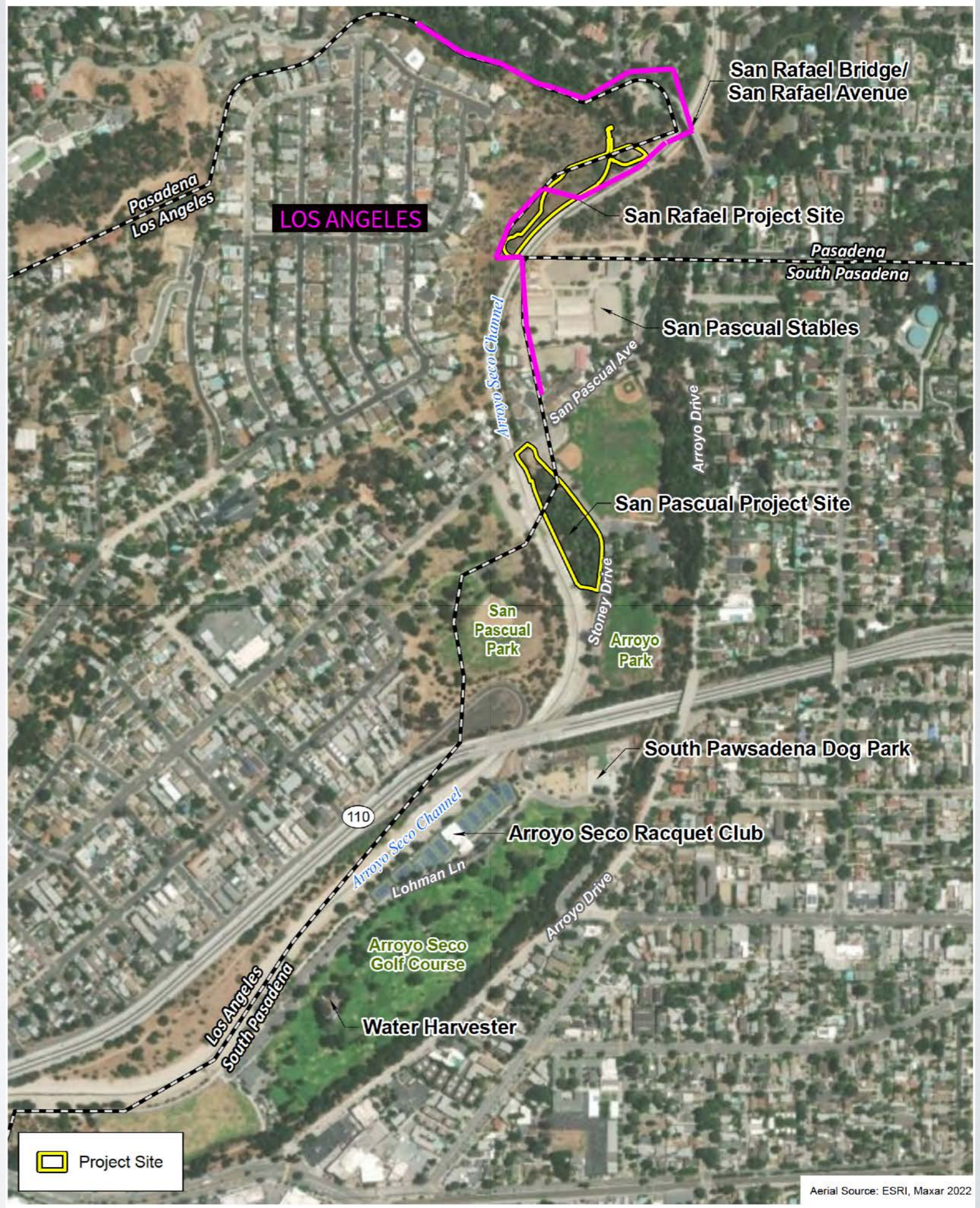
According to their map-
San Rafael falls fully into
Pasadena
City Boundaries



Discrepancy of City boundaries

City boundaries

According to google maps San Rafael falls half in Pasadena and half in Los Angeles (Pink Line)

