

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Fran Reichenbach

**Date Submitted:** 08/15/2023 01:01 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0706

**Comments for Public Posting:** While Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Assn isn't necessarily impacted by the decision to add/use parking meters as a way to move tourists along, we do have residents in Beachwood Canyon who use the Lake Hollywood Public Park. If the meters were for an hour vs 15 minutes, families that use the park could do so without parking on Lake Hollywood streets.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Hollywoodland Homeowners Association, Incorporated

**Date Submitted:** 08/15/2023 05:11 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0706

**Comments for Public Posting:** From letter dated July 6, 2023 from Douglas P. Carstens, Attorney at Law to Councilmember Raman and included as an attachment with this Public Comment Form: "When viewed in proper perspective as a series of actions to promote an international tourist destination by funneling traffic to a series of Hollywood Sign viewsites, the City's actions constitute various approvals of a single Hollywood Sign tourism promotion project ("Project"). This Project requires environmental review that addresses the cumulative impacts created or knowingly allowed by the City in this area without sufficient study or mitigation. The access and public health hazards created by uncontrolled usage of the area, which is a high fire hazard zone, must be analyzed and mitigated before further actions are taken. Cumulatively, the City's series of actions could have significant adverse impacts on access and hazards in the area that have not been adequately considered or mitigated. A project that creates cumulative impacts is one of the designated exceptions to the categorical exemptions provided in CEQA Guidelines: "All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant."(Guidelines section 15300.2 subd. (b).) The City, when past councilmembers were in office, has failed to forthrightly describe its actual project, or presented alternatives, or mitigation measures for its decision as would be presented in an actual Environmental Impact Report(EIR)under CEQA-the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. Instead, the City has focused on minor actions and has claimed each individual minor action is too small to be subject to CEQA review. The City is doing nothing less than promoting the Hollywood Sign as an international tourist destination with the Hollywoodland area impacted as ground zero. This is a single project and should be reviewed as such. The City should undertake its tourist destination promotion project in a methodical and orderly way (which should be a CEQA review process) to decide which recommendations to implement, which to reject, and which to modify for implementation. Conclusion We ask that the City must act in a coordinated fashion that identifies the overall Project the City is undertaking as promotion of Hollywood Sign tourism, and that you direct the preparation of an

Environmental Impact Report that fully addresses the impacts of that Project, proposes mitigation measures and alternatives for it, and adopts every feasible means to mitigate those public safety, mobility, and accessibility impacts. The public health, safety, and welfare of your constituents in the Hollywoodland area neighborhoods should be the primary concern among these." Thank you your consideration of this matter. Sincerely, Douglas P. Carstens



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July 6, 2023

*Via Email*

[contactCD4@lacity.org](mailto:contactCD4@lacity.org)

Councilmember Nithya Raman  
City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Objection to Piecemeal Consideration of Actions Related to the  
Hollywoodland Area and Hollywood Sign; Request for Preparation of  
Environmental Impact Report for City Hollywood Sign Tourism Project

Honorable Councilmember Raman:

On behalf of the Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan, we would like to express our concern about four of the five motions you introduced on June 23, 2023 related to the Hollywoodland area and the Hollywood Sign.<sup>1</sup>

These four motions of concern (attached) are the following:

1. Fencing. Direct the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to report on recommendations to replace temporary fencing on Mulholland Highway with permanent fencing.
2. Roundabout. Direct the Bureau of Engineering and DOT to report within 90 days with a project development plan for installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Lake Canyon Drive and Mulholland Highway.
3. Parking Meter Zones (PMZ). Direct the DOT and CAO to report within 90 days on steps necessary to establish a PMZ.
4. Hiking Destination Improvement.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The fifth motion directing Department of Transportation to identify areas where Tour Bus operations should be prohibited is necessary and not problematic if it leads to prohibition of Tour Buses from various areas. This is in the Dixon Report and the HUNC report.

<sup>2</sup> The Hiking Destination Improvement Motion does not appear to be among the other motions introduced on June 23, 2023. (See [file:///F:/Hollywoodland%20II/Misc/clkcouncilactions2172621\\_06282023.pdf](file:///F:/Hollywoodland%20II/Misc/clkcouncilactions2172621_06282023.pdf).) More

Councilmember Raman

July 6, 2023

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While we appreciate these motions for recognizing the significant issues that residents in the area around the Hollywood Sign must deal with related to Hollywood Sign tourism<sup>3</sup>, we are concerned that the motions fail to approach the development of solutions from a comprehensive perspective.

The inappropriately piecemealed development of a Hollywood Sign view site without environmental review continues.<sup>4</sup> We have previously written to the City Council regarding this issue, and the situation has only gotten worse. (See Encl. 2- June 5, 2019 letter from Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minter LLP to the City Council.)

Due to safety concerns the City has posted a sign "no pedestrians" that has been ignored for years, and now there are rumors the City proposes a walking path next to Mulholland. Hollywood United Neighborhood Council recently released a report supporting, among other items, bathrooms and a satellite ranger station (likely including a gift shop). From the motions and these other actions, it appears the City contemplates extensive development and changes in the area that constitute a project approval without adequate environmental review. These measures require environmental review by the City itself, convening interested stakeholders as necessary.

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information must be disclosed about this. If the hiking improvements are within what is now identified as Lake Hollywood Park, this would be concerning as part of the overall piecemealing plan that has been implemented.

<sup>3</sup> We also appreciate the short term and medium term bullet pointed items in your July 4<sup>th</sup> Hollywood Sign Western Griffith Park Action Plan such as increased law enforcement deployments and regulatory changes. However, these are only short term or temporary solutions.

<sup>4</sup> On behalf of Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan ("Appellant"), we appealed the February 20, 2019 decision of the Board of Commissioners of the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department to adopt a categorical exemption for approval of Lake Hollywood and Upper Vista Outdoor Improvements, Project PRJ21233, Board number 19-039 ("Project"). We have written to the City about the series of actions to promote an international tourist destination as early as September 9, 2011 objecting to the implementation of such strategies at the Mulholland Highway/Canyon Lake Drive view pad without environmental review. Again, on December 17, 2015, we pointed out the nuisance conditions that were being created by the City's continuing actions to promote access for viewsites without controlling it sufficiently including congestion and unsupervised usage of areas in a high fire hazard zone prone to wildfires. We objected to use of this Dixon Report to guide further approvals without environmental review. Our appeal letter of March 1, 2019 included this prior correspondence from 2011, 2015, and 2017.

