

PRESERVE ATWATER RANCHO

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April 22, 2017

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Chair
ARTS & PARKS COMMITTEE

Re: File 11-1246-S1

Dear Councilmember O'Farrell and Committee Members:

Our group was initially formed, in 1999, to protect and preserve the unique area of North Atwater known as the Atwater Rancho. Our goal was to establish a K Overlay Zone to allow for continued Equine Keeping. The Los Angeles City Council approved this and Ordinance No. 172959 became effective on June 14, 2008. We are proud to have been a part of this community effort.

We fully support equine access to the more than 50 miles of bridle trails in Griffith Park and welcome the bridge which will provide this access rather than the dangerous, through the river, crossing now in place. We are greatly concerned regarding the safety of equestrians on this bridge which will be shared with pedestrians and bikers. We ask that additional precautions be taken to provide for the safe passage of horses and their riders into the Park. More than 300 horses (including those of the Los Angeles Mounted Police Unit and two non-profit organizations serving disabled and underserved young people) are stabled in the Atwater Rancho.

We also ask that the design of the bridge be one which contributes to, rather than detracts from, the rural nature and charm of Atwater Village. A simple, functional, and safe bridge will meet the needs of the community and preserve this unique area of Los Angeles.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide comments and thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Respectfully,



GENE GILBERT

Chair