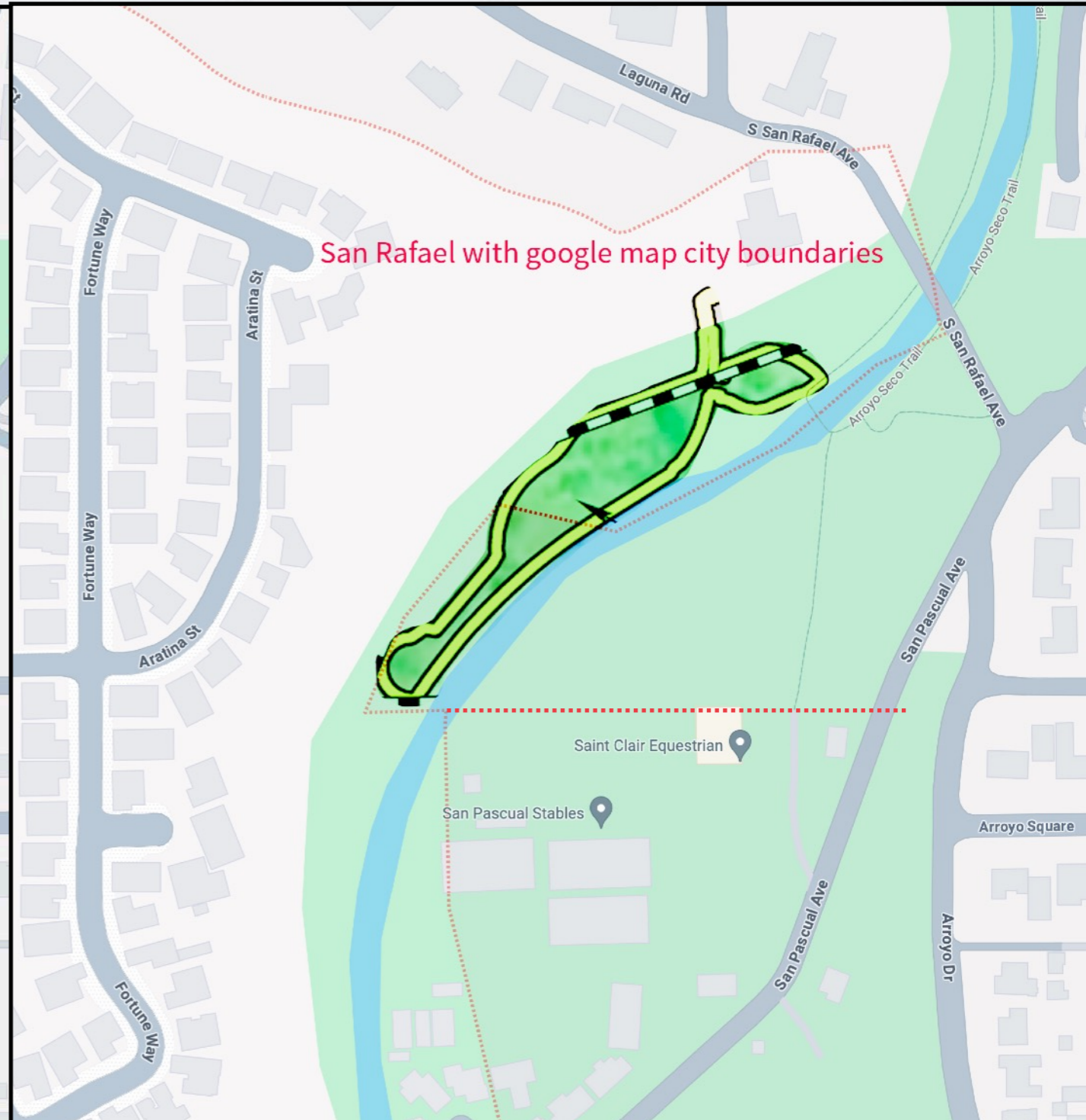