When viewed in proper perspective as a series of actions to promote an international tourist destination by funneling traffic to a series of Hollywood Sign viewsites, the City's actions constitute various approvals of a single Hollywood Sign tourism promotion project ("Project"). This Project requires environmental review that addresses the cumulative impacts created or knowingly allowed by the City in this area without sufficient study or mitigation. The access and public health hazards created by uncontrolled usage of the area, which is a high fire hazard zone, must be analyzed and mitigated before further actions are taken. Cumulatively, the City's series of actions could have significant adverse impacts on access and hazards in the area that have not been adequately considered or mitigated. A project that creates cumulative impacts is one of the designated exceptions to the categorical exemptions provided in CEQA Guidelines: "All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant." (Guidelines section 15300.2 subd. (b).)

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The City should undertake its tourist destination promotion project in a methodical and orderly way (which should be a CEQA review process) to decide which recommendations to implement, which to reject, and which to modify for implementation.

## **Conclusion**

We ask that the City must act in a coordinated fashion that identifies the overall Project the City is undertaking as promotion of Hollywood Sign tourism, and that you direct the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report that fully addresses the impacts of that Project, proposes mitigation measures and alternatives for it, and adopts every feasible means to mitigate those public safety, mobility, and accessibility impacts. The public health, safety, and welfare of your constituents in the Hollywoodland area neighborhoods should be the primary concern among these.

Councilmember Raman

July 6, 2023

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Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Douglas P. Carstens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Douglas P. Carstens

Enclosures:

1. Motions Introduced on June 23, 2023.
2. Letter from Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan to City of Los Angeles of June 4, 2019.

**ENCLOSURE 1**

MOTION

PUBLIC WORKS

Mulholland Highway is a scenic road in the Hollywood Hills that is the primary means of ingress and egress for many residents. In portions of this road, the Hollywood Sign is visible from the road itself. The segment of Mulholland Highway from Canyon Lake Drive to Durand Drive is a two-lane road with no stopping lanes, but tourists visiting this area frequently stop in the travel lanes along this road segment to photograph the Hollywood sign in locations where it is visible. This segment has no turnout and many curves, and drivers stopping or driving distracted to take photos create a hazard to their own safety and the safety of other drivers.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has installed temporary fencing along this segment of Mulholland Highway to deter visitors from stopping; however, this generates an ongoing cost for the Department and the temporary fencing is not weatherized for long-term deployment.

In order to ensure residents have safe access to their neighborhoods and for continued deterrence of drivers stopping along this segment, the City should install permanent fencing or panels that will discourage drivers from stopping along this stretch of road.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Bureau of Engineering, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, to report within 60 days with recommendations to replace the temporary fencing on Mulholland Highway, beginning at Canyon Lake Drive and running along a portion of the Lake Hollywood Park perimeter east to Durand Drive, with a permanent option to deter vehicles from stopping along this two-lane segment, to initiate a capital improvement project, and to identify funding for the fencing replacement.

PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

MHD  
JUN 23 2023

MOTION

The intersection of Canyon Lake Drive and Mulholland Highway in the Hollywood Hills is a popular tourist site for visitors, as it overlooks the Hollywood Reservoir to the south and sits under the Hollywood sign to the north. However, this intersection was not constructed to sustain the level of vehicular traffic it receives today and visitors often three-point-turn at this narrow intersection or continue traveling up the two-lane Mulholland Highway looking for another location to turn around.

The City should consider installing a traffic roundabout at this intersection to better facilitate safe vehicular travel in this area, improve pedestrian safety for visitors walking to the viewpoints, and enhance overall traffic flow and safety.

Additionally, the westerly portion of Canyon Lake Drive from Arrowhead Drive to Mulholland Highway and the easterly portion of Canyon Lake Drive from Mulholland Highway to about 150' to the west, feature dirt parkways between the curb and the sidewalk. Due to the steep incline, climate, and high number of visitors, this parkway is not an ideal site for vegetation, and the dirt in the parkway regularly results in mud runoff during weather events. To better weatherize this sidewalk segment, the City should concretize this dirt parkway, which will also expand the width of the sidewalk, improving pedestrian access.

Finally, the area is not currently able to have any curb designated as a loading zone due to a lack of accessible loading area.

Despite being a site of heavy tourism, the City has not invested in significant infrastructure improvements at this location. Doing so will improve visitors' experience in the City, enhance pedestrian and driver safety, mitigate disruptions to residents, and improve quality of life for residents.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Bureau of Engineering, in coordination with the Department of Transportation, to report within 90 days with a project development plan for the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Lake Canyon Drive and Mulholland Highway with any attendant needed street improvement work.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Bureau of Engineering, with the assistance of any other relevant agencies, to report within 90 days, with options to concretize the dirt parkway between the curb and sidewalk on all sections of Canyon Lake Drive from Arrowhead Drive to Mulholland Highway to reduce soil erosion and runoff, and to construct accessible loading areas to create loading zones on Canyon Lake Drive.

PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



MHB  
JUN 23 2023

ORIGINAL

MOTION

TRANSPORTATION

Lake Hollywood Park is a popular scenic area with unobstructed views of the Hollywood Sign and access to the Innsdale Trail and Mulholland Highway Trail. Social media and navigation apps have made the Hollywood Sign one of the most visited tourist sites in Los Angeles. There is no transit service to the location and public parking available is limited and uncontrolled. Traffic congestion, due to "cruising" and waiting for on-street parking spaces, creates public safety issues and neighborhood-wide parking problems.

Parking meters can better manage curb space, especially in a constrained area like this one. The Department of Transportation (LADOT) operates and maintains eighty-three Parking Meter Zones (PMZ) and manages 35,000+ metered parking spaces within the PMZs. Variable, demand-based pricing, can help manage available curb space and reduce cruising and waiting for parking spaces by people driving. In this particular area there are also residential areas within a two block radius of public recreational facilities, which, if a Preferential Parking District (PPD) were created, would necessitate a 4 Hour time limit, which, if not managed by price, could offset the positive impacts of using pricing to manage curb usage.

The Griffith Observatory paid parking program from the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) successfully uses price as a tool to better manage a popular tourist destination with similar public safety concerns as Lake Hollywood Park. That program has directed revenues to off-setting the negative impacts of tourism by providing programmatic and infrastructure funds for Griffith Park.

The City of Los Angeles has no dedicated funding source to help mitigate the negative impacts of Hollywood Sign tourism and efforts to mitigate negative impacts from tourism have been confined to line item or ad hoc overtime payments to LADOT Special Events or to the Los Angeles Police Department for holidays. Council District 4 is undertaking a multifaceted approach to tourism management for the Hollywood Sign, initiating motions for needed capital improvements, staffing, and operations and maintenance. Some portion of funds generated from a new PMZ at Lake Hollywood Park could help offset the negative impacts of massive tourism for the Hollywood Sign so that City General Funds can be spent elsewhere.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Department of Transportation, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to report back, within 90 days, on:

- Steps necessary to establish a PMZ with meters, kiosks, or other payment method, for paid parking on Canyon Lake Drive between Arrowhead Drive and Mulholland Highway adjacent to Lake Hollywood Park. The report should include advice about utilizing Express Park or other demand-based pricing method;
- The ability to overlay a PMZ over a Preferential Parking District (PPD), to balance access and curb usage for Canyon Lake Drive from Arrowhead Drive to Innsdale Drive and other residential streets within two blocks of recreational facilities at Lake Hollywood Park and Innsdale Trail;
- Creation of a special fund where future PMZ Lake Hollywood Park parking revenue could be retained to pay for staffing, operations and maintenance, and capital improvements to mitigate tourism impacts associated with Lake Hollywood Park.

