

Communication from Public

Name: Gerry Hans

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Council File No: 23-0722

Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter requesting an extension to comment period.



Friends of Griffith Park

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friendsofgriffithpark.org

March 29, 2025

Christopher Adams
City of Los Angeles
Public Works, Bureau of Engineering
1149 S. Broadway, 6th Floor, Mail Stop 939
Los Angeles, CA 90015-2213

Re: Extension of comment period – L.A. River Phase IV Bike Path Project (Project)

Dear Mr. Adams:

Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) requests an extension of the comment period of the L.A. River Phase IV Bike Path Project so that we are given proper time to meet and consider our position on the adequacy of the Initial Study & Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project.

We dispute that the comment period terminates on March 31, 2025 since FoGP, a longstanding Griffith Park stakeholder with an extensive and deeply committed constituency, has yet to receive official notification per CEQA requirements. In fact, on August 8, 2024, consultant ESA contacted us seeking advice on Park historic resources *without an accurate description of the proposed Project*. We responded by email and provided a mailing address in that communication. FoGP is in EOS and City records as an entity deserving official notification.

In addition to ourselves, we request that all pertinent Trustee Agencies, such as Mountains, Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) are notified when the 45-day comment period begins.

FoGP needs proper time to evaluate these and other areas of concerns:

- The extent of adverse impacts of removing trees, especially since the public has not had the opportunity to see RAP Forestry Division's review of the matter, which FoGP values greatly.

- We question the desire to create nearly one mile of new bike path considering the difficult connection to the next biking section – presumably Forest Lawn Drive – has not yet been studied. We want to understand if a safe connection is possible and at an affordable price. Constructing a one-mile section becomes an argument itself for the next project, rather than considering projects (Phase IV Project and the continuation of the Bike Path) collectively for the best overall outcome.
- We want to investigate, through discussions with bicyclists, any preference of biking near a concrete section of the LA River versus through Park environs, such as biking on Zoo Drive. We wonder if Zoo Drive can be considered as an Environmentally Superior Alternative, especially if the Los Angeles River Bike Path's next section is, in fact, Forest Lawn Drive.

We kindly request an all-encompassing notification effort after which a 45-day comment period is provided.

Sincerely,



Gerry Hans, President

About Friends of Griffith Park: Friends of Griffith Park is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable group that promotes the enlightened stewardship of Griffith Park so it can survive and thrive well beyond the 21st century. FoGP is committed to ensuring that Griffith Park, a public park and Los Angeles' largest Historic-Cultural Monument, remain open, natural, and free to all citizens of Los Angeles.