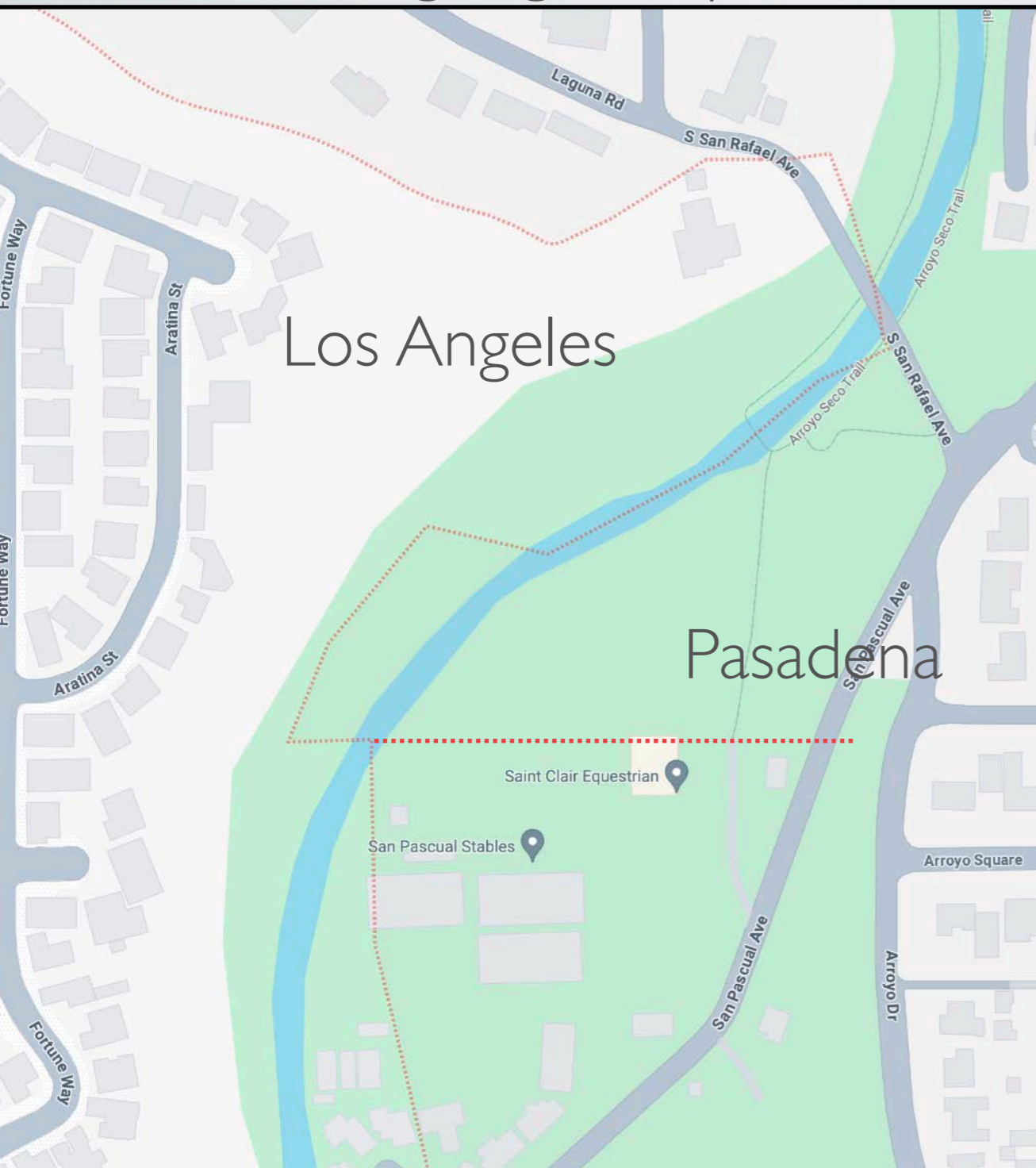