PRESENTED BY: Nithya Raman  
NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: Katherine G. ...

MHD  
JUN 23 2023

ORIGINAL

MOTION

TRANSPORTATION

Ordinance 187078, passed in 2021, gave the City Council authority to approve prohibitions of Tour Bus operations on streets that the Department of Transportation (LADOT) has determined to be unsafe. To make that determination, LADOT needs to undertake a study and issue a report to Council for any streets in question.

Tour Bus operations continue to pose a public safety concern for the Hollywood Knolls, Hollywood Dell, Lake Hollywood, Hollywoodland, Beachwood Canyon, and Oaks neighborhoods that sit adjacent to the Hollywood Sign. The narrow, winding streets of these neighborhoods are not suitable for large vehicles, and over the years residents have cited persistent moving violations and other infractions by Tour Bus operators. Existing streets in the area have weight restrictions Tour Buses violate which could be enforced more consistently.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of Transportation to report back, within 120 days, on streets where Tour Bus operations should potentially be prohibited in the area bounded by Barham Boulevard, the ridgeline of the Santa Monica Mountains, Western Canyon Road, Franklin Avenue, and the US-101 Freeway.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Los Angeles Police Department, with the assistance of the Department of Transportation, to report back, within 30 days, on all streets in Council District 4 with existing 6,000 pounds restrictions per Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) 80.36.1 as well as the resources needed to enforce in the Hollywood Hills on routes leading to the Hollywood Sign and Hollywood Sign views, and on routes leading to Mulholland Drive west of the US-101 Freeway and on Mulholland Drive itself on summer weekends and major holidays.

PRESENTED BY:

*Nithya Raman*

NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:

*Katy Yonokowsky*

ORIGINAL

M410  
JUN 23 2023

**ENCLOSURE 2**



**Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minter LLP**

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**Douglas Carstens**  
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June 4, 2019

***Via Email and Hand Delivery***

City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support of Appeal of Approval of Lake Hollywood and Upper Vista  
Outdoor Improvements, Project PRJ21233, Board number 19-039 approved  
on February 20, 2019; City Council Agenda Item # 20, Wed. June 5, 2019

Honorable Councilmembers:

On behalf of Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan ("Appellant"), we appealed the February 20, 2019 decision of the Board of Commissioners of the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department to adopt a categorical exemption for approval of Lake Hollywood and Upper Vista Outdoor Improvements, Project PRJ21233, Board number 19-039 ("Project").

When viewed in proper perspective as one of a series of actions to promote an international tourist destination by creating an funneling traffic to a series of Hollywood Sign viewsites, this Project requires environmental review that addresses the cumulative impacts created or knowingly allowed by the City in this area without sufficient study or mitigation. The access and public health hazards created by uncontrolled usage of the area, which is a high fire hazard zone, must be analyzed and mitigated before further actions such as this Project are taken.

Appellant respectfully urges the City Council to deny approval of the Project until an environmental impact report (EIR) has been prepared that adequately discloses and mitigates the impacts of the Project in conjunction with all other actions the City has taken to promote use of the Lake Hollywood Overlook and nearby view pad at the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Canyon Lake Drive as an international tourist destination.

While the Project authorizes landscaping and irrigation changes, it is one in a series of actions that are part of a larger project of developing an international tourist destination (i.e., a viewsite to view the Hollywood Sign) across the street from

Hollywoodland and residential property owners that are significantly impacted without undertaking prior environmental review or obtaining proper permits. The City, through Council District 4, commissioned and accepted the Dixon "Comprehensive Strategies Report" with its series of recommendations for "Improving Access, Safety, and Mobility around Griffith Park and the Hollywood Sign" dated January 2018. The Report is not a project, nor an EIR for a project.

With the January 2018 Dixon Resources Unlimited study (Dixon Report) of strategies that affect access, safety, and mobility around Griffith Park, the City's actions including the current approval are now placed in a context of a single overall project, which the City is implementing piece by piece with such approvals as the one at issue in this appeal. The approval also contemplates additional Dixon Report recommendations including fencing and an ancillary structure though it was amended to not include them at this time. There is nothing to prevent their being incorporated into the project at a later date. This is additional evidence of piecemealing the overall project. Recommendation 7-1 in the Dixon Report is clearly stated as "Strategy #1. Enhance the most Accessible and Safe Hollywood Sign Viewing Locations and Hikes" (Dixon Report, p. 50.) The Dixon report further states:

**Lake Hollywood Park**

There is a view of the Hollywood Sign from Lake Hollywood Park and the vista point where Canyon Lake Drive transitions into Mullholland Highway. This is a common location that to take photos of the sign. *There are ways to enhance this location with amenities that will improve the visitor experience* (see page 62).

(Dixon Report, p. 51, emphasis added.) These portions of the Dixon Report flatly refute the assertion that the project approval at issue here is somehow a standalone project.

We have written to the City about the series of actions to promote an international tourist destination as early as September 9, 2011 objecting to the implementation of such strategies at the Mulholland Highway/Canyon Lake Drive view pad without environmental review. Again, on December 17, 2015, we pointed out the nuisance conditions that were being created by the City's continuing actions to promote access for viewsites without controlling it sufficiently including congestion and unsupervised usage of areas in a high fire hazard zone prone to wildfires. We objected to use of this Dixon Report to guide further approvals without environmental review. Our appeal letter of March 1, 2019 is part of the appeal package and includes this prior correspondence from 2011, 2015, and 2017.

Cumulatively, the Project's impacts along with similar projects nearby could have significant adverse impacts on access and hazards in the area that have not been adequately considered or mitigated. A project that creates cumulative impacts is one of the designated exceptions to the categorical exemptions provided in CEQA Guidelines

sections 15301, 15303, and 15304, cited by the City's approval of this Project. Specifically, the Guidelines state: "All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant." (Guidelines section 15300.2 subd. (b).)

The Project has been improperly piecemealed as review of accessibility improvements, and their likely environmental impacts, have been omitted from the analysis and indeed have never been undertaken for this area. The present appeal is about "Lake Hollywood and Upper Vista Outdoor Improvements" but the issues of concern are a lot bigger than that single most recent proposal. The larger issue is about the City's ongoing series of projects, with the Upper Vista outdoor improvements being the latest. The improvements must be understood in the context of the long history of City actions to promote tourist visitation to the Hollywood sign, without addressing how those promotion efforts affect the health, safety, and welfare of the residential neighborhoods nearby.