Los Angeles City boundaries on Google maps

San Rafael Park is mostly in LA boundaries

As is google maps

With Park



LA CITY BOUNDARIES

SOUTH PASADENA



This number needs to be re examined if in fact San Rafael is falling half in the LA City boundaries

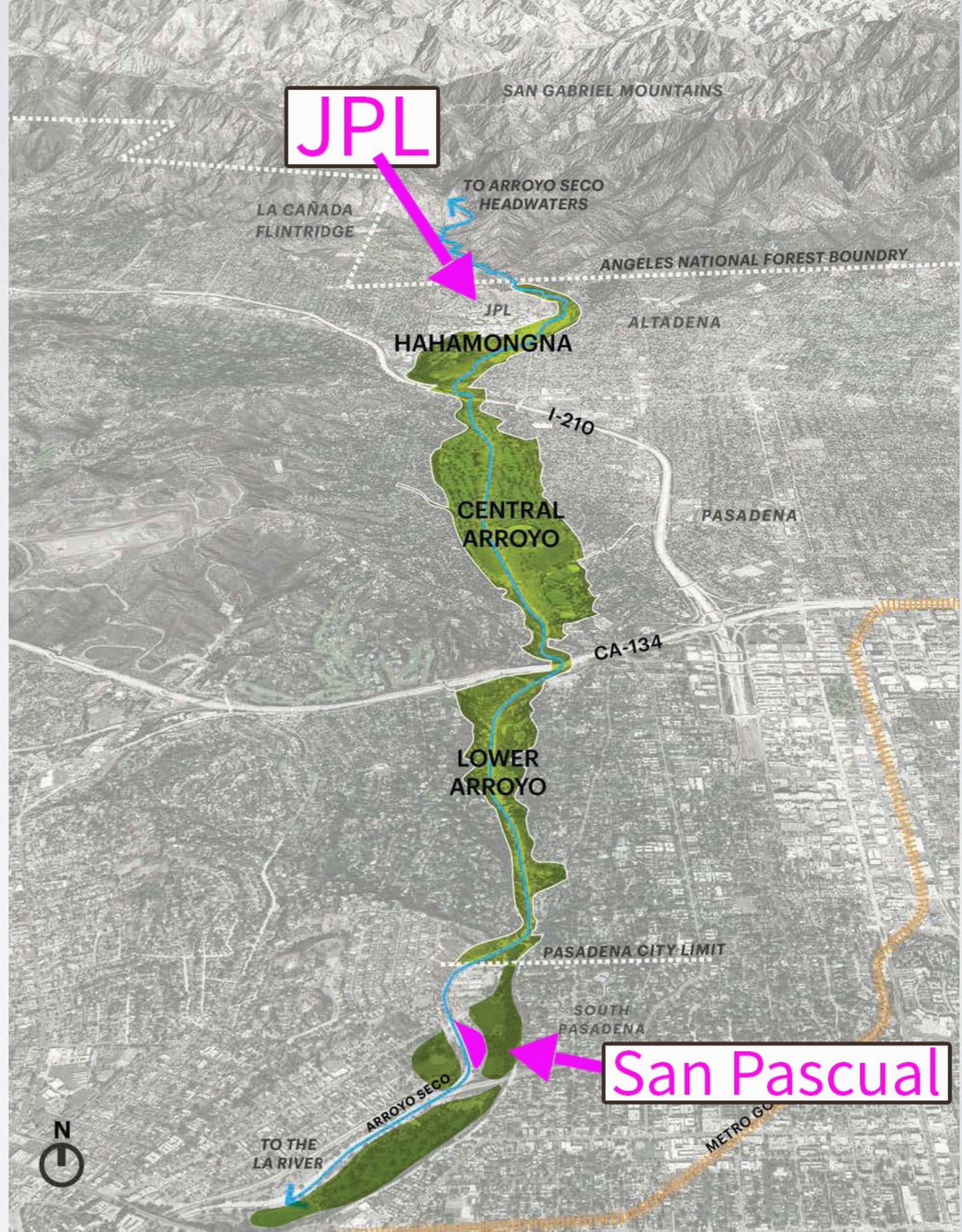
**TABLE 3
SUMMARY OF TREES**

Jurisdiction	Existing Trees within Site	Total Tree Removals	Protected Tree Removals	Required Tree Replacements
<i>San Rafael Site</i>				
Pasadena	29	6	6	20
<i>San Pascual Site</i>				
South Pasadena	141	121	27	128
Los Angeles	● 25	● 15	● 9	36
<i>San Pascual Subtotals</i>	166	136	36	164
<i>Project Totals</i>	195	142	42	184
Source: Psomas				

Please examine this alternate area and save countless trees and a whole habitat



The Park is part of a
Important wildlife corridor





Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Land Grab of San Pascual Park Land

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Peter W Keusch <

Thu, Jul 25, 2024 at 8:17 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 Tue, Jul 23, 2024 at 7:37 PM Peter W Keusch < > wrote:
To Whom It May Concern:

I live 2 blocks from the proposed Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project being proposed by Pasadena and South Pasadena and I urge you not to approve this project. The project will not benefit City of Los Angeles residents who will not receive any water from the project. It will instead hurt residents by removing open space, flora and fauna.

It is not fair that the wealthier communities of South Pasadena and Pasadena which have many resources and more park land are going to use our San Pascual Park land east of the Los Angeles channel to water the South Pasadena Golf course.

It is also not fair that they never conducted any meaningful outreach within our community. Most residents are unaware of this project. As a result of the poor outreach only two residents commented on the MND - one resident from Los Angeles and one from Pasadena. That there was so little participation shows how poor the outreach was.

Residents from Highland Park, me and my family use the east side of San Pascual park daily. We jog, hike and ride horses on the Highland Park part of the park. Additionally, during hot days, some residents who live in the nearby apartments take chairs and sit under the trees because it is significantly cooler. Other residents observe wildlife in the area or look for creatures in the stream with their children.

The project will use fencing to prevent residents from accessing a significant part of the east side of San Pascual park. They will no longer be able to sit under the trees to cool off, nor wander through the trees to observe birds, toads, desert cottontail rabbits, bats, and other wildlife.

The project will remove 15 mature trees including 4 protected Coast Live Oak and 5 protected Mexican Elderberry. These trees protect residents from the impacts of the nearby Arroyo Seco Parkway.

Replacing mature trees with young trees will not provide any benefit for 10 to 20 years. We need these mature trees as we face a climate emergency.

The project will also remove a historic Arroyo Stone hitching post on site.

Finally, we are concerned that the Gabrieleno Kizh Tribe of Indians was not consulted about this project. Native American remains have been found in San Pascual Park and at San Pascual Elementary School.

Thank you,

Peter Keusch

—

Peter Keusch



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Item# 24-165 LAEC rate increase proposal

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: regina williams <

Thu, Jul 25, 2024 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 and staff.

On Tue, Jul 23, 2024 at 4:25 PM regina williams < > wrote:
Dear commissioners,

My name is Regina Williams, and I board my horse in a double polo stall at LAEC. The proposed increase rates don't effect me now, but it will impact me in the future. Therefore, I wish to express my concerns over the disparities and inconsistencies regarding the polo barn increases.

ASM is using the 12x12 stall in the "ABC" barns as a model for the increase of the polo barn stalls, which are only 10x10. Not only are the stalls smaller, but the foundation, structure and surroundings of the polo barns are completely different from the "ABC" barns which are considered the premium real estate on the property. These barns are built on a concrete foundation, are structurally beautiful, with covered walkways and corridors of cement to reduce the dust and protect the boarder from inclement weather. These barns are adjacent beautifully manicured lawns where special events are held.

The polo barns, on the other hand, are worn, rustic and rodent infested. They are erected on dirt with dirt aiseways and no over hangs for protection. Weeds abound along the stall walls and when it rains, some stalls have water seepage and the boarder's are ankle deep in mud. These two barn properties within LAEC are as different as night and day. Applying "ABC" rates to the polo barns would be like charging Beverly Hills rent in Boyle Heights. You simply can't compare apples to oranges.

Furthermore, ASM has increased the cost of a double stall from a single stall by 100%, which is never practiced in the horse industry. Why? because the labor cost, shaving usage and manure removal is still providing for only one horse, not two!

The standard practice in roughly a 38%-40% increase, which LAEC already charges for a polo double stall. Adding an additional 62% is usury and far exceeds the industry's standard increase.

Due to the above stated reasons, I am vehemently opposed to the 62% increase proposed by LAEC for a double polo stall. Thank you for your time and consideration over this unfair proposal.

Sincerely,
Regina Williams
LAEC boarder



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: SYCAMORE GROVE PARK SERVICE REQUEST

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>
To: Garcia Incareal < >

Thu, Jul 25, 2024 at 8:01 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 Tue, Jul 23, 2024 at 9:14 AM Garcia Incareal < > wrote:

JULY 23

Yovonte Robinson

Sycamore Grove Park supervisor

At the exercise area of the park the sprinklers are watering there.

Could please fixe them and also put more gravel.

Sincerely

Mauro Garcia



Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Re: Public Comment

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Thu, Jul 25, 2024 at 8:01 AM

To: Ron Bitzer <

>

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, Jul 22, 2024 at 9:06 AM Ron Bitzer

> wrote:

Sir or Madam, An abbreviated version of my observations about the LA Department of Water and Power's stormwater capture plans (attached) has been submitted to LADWP for the July 23rd Commissioners' meeting, at which time this issue may be considered. Ron Bitzer

Ron Bitzer

July 2024

COMMENTS: *The Taking of Land and Stormwater from Valley Plaza Park*



Orphan Branch of the
Tujunga Wash
(Drain 0117) Photo 2023
North Hollywood

The LADWP's plan for a Valley Plaza Park stormwater capture project, --- a project under scrutiny because of its cost --- proposes a temporary but significant taking of land more extensive than initially proposed to the public. This follows permanent State and City takings of an estimated 96 acres of park land at Valley Plaza Park!

Already a customer of LADWP in the amount of \$30 million a year, the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) will receive payment of \$300,000 for reimbursement of operating costs associated with this stormwater project. The draft Memorandum of Agreement as presently written requires RAP to retain and maintain new access roads following project completion, MOA July 9, 2024, p.3. The current Site Plan (Exhibit 1B) allows for two access roads (from Vanowen and from Laurel Grove to the project site) rather than just one road as initially sketched for the public and still available online (Exhibit 1A).

The Department of Recreation and Parks is experienced in stormwater capture projects.

In the recent fact pattern presented by the Elysian Reservoir project, LADWP funded a community benefit RAP account 40 times larger than the \$300,000 reimbursement proposed at Valley Plaza Park for operating expenses (see 9/1/2016 Memorandum of Understanding between the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for the Establishment of the Community Parks Enhancement Fund, RAP 19-042).

Over, please

A subordinate role for Rec and Parks in a DWP-funded and Measure W-funded project may be commonplace, but the ongoing taking of park land by governmental and quasi-governmental departments outside of RAP is a public policy issue for the City.

1. A 2021 decision by Recreation and Park Commissioners directed “...Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to return to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) with final plans for consideration for each of the proposed Measure W Projects in this report ...” Conceptual Approval of Measure W Projects ... at Valley Plaza Park, Report 21-102, June 3, 2021. Page 9 of this report specifically requested that CEQA analysis be made available.

A request is pending with RAP to determine the fate of Report 21-102.

2. *Fact Sheet 2020* from LADWP stated ...” The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), in partnership with the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Public Works, has developed an innovative Stormwater Capture Parks Program.” Stormwater projects in North Hollywood / Sun Valley (disadvantaged communities as defined by SB 535) were to be “staggered” to reduce the impact of major, multi-month excavation on park recreational use. **Six of seven projects are now set to begin in 2025** --- at Valley Plaza South 3 years sooner than advertised. See Exhibit 2.

Past and present taking of park land at Valley Plaza Park has infuriated local residents and park constituents who continue to make their concerns known to Council President Paul Krekorian (CD#2) and the media (FOX 11, KTLA, KABC in 2023).