While Appellant supports access to Griffith Park, that access must be controlled in a way so as to not create burdens and hazards to the surrounding area as described in our December 17, 2015 letter.

The City has not described its actual project, or presented alternatives, or mitigation measures for its decision as would be presented in an actual Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under CEQA- the California Environmental Quality Act. Instead, the City has focused on minor actions such as the Outdoor Improvements that are the subject of this appeal and has claimed each individual minor action is too small to be subject to CEQA. The City's Project is doing nothing less than promoting the Hollywood Sign as an international tourist destination with the Hollywoodland area impacted as ground zero.

The City should undertake its tourist destination promotion project in a methodical and orderly way (which should be a CEQA review process) to decide which Dixon Report recommendations to implement, which to reject, and which to modify for implementation.

## **Conclusion**

We ask that you grant the appeal. The City must act in a coordinated fashion that identifies the overall Project the City is undertaking as promotion of Hollywood Sign tourism, and that you prepare an EIR that fully addresses the impacts of that Project, proposes mitigation measures and alternatives for it, and adopts every feasible means to mitigate those public safety, mobility, and accessibility impacts. The public health, safety, and welfare of your constituents in the Hollywoodland area neighborhoods should be the primary concern among these.

City Council  
June 4, 2019  
Page 4

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

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Douglas P. Carstens

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Douglas P. Carstens, Attorney At Law

**Date Submitted:** 08/15/2023 05:13 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0706

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July 6, 2023

*Via Email*

[contactCD4@lacity.org](mailto:contactCD4@lacity.org)

Councilmember Nithya Raman  
City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Objection to Piecemeal Consideration of Actions Related to the Hollywoodland Area and Hollywood Sign; Request for Preparation of Environmental Impact Report for City Hollywood Sign Tourism Project

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Councilmember Raman

July 6, 2023

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<sup>3</sup> We also appreciate the short term and medium term bullet pointed items in your July 4<sup>th</sup> Hollywood Sign Western Griffith Park Action Plan such as increased law enforcement deployments and regulatory changes. However, these are only short term or temporary solutions.

<sup>4</sup> On behalf of Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan ("Appellant"), we appealed the February 20, 2019 decision of the Board of Commissioners of the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department to adopt a categorical exemption for approval of Lake Hollywood and Upper Vista Outdoor Improvements, Project PRJ21233, Board number 19-039 ("Project"). We have written to the City about the series of actions to promote an international tourist destination as early as September 9, 2011 objecting to the implementation of such strategies at the Mulholland Highway/Canyon Lake Drive view pad without environmental review. Again, on December 17, 2015, we pointed out the nuisance conditions that were being created by the City's continuing actions to promote access for viewsites without controlling it sufficiently including congestion and unsupervised usage of areas in a high fire hazard zone prone to wildfires. We objected to use of this Dixon Report to guide further approvals without environmental review. Our appeal letter of March 1, 2019 included this prior correspondence from 2011, 2015, and 2017.

When viewed in proper perspective as a series of actions to promote an international tourist destination by funneling traffic to a series of Hollywood Sign viewsites, the City's actions constitute various approvals of a single Hollywood Sign tourism promotion project ("Project"). This Project requires environmental review that addresses the cumulative impacts created or knowingly allowed by the City in this area without sufficient study or mitigation. The access and public health hazards created by uncontrolled usage of the area, which is a high fire hazard zone, must be analyzed and mitigated before further actions are taken. Cumulatively, the City's series of actions could have significant adverse impacts on access and hazards in the area that have not been adequately considered or mitigated. A project that creates cumulative impacts is one of the designated exceptions to the categorical exemptions provided in CEQA Guidelines: "All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant." (Guidelines section 15300.2 subd. (b).)

The City, when past councilmembers were in office, has failed to forthrightly describe its actual project, or presented alternatives, or mitigation measures for its decision as would be presented in an actual Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under CEQA- the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. Instead, the City has focused on minor actions and has claimed each individual minor action is too small to be subject to CEQA review. The City is doing nothing less than promoting the Hollywood Sign as an international tourist destination with the Hollywoodland area impacted as ground zero. This is a single project and should be reviewed as such.

The City should undertake its tourist destination promotion project in a methodical and orderly way (which should be a CEQA review process) to decide which recommendations to implement, which to reject, and which to modify for implementation.

## **Conclusion**

We ask that the City must act in a coordinated fashion that identifies the overall Project the City is undertaking as promotion of Hollywood Sign tourism, and that you direct the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report that fully addresses the impacts of that Project, proposes mitigation measures and alternatives for it, and adopts every feasible means to mitigate those public safety, mobility, and accessibility impacts. The public health, safety, and welfare of your constituents in the Hollywoodland area neighborhoods should be the primary concern among these.

Councilmember Raman

July 6, 2023

Page 4

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas P. Carstens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Douglas P. Carstens

Enclosures:

1. Motions Introduced on June 23, 2023.
2. Letter from Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan to City of Los Angeles of June 4, 2019.

**ENCLOSURE 1**

MOTION

PUBLIC WORKS

Mulholland Highway is a scenic road in the Hollywood Hills that is the primary means of ingress and egress for many residents. In portions of this road, the Hollywood Sign is visible from the road itself. The segment of Mulholland Highway from Canyon Lake Drive to Durand Drive is a two-lane road with no stopping lanes, but tourists visiting this area frequently stop in the travel lanes along this road segment to photograph the Hollywood sign in locations where it is visible. This segment has no turnout and many curves, and drivers stopping or driving distracted to take photos create a hazard to their own safety and the safety of other drivers.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has installed temporary fencing along this segment of Mulholland Highway to deter visitors from stopping; however, this generates an ongoing cost for the Department and the temporary fencing is not weatherized for long-term deployment.

In order to ensure residents have safe access to their neighborhoods and for continued deterrence of drivers stopping along this segment, the City should install permanent fencing or panels that will discourage drivers from stopping along this stretch of road.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Bureau of Engineering, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, to report within 60 days with recommendations to replace the temporary fencing on Mulholland Highway, beginning at Canyon Lake Drive and running along a portion of the Lake Hollywood Park perimeter east to Durand Drive, with a permanent option to deter vehicles from stopping along this two-lane segment, to initiate a capital improvement project, and to identify funding for the fencing replacement.

PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

MHD  
JUN 23 2023

MOTION

The intersection of Canyon Lake Drive and Mulholland Highway in the Hollywood Hills is a popular tourist site for visitors, as it overlooks the Hollywood Reservoir to the south and sits under the Hollywood sign to the north. However, this intersection was not constructed to sustain the level of vehicular traffic it receives today and visitors often three-point-turn at this narrow intersection or continue traveling up the two-lane Mulholland Highway looking for another location to turn around.