- **The State acquired (took) 94 acres** of what was Victory Vanowen Park, a 171 acre park in the first half of the last century and built the 170 freeway. Now land use planners routinely refer to the remainder of park land as “remnant” assets. Reconstruction of one “remnant” park --- Laurel Grove Park --- by Recreation and Parks exemplifies in 2024 grassroots support for the greening of urban areas (*Exhibit 3 – Victory Vanowen Park circa 1960, North Hollywood*).
- **The City took 2 acres** of Alexandria “remnant” park land in 2020 and built “temporary” 100 Tiny Homes with 2 beds each for people experiencing homelessness. *Six clean-ups of people camped out around Alexandria Tiny Homes have been organized by the City beginning October 16, 2023 through July 21, 2024. Homeless campers regularly use Valley Plaza park land proposed for the LADWP/County stormwater project.*

Observation: Self-help is an American institution; it is now appropriate when City decision-making too often excludes the public or misrepresents issues to the public.

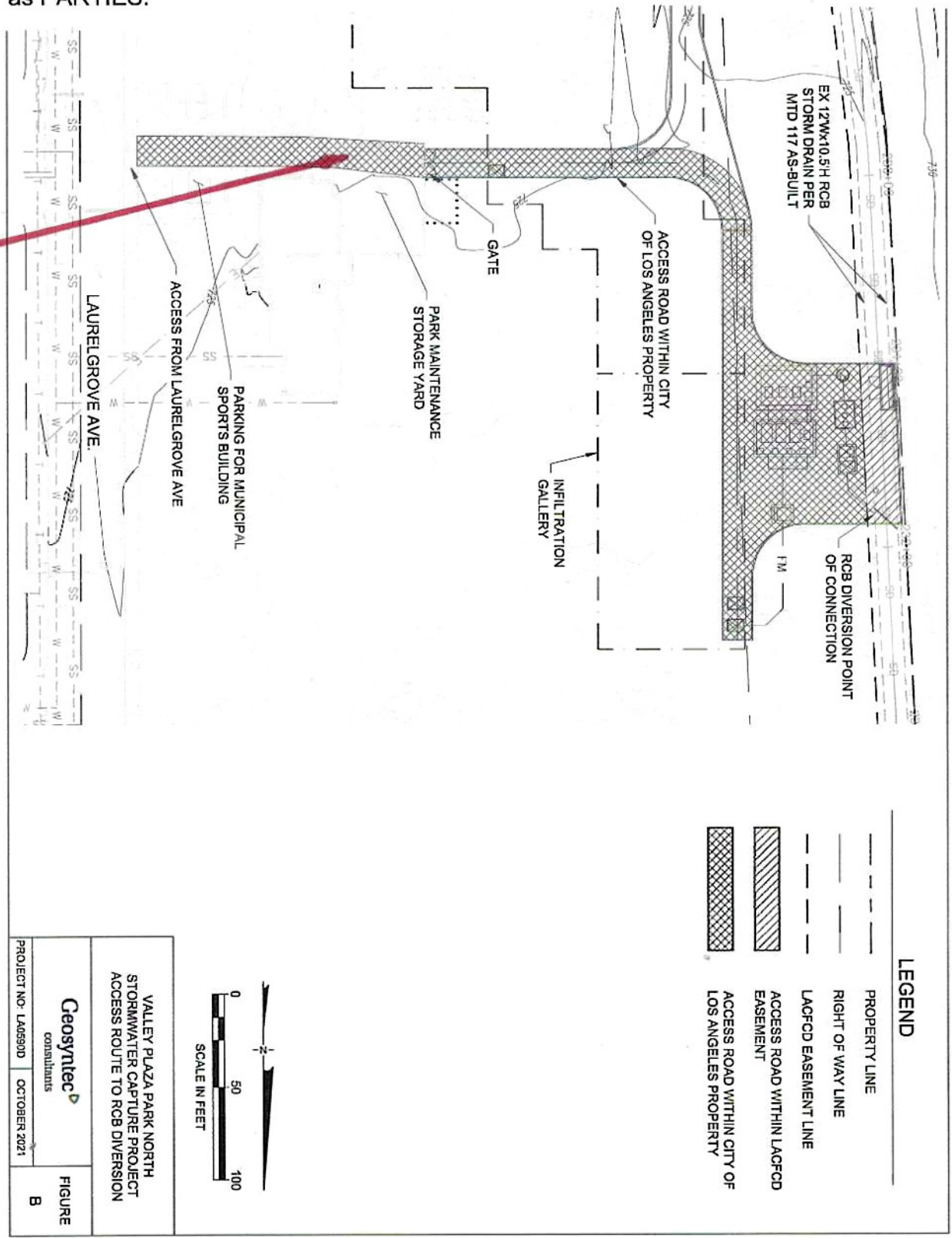
One bit of leverage at the Valley Plaza Park stormwater project is LADWP's commitment to annual reviews of public inquiries and complaints (Use and Maintenance Agreement Section 3.8.3. g).