The City should consider installing a traffic roundabout at this intersection to better facilitate safe vehicular travel in this area, improve pedestrian safety for visitors walking to the viewpoints, and enhance overall traffic flow and safety.

Additionally, the westerly portion of Canyon Lake Drive from Arrowhead Drive to Mulholland Highway and the easterly portion of Canyon Lake Drive from Mulholland Highway to about 150' to the west, feature dirt parkways between the curb and the sidewalk. Due to the steep incline, climate, and high number of visitors, this parkway is not an ideal site for vegetation, and the dirt in the parkway regularly results in mud runoff during weather events. To better weatherize this sidewalk segment, the City should concretize this dirt parkway, which will also expand the width of the sidewalk, improving pedestrian access.

Finally, the area is not currently able to have any curb designated as a loading zone due to a lack of accessible loading area.

Despite being a site of heavy tourism, the City has not invested in significant infrastructure improvements at this location. Doing so will improve visitors' experience in the City, enhance pedestrian and driver safety, mitigate disruptions to residents, and improve quality of life for residents.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Bureau of Engineering, in coordination with the Department of Transportation, to report within 90 days with a project development plan for the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of Lake Canyon Drive and Mulholland Highway with any attendant needed street improvement work.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Bureau of Engineering, with the assistance of any other relevant agencies, to report within 90 days, with options to concretize the dirt parkway between the curb and sidewalk on all sections of Canyon Lake Drive from Arrowhead Drive to Mulholland Highway to reduce soil erosion and runoff, and to construct accessible loading areas to create loading zones on Canyon Lake Drive.

PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



MHB  
JUN 23 2023

ORIGINAL

MOTION

TRANSPORTATION

Lake Hollywood Park is a popular scenic area with unobstructed views of the Hollywood Sign and access to the Innsdale Trail and Mulholland Highway Trail. Social media and navigation apps have made the Hollywood Sign one of the most visited tourist sites in Los Angeles. There is no transit service to the location and public parking available is limited and uncontrolled. Traffic congestion, due to "cruising" and waiting for on-street parking spaces, creates public safety issues and neighborhood-wide parking problems.

Parking meters can better manage curb space, especially in a constrained area like this one. The Department of Transportation (LADOT) operates and maintains eighty-three Parking Meter Zones (PMZ) and manages 35,000+ metered parking spaces within the PMZs. Variable, demand-based pricing, can help manage available curb space and reduce cruising and waiting for parking spaces by people driving. In this particular area there are also residential areas within a two block radius of public recreational facilities, which, if a Preferential Parking District (PPD) were created, would necessitate a 4 Hour time limit, which, if not managed by price, could offset the positive impacts of using pricing to manage curb usage.

The Griffith Observatory paid parking program from the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) successfully uses price as a tool to better manage a popular tourist destination with similar public safety concerns as Lake Hollywood Park. That program has directed revenues to off-setting the negative impacts of tourism by providing programmatic and infrastructure funds for Griffith Park.

The City of Los Angeles has no dedicated funding source to help mitigate the negative impacts of Hollywood Sign tourism and efforts to mitigate negative impacts from tourism have been confined to line item or ad hoc overtime payments to LADOT Special Events or to the Los Angeles Police Department for holidays. Council District 4 is undertaking a multifaceted approach to tourism management for the Hollywood Sign, initiating motions for needed capital improvements, staffing, and operations and maintenance. Some portion of funds generated from a new PMZ at Lake Hollywood Park could help offset the negative impacts of massive tourism for the Hollywood Sign so that City General Funds can be spent elsewhere.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Department of Transportation, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer (CAO) to report back, within 90 days, on:

- Steps necessary to establish a PMZ with meters, kiosks, or other payment method, for paid parking on Canyon Lake Drive between Arrowhead Drive and Mulholland Highway adjacent to Lake Hollywood Park. The report should include advice about utilizing Express Park or other demand-based pricing method;
- The ability to overlay a PMZ over a Preferential Parking District (PPD), to balance access and curb usage for Canyon Lake Drive from Arrowhead Drive to Innsdale Drive and other residential streets within two blocks of recreational facilities at Lake Hollywood Park and Innsdale Trail;
- Creation of a special fund where future PMZ Lake Hollywood Park parking revenue could be retained to pay for staffing, operations and maintenance, and capital improvements to mitigate tourism impacts associated with Lake Hollywood Park.

PRESENTED BY: Nithya Raman  
NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: Katherine G. ...

MHD  
JUN 23 2023

ORIGINAL

MOTION

TRANSPORTATION

Ordinance 187078, passed in 2021, gave the City Council authority to approve prohibitions of Tour Bus operations on streets that the Department of Transportation (LADOT) has determined to be unsafe. To make that determination, LADOT needs to undertake a study and issue a report to Council for any streets in question.

Tour Bus operations continue to pose a public safety concern for the Hollywood Knolls, Hollywood Dell, Lake Hollywood, Hollywoodland, Beachwood Canyon, and Oaks neighborhoods that sit adjacent to the Hollywood Sign. The narrow, winding streets of these neighborhoods are not suitable for large vehicles, and over the years residents have cited persistent moving violations and other infractions by Tour Bus operators. Existing streets in the area have weight restrictions Tour Buses violate which could be enforced more consistently.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of Transportation to report back, within 120 days, on streets where Tour Bus operations should potentially be prohibited in the area bounded by Barham Boulevard, the ridgeline of the Santa Monica Mountains, Western Canyon Road, Franklin Avenue, and the US-101 Freeway.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Los Angeles Police Department, with the assistance of the Department of Transportation, to report back, within 30 days, on all streets in Council District 4 with existing 6,000 pounds restrictions per Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) 80.36.1 as well as the resources needed to enforce in the Hollywood Hills on routes leading to the Hollywood Sign and Hollywood Sign views, and on routes leading to Mulholland Drive west of the US-101 Freeway and on Mulholland Drive itself on summer weekends and major holidays.

PRESENTED BY:

*Nithya Raman*

NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:

*Katy Yonokowsky*

ORIGINAL

*MFD*  
JUN 23 2023

**ENCLOSURE 2**



**Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minter LLP**

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**Douglas Carstens**  
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dpc@cbcearthlaw.com  
Direct Dial:  
310-798-2400 Ext. 1

June 4, 2019

***Via Email and Hand Delivery***

City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support of Appeal of Approval of Lake Hollywood and Upper Vista  
Outdoor Improvements, Project PRJ21233, Board number 19-039 approved  
on February 20, 2019; City Council Agenda Item # 20, Wed. June 5, 2019

Honorable Councilmembers:

On behalf of Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan ("Appellant"), we appealed the February 20, 2019 decision of the Board of Commissioners of the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department to adopt a categorical exemption for approval of Lake Hollywood and Upper Vista Outdoor Improvements, Project PRJ21233, Board number 19-039 ("Project").

When viewed in proper perspective as one of a series of actions to promote an international tourist destination by creating an funneling traffic to a series of Hollywood Sign viewsites, this Project requires environmental review that addresses the cumulative impacts created or knowingly allowed by the City in this area without sufficient study or mitigation. The access and public health hazards created by uncontrolled usage of the area, which is a high fire hazard zone, must be analyzed and mitigated before further actions such as this Project are taken.

Appellant respectfully urges the City Council to deny approval of the Project until an environmental impact report (EIR) has been prepared that adequately discloses and mitigates the impacts of the Project in conjunction with all other actions the City has taken to promote use of the Lake Hollywood Overlook and nearby view pad at the intersection of Mulholland Highway and Canyon Lake Drive as an international tourist destination.

While the Project authorizes landscaping and irrigation changes, it is one in a series of actions that are part of a larger project of developing an international tourist destination (i.e., a viewsite to view the Hollywood Sign) across the street from

Hollywoodland and residential property owners that are significantly impacted without undertaking prior environmental review or obtaining proper permits. The City, through Council District 4, commissioned and accepted the Dixon "Comprehensive Strategies Report" with its series of recommendations for "Improving Access, Safety, and Mobility around Griffith Park and the Hollywood Sign" dated January 2018. The Report is not a project, nor an EIR for a project.

With the January 2018 Dixon Resources Unlimited study (Dixon Report) of strategies that affect access, safety, and mobility around Griffith Park, the City's actions including the current approval are now placed in a context of a single overall project, which the City is implementing piece by piece with such approvals as the one at issue in this appeal. The approval also contemplates additional Dixon Report recommendations including fencing and an ancillary structure though it was amended to not include them at this time. There is nothing to prevent their being incorporated into the project at a later date. This is additional evidence of piecemealing the overall project. Recommendation 7-1 in the Dixon Report is clearly stated as "Strategy #1. Enhance the most Accessible and Safe Hollywood Sign Viewing Locations and Hikes" (Dixon Report, p. 50.) The Dixon report further states:

**Lake Hollywood Park**

There is a view of the Hollywood Sign from Lake Hollywood Park and the vista point where Canyon Lake Drive transitions into Mullholland Highway. This is a common location that to take photos of the sign. *There are ways to enhance this location with amenities that will improve the visitor experience* (see page 62).

(Dixon Report, p. 51, emphasis added.) These portions of the Dixon Report flatly refute the assertion that the project approval at issue here is somehow a standalone project.

We have written to the City about the series of actions to promote an international tourist destination as early as September 9, 2011 objecting to the implementation of such strategies at the Mulholland Highway/Canyon Lake Drive view pad without environmental review. Again, on December 17, 2015, we pointed out the nuisance conditions that were being created by the City's continuing actions to promote access for viewsites without controlling it sufficiently including congestion and unsupervised usage of areas in a high fire hazard zone prone to wildfires. We objected to use of this Dixon Report to guide further approvals without environmental review. Our appeal letter of March 1, 2019 is part of the appeal package and includes this prior correspondence from 2011, 2015, and 2017.

Cumulatively, the Project's impacts along with similar projects nearby could have significant adverse impacts on access and hazards in the area that have not been adequately considered or mitigated. A project that creates cumulative impacts is one of the designated exceptions to the categorical exemptions provided in CEQA Guidelines

sections 15301, 15303, and 15304, cited by the City's approval of this Project. Specifically, the Guidelines state: "All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant." (Guidelines section 15300.2 subd. (b).)

The Project has been improperly piecemealed as review of accessibility improvements, and their likely environmental impacts, have been omitted from the analysis and indeed have never been undertaken for this area. The present appeal is about "Lake Hollywood and Upper Vista Outdoor Improvements" but the issues of concern are a lot bigger than that single most recent proposal. The larger issue is about the City's ongoing series of projects, with the Upper Vista outdoor improvements being the latest. The improvements must be understood in the context of the long history of City actions to promote tourist visitation to the Hollywood sign, without addressing how those promotion efforts affect the health, safety, and welfare of the residential neighborhoods nearby.

While Appellant supports access to Griffith Park, that access must be controlled in a way so as to not create burdens and hazards to the surrounding area as described in our December 17, 2015 letter.

The City has not described its actual project, or presented alternatives, or mitigation measures for its decision as would be presented in an actual Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under CEQA- the California Environmental Quality Act. Instead, the City has focused on minor actions such as the Outdoor Improvements that are the subject of this appeal and has claimed each individual minor action is too small to be subject to CEQA. The City's Project is doing nothing less than promoting the Hollywood Sign as an international tourist destination with the Hollywoodland area impacted as ground zero.

The City should undertake its tourist destination promotion project in a methodical and orderly way (which should be a CEQA review process) to decide which Dixon Report recommendations to implement, which to reject, and which to modify for implementation.

## **Conclusion**

We ask that you grant the appeal. The City must act in a coordinated fashion that identifies the overall Project the City is undertaking as promotion of Hollywood Sign tourism, and that you prepare an EIR that fully addresses the impacts of that Project, proposes mitigation measures and alternatives for it, and adopts every feasible means to mitigate those public safety, mobility, and accessibility impacts. The public health, safety, and welfare of your constituents in the Hollywoodland area neighborhoods should be the primary concern among these.

City Council  
June 4, 2019  
Page 4

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas P. Carstens", written in a cursive style.

Douglas P. Carstens

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Hollywoodland Homeowners Association, Incorporated  
**Date Submitted:** 08/15/2023 02:49 PM  
**Council File No:** 23-0706  
**Comments for Public Posting:** 15 August 2023 Transportation Committee Councilmember Hutt, Chairperson Councilmember Raman Councilmember Hernandez Councilmember Park Councilmember Yaroslavsky Dear Councilmembers, We appreciate the time this committee has taken to develop these measures, but proper process including a full EIR must be in place before any execution of the motions. Environmental review will also ensure motions are vetted and reviewed according to the Hollywood Community Plan, Mobility Plan, and Griffith Park Vision Plan. Review and recommendations from consultants such as Dixon or Stantec or even the City's own CAO will not delve into the essential criteria that needs to be considered for safety and protection of the environment and our historic Hollywoodland tract 6450. Sincerely, Christine Mills O'Brien, President Hollywoodland Homeowners Association Incorporated CMO/ld



HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION est. 1942

15 August 2023

Transportation Committee

Councilmember Hutt, Chairperson

Councilmember Raman

Councilmember Hernandez

Councilmember Park

Councilmember Yaroslavsky

Dear Councilmembers,

We appreciate the time this committee has taken to develop these measures, but proper process including a full EIR must be in place before any execution of the motions.