###

1A

USE AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

This USE AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT (hereinafter referred to as AGREEMENT), is made and entered by and between the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, a body corporate and politic (hereinafter referred to as DISTRICT), and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, a municipal corporation, (hereinafter referred to as OWNER). DISTRICT and OWNER are collectively referred to as PARTIES.



Proposed Road

Memorandum of Agreement By and Among the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles Department of Public Works Bureau of Engineering, and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for the Implementation of the Stormwater Capture Parks Program

Item 4, LADWP Commissioners Meeting, July 23, 2024

Exhibit 1



Proposed Road

Proposed Road

SITE PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

VALLEY PLAZA PARK NORTH

2

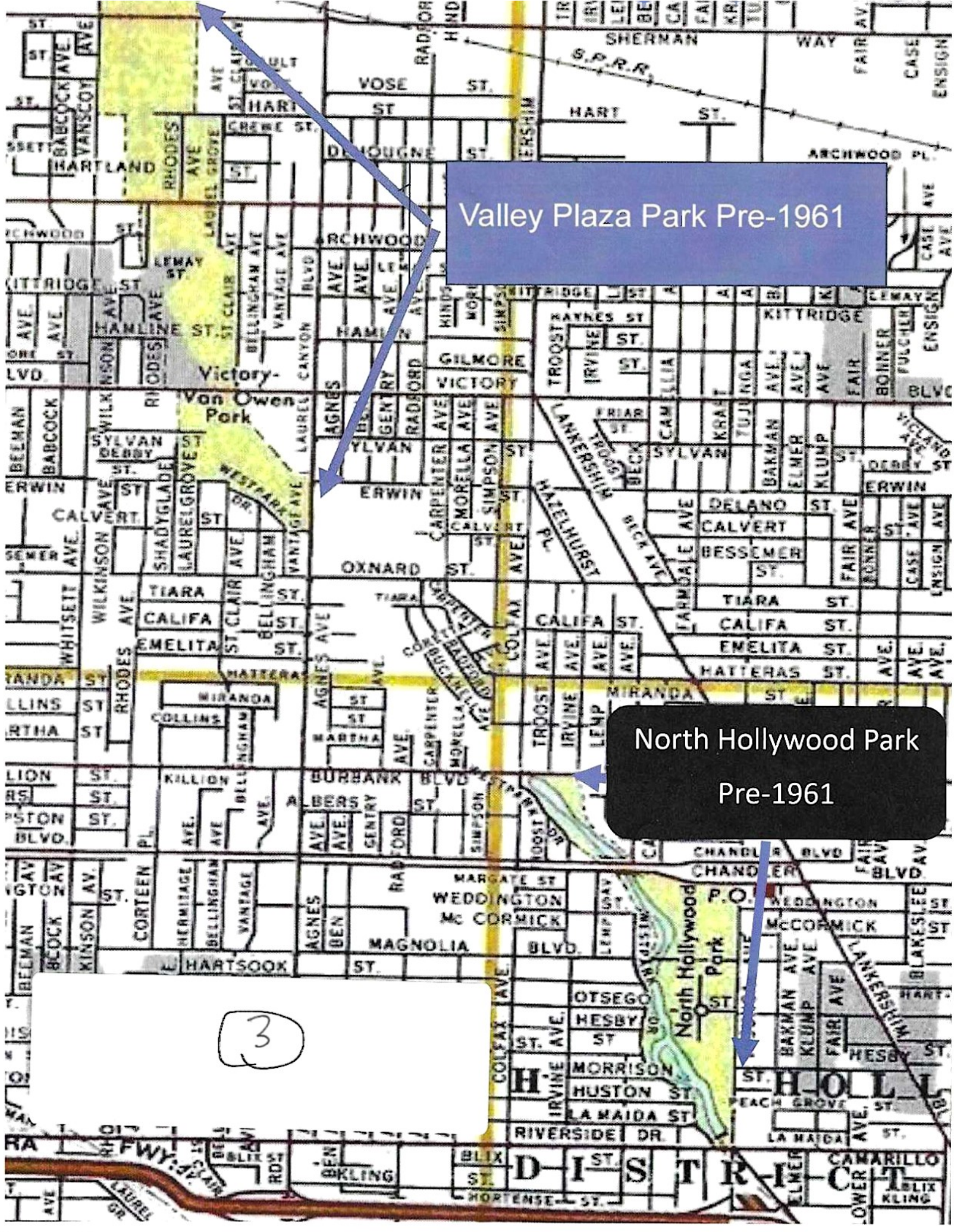
ATTACHMENT 3 Schedule

Project	Construction Phase	Start Date	End Date
David Gonzales Recreation Center	1	January 2025	June 2027
Valley Village Park		March 2025	August 2027
Fernangeles Park		May 2025	October 2027
Strathern Park		July 2025	December 2027
Valley Plaza Park North		July 2025	December 2027
Valley Plaza Park South		July 2025	December 2027
Whitsett Park	2	March 2026	August 2028

Valley Plaza Park Pre-1961

North Hollywood Park
Pre-1961

3



OPINION

EDITORIAL

Reclaim MacArthur Park for the people — not their cars

Close this stretch of Wilshire Boulevard. Green space in L.A. is too precious to cede to motorists.