Environmental review will also ensure motions are vetted and reviewed according to the Hollywood Community Plan, Mobility Plan, and Griffith Park Vision Plan. Review and recommendations from consultants such as Dixon or Stantec or even the City's own CAO will not delve into the essential criteria that needs to be considered for safety and protection of the environment and our historic Hollywoodland tract 6450.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Mills O'Brien".

Christine Mills O'Brien, President  
Hollywoodland Homeowners Association Incorporated

CMO/ld

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Hollywoodland Homeowners Association, Incorporated

**Date Submitted:** 08/15/2023 02:57 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0706

**Comments for Public Posting:** August 9, 2023  
Dear Councilmember Raman, Thank you for asking the opinion of The Hollywoodland Homeowner's Association Board of Directors regarding the five motions that you have introduced. Each of these motions is related to what must be acknowledged as the single overall project of promoting Hollywood Sign tourism in the Hollywoodland Specific Plan area. We would like to provide our present response to you as quickly as requested, and with the hope that other stakeholders may be made aware of our thoughts. As a procedural matter, and as been requested in July 6 and July 31 letters from the Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan to you, any meaningful actions to address problems created by Hollywood Sign tourism must be undertaken with adequate environmental review in the form of an environmental impact report (EIR) pursuant to CEQA. It does not make sense to move forward with one narrow motion or another to address a single subject until a comprehensive understanding is set forth of how all potential actions fit together, or at least such a comprehensive analysis must be set in motion. Rather than disparate motions with five or more separate subjects, there should be an overarching Motion requiring a comprehensive study of all of them together. As courts have stated, environmental review must be undertaken as early as possible in a review process before bureaucratic momentum forecloses alternatives or commits an agency to a course that is more difficult to change later. And courts have cautioned against segmenting or piecemealing a single large project (such as addressing Hollywood Sign tourism) into smaller pieces that each alone may appear to have insignificant effects. An EIR is ultimately a "look before you leap" type of study- and it must be done before leaping into decisions about what should be done in the Hollywoodland area to address the impacts of Hollywood Sign tourism. While we understand other stakeholders may be advocating for immediate action without further study, we respectfully submit that they may not understand the dynamics of the situation in the immediately impacted area of Hollywoodland, nor feel the effects of the actions that may be recommended. However, we hope other stakeholders understand that for the City to set a precedent of evading or unduly delaying necessary environmental analysis in the name of taking rapid action sets a

bad precedent for the whole city and could adversely affect everyone's interests- including theirs when projects are undertaken closer to their core interests. Thank you again for contacting us about our thoughts on the Motions that you have introduced. We appreciate the intentions to address long standing issues in the community, and hope that the solutions that are developed will be real and lasting, rather than superficially appealing quick fixes that could complicate and exacerbate the situation in the long run. Sincerely, Christine Mills O'Brien, President Hollywoodland Homeowners Association, Incorporated CMO/ld ?



HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION est.1942

9 August 2023

Dear Councilmember Raman,

Thank you for asking the opinion of The Hollywoodland Homeowner's Association Board of Directors regarding the five motions that you have introduced. Each of these motions is related to what must be acknowledged as the single overall project of promoting Hollywood Sign tourism in the Hollywoodland Specific Plan area.

We would like to provide our present response to you as quickly as requested, and with the hope that other stakeholders may be made aware of our thoughts.

As a procedural matter, and as been requested in July 6 and July 31 letters from the Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan to you, any meaningful actions to address problems created by Hollywood Sign tourism must be undertaken with adequate environmental review in the form of an environmental impact report (EIR) pursuant to CEQA.

It does not make sense to move forward with one narrow motion or another to address a single subject until a comprehensive understanding is set forth of how all potential actions fit together. Or at least such a comprehensive analysis must be set in motion. Rather than disparate motions with five or more separate subjects, there should be an overarching Motion requiring a comprehensive study of all of them together.

As courts have stated, environmental review must be undertaken as early as possible in a review process before bureaucratic momentum forecloses alternatives or commits an agency to a course that is more difficult to change later. And courts have cautioned against segmenting or piecemealing a single large project (such as addressing

Hollywood Sign tourism) into smaller pieces that each alone may appear to have insignificant effects.

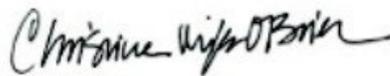
An EIR is ultimately a “look before you leap” type of study- and it must be done before leaping into decisions about what should be done in the Hollywoodland area to address the impacts of Hollywood Sign tourism.

While we understand other stakeholders may be advocating for immediate action without further study, we respectfully submit that they may not understand the dynamics of the situation in the immediately impacted area of Hollywoodland, nor feel the effects of the actions that may be recommended.

However, we hope other stakeholders understand that for the City to set a precedent of evading or unduly delaying necessary environmental analysis in the name of taking rapid action sets a bad precedent for the whole city and could adversely affect everyone’s interests- including theirs when projects are undertaken closer to their core interests.

Thank you again for contacting us about our thoughts on the Motions that you have introduced. We appreciate the intentions to address long standing issues in the community, and hope that the solutions that are developed will be real and lasting, rather than superficially appealing quick fixes that could complicate and exacerbate the situation in the long run.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Mills O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christine Mills O'Brien, President  
Hollywoodland Homeowners Association, Incorporated

CMO/ld



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Douglas P. Carstens, Attorney at Law

**Date Submitted:** 08/15/2023 04:12 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0706

**Comments for Public Posting:** July 31, 2023 Councilmember Nithya Raman City Council Los Angeles, CA 90012 Re: Request for Preparation of Environmental Impact Report for City Hollywood Sign Tourism Project and Amelioration of Past Unpermitted Alterations as the Action Plan for Hollywood Sign/Western Griffith Park is Implemented. Honorable Councilmember Raman: We sent you a letter on July 6, 2023 on behalf of the Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan (the Committee) expressing our concern about four motions you introduced on June 23, 2023 related to the Hollywoodland area and the Hollywood Sign. Thank you for having your staff meet with various community members including representatives of the Committee on July 7, 2023 about the issues connected with the ongoing promotion and development of the Hollywood sign as a major tourist attraction. We appreciated the materials entitled “An Action Plan for Hollywood Sign/Western Griffith Park” (the Action Plan) dated Summer 2023 that your staff provided at this meeting. The efforts you are initiating among City staff and departments to ameliorate unbearable conditions created by crowds drawn to the Hollywood Sign are for the most part commendable. However, past activity cannot be overlooked. Instead, past unpermitted actions must be addressed as part of your amelioration efforts. And, as these efforts are undertaken, the City should require or direct the preparation of an environmental impact report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. The illegal, unauthorized alterations in the tract 6450’s open space need to be revisited, removed and restored to the original conditions (including two vistas off Canyon Lake Drive, the switchback from Hollyridge bridle trail to Beachwood Easement Road, and the flat pad accommodating 20 cars adjacent to the Beachwood Easement Road). There are no budget approvals for these unpermitted actions, nor paper trails for any of these alterations. Below are excerpts from the LA City Charter and other applicable regulations that show such approvals are required: Alteration of public park land can not be executed by a citizen or a city official. A person can not enter the park to dig the terrain, level land forms, alter topography, create walking paths, create a viewing path and or develop a gravel parking lot to accommodate 20 automobiles. (63.44 B 13.) Recreation and Parks

projects (alterations) require procedures and budgets. These procedures can be found in the Los Angeles City Charter (sections, 2.16, 371, 374, 380, 590, and 594). Any alterations to the park needs Recreation and Parks Commission and department review including the consideration of these safe guards: Griffith park's cultural heritage designation, environmental review (through an EIR or negative declaration), and review of the 2001 Conservation Element ( sections 2,3,6,7,8,11,12,15,18). When viewed in proper perspective as a series of actions to promote an international tourist destination by funneling traffic to a series of Hollywood Sign viewsites, the City's actions constitute various approvals of a single Hollywood Sign tourism promotion project ("Project"). We have written to your predecessors in office in the hope that long-term, permanent solutions would be developed and implemented. We are optimistic that your short-, mid-, and long-term proposals set forth in the Action Plan will lead to solutions that have been elusive for so many years. Toward that end, we reiterate that the most likely method to actually achieve workable solutions is for the City to acknowledge it is engaging in a project to promote Hollywood Sign tourism, and then to prepare an environmental impact report that would fully analyze the impacts of the project, alternatives to it, and mitigation measures for its effects. The time for half-measures and temporary fixes is long past. Conclusion We ask that the City must act in a coordinated fashion that identifies the overall Project the City is undertaking as promotion of Hollywood Sign tourism, and that you direct the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report that fully addresses the impacts of that Project, proposes mitigation measures and alternatives for it, and adopts every feasible means to mitigate those public safety, mobility, and accessibility impacts. Furthermore, action must be taken to ameliorate the impacts of past unpermitted, informal alterations that should not be accepted as baseline conditions for future changes. Instead, the baseline should consist of how conditions would be without the unpermitted alterations. The public health, safety, and welfare of your constituents in the Hollywoodland area neighborhoods should be the primary concern as you and the City implement the Action Plan for the Hollywood Sign/Western Griffith Park area. Thank you, Douglas P. Carstens Attorney at Law Carstens, Black & Minter LLP ?



Carstens, Black & Minter LLP

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310-798-2400 x 1

Douglas P. Carstens  
Email Address:  
[dpc@cbcearthlaw.com](mailto:dpc@cbcearthlaw.com)

July 31, 2023

Councilmember Nithya Raman  
City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
*Via Email: contactCD4@lacity.org*

Re: Request for Preparation of Environmental Impact Report for City  
Hollywood Sign Tourism Project and Amelioration of Past  
Unpermitted Alterations as the Action Plan for Hollywood  
Sign/Western Griffith Park is Implemented.

Honorable Councilmember Raman:

We sent you a letter on July 6, 2023 on behalf of the Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan (the Committee) expressing our concern about four motions you introduced on June 23, 2023 related to the Hollywoodland area and the Hollywood Sign. (Enclosure 1).

Thank you for having your staff meet with various community members including representatives of the Committee on July 7, 2023 about the issues connected with the ongoing promotion and development of the Hollywood sign as a major tourist attraction. We appreciated the materials entitled "An Action Plan for Hollywood Sign/Western Griffith Park" (the Action Plan) dated Summer 2023 that your staff provided at this meeting. The efforts you are initiating among City staff and departments to ameliorate unbearable conditions created by crowds drawn to the Hollywood Sign are for the most part commendable. However, past activity cannot be overlooked. Instead, past unpermitted actions must be addressed as part of your amelioration efforts. And, as these efforts are undertaken, the City should require or direct the preparation of an environmental impact report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section

Councilmember Raman

July 31, 2023

Page 2

21000 et seq.

The illegal, unauthorized alterations in the tract 6450's open space need to be revisited, removed and restored to the original conditions (including two vistas off Canyon Lake Drive, the switchback from Hollyridge bridle trail to Beachwood Easement Road, and the flat pad accommodating 20 cars adjacent to the Beachwood Easement Road). There are no budget approvals for these unpermitted actions, nor paper trails for any of these alterations. Below are excerpts from the LA City Charter and other applicable regulations that show such approvals are required:

- Alteration of public park land can not be executed by a citizen or a city official. A person can not enter the park to dig the terrain, level land forms, alter topography, create walking paths, create a viewing path and or develop a gravel parking lot to accommodate 20 automobiles. (63.44 B 13.)
- Recreation and Parks projects (alterations) require procedures and budgets. These procedures can be found in the Los Angeles City Charter (sections, 2.16, 371, 374, 380, 590, and 594).
- Any alterations to the park needs Recreation and Parks Commission and department review including the consideration of these safe guards: Griffith park's cultural heritage designation, environmental review (through an EIR or negative declaration), and review of the 2001 Conservation Element ( sections 2,3,6,7,8,11,12,15,18).

When viewed in proper perspective as a series of actions to promote an international tourist destination by funneling traffic to a series of Hollywood Sign viewsites, the City's actions constitute various approvals of a single Hollywood Sign tourism promotion project ("Project").

We have written to your predecessors in office in the hope that long-term, permanent solutions would be developed and implemented. (See Enclosure 2.) We are optimistic that your short-, mid-, and long-term proposals set forth in the Action Plan will lead to solutions that have been elusive for so many years. Toward that end, we reiterate that the most likely method to actually achieve workable solutions is for the City to acknowledge it is engaging in a project to promote Hollywood Sign tourism, and then to prepare an environmental impact report that would fully analyze the impacts of the project, alternatives to it, and mitigation measures for its effects. The time for half-measures and temporary fixes is long past.

## **Conclusion**

We ask that the City must act in a coordinated fashion that identifies the overall Project the City is undertaking as promotion of Hollywood Sign tourism, and that you direct the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report that fully addresses the impacts of that Project, proposes mitigation measures and alternatives for it, and adopts every feasible means to mitigate those public safety, mobility, and accessibility impacts. Furthermore, action must be taken to ameliorate the impacts of past unpermitted, informal alterations that should not be accepted as baseline conditions for future changes. Instead, the baseline should consist of how conditions would be without the unpermitted alterations. The public health, safety, and welfare of your constituents in the Hollywoodland area neighborhoods should be the primary concern as you and the City implement the Action Plan for the Hollywood Sign/Western Griffith Park area.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Carstens

### Enclosures:

1. Letter of July 6, 2023 to Councilmember Raman
2. Letter of March 1, 2019 to City Clerk and Recreation and Parks Department