OF ALL THE PLACES in Los Angeles where it makes sense to close a street to cars, the half-mile stretch of Wilshire Boulevard through MacArthur Park tops the list.

Where else could L.A. instantly add more than two acres of public open space in a park-poor neighborhood that is also one of the most densely populated communities in the country? By simply rerouting vehicles around the park and reclaiming the road for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Los Angeles may be catching up to other major cities, such as New York and San Francisco, that have closed major roads through public parks to give people more space to recreate safely. The city closed a portion of the road through Griffith Park Drive to much success in 2022.

Now Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez has launched Reconnecting MacArthur Park, the city's most ambitious effort yet to permanently pedestrianize a major street. Along with Mayor Karen Bass and several

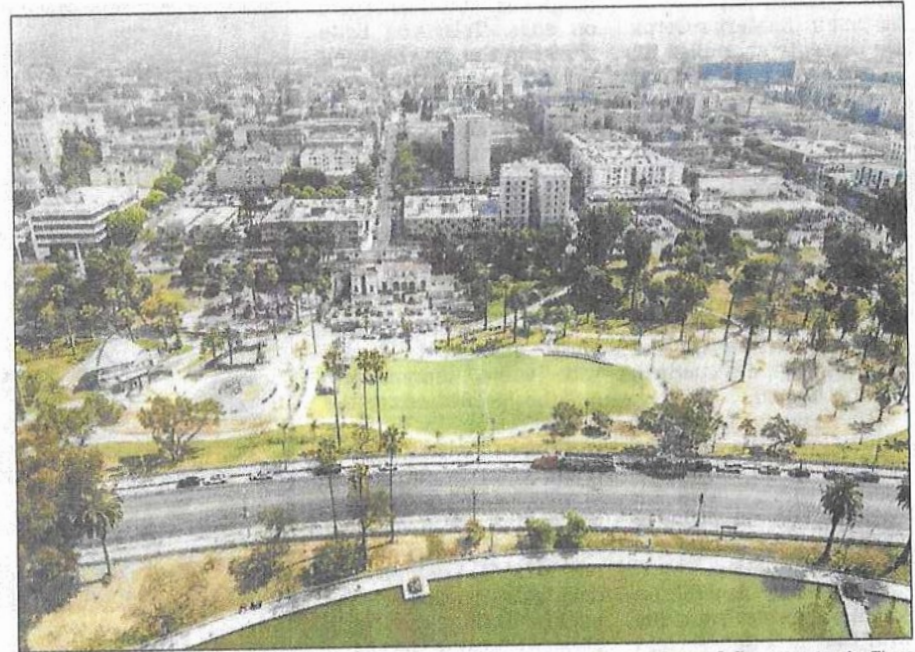
city department heads, Hernandez announced last week the first phase of the project, which will include community input, draft environmental documents and test closures.

Don't expect the road to close permanently any time soon. Hernandez's office said the project is a work in progress and will take years to develop.

The project is being funded in part by a \$2-million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program, which is aimed at undoing or repairing the harm caused by transportation construction decisions of the past.

More than a century ago, MacArthur Park was a serene paradise with a sprawling lake in a rapidly urbanizing city. But civic boosters wanted Wilshire Boulevard to continue, uninterrupted from the ocean to downtown. So the city built the road through the middle of the park turning the space into more of a "drive-through" rather than a "destination park," Jose A. Gardea wrote in his history of MacArthur Park.

Today Wilshire Boulevard is one of the city's main arterials serving motorists and transit riders. To be sure, closing the road and diverting vehicles around the park would be inconvenient. But Los Angeles is a built-out city and leaders need to make



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

DECADES AGO MacArthur Park was split down the middle by short-sighted city leaders who placed cars over people. A new effort aims to reclaim the land.

tough choices about how to divvy up space. In this neighborhood, open space is desperately needed, and if there is community support, the higher priority should be restoring the park rather than the convenience of cars.

Some nearby residents and business owners question why the city is spending time and money studying the road closure when there are more immediate problems that need to be addressed — namely open

drug use and homeless encampments that make people feel unsafe using sections of the park. Their complaints are valid. But residents shouldn't have to choose between more park space and safe park space. The city has an obligation to do both.

Park space is too precious to cede to motorists. Where possible, Los Angeles should reclaim more roads for the purposes of recreation, health and pleasure. MacArthur Park is a great place to start.