

In reference to File Number: CF #11-1246-S1 (or CF #11-1246-S!)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to strongly support the City's construction of the North Atwater Bridge, a critical public access point across the Los Angeles River to Griffith Park that serves all non-motorized modes equally: pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclists.

The Los Angeles River bike path is a regional destination, however, it is hard to access from communities on the east bank of the river. This bridge will provide a safe, convenient connection from residential communities on the east side to both the bike path and all the other recreational opportunities in Griffith Park. We need this bridge to fully enjoy the amazing public resources our area has to offer!

One of the secured sources of funding is Active Transportation Program (ATP). ATP consolidates existing federal and state transportation programs, including the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA), and State Safe Routes to Schools. This bridge will provide a safe facility for all non-motorized users.

I am the Executive Director of an Equine and Environmental Education Focused non-profit whose property backs up to the L.A. River. The bridge would expand our teaching area exponentially, as it will give our students the ability to observe and learn about the habitats of the native plants and animals in the protected park. It will give nearly six hundred children a year access to explore the nature of Griffith Park in our Environmental Science Classes and will also provide greater access to teaching trail riding to the students in our equestrian classes.

I believe the North Atwater Bridge project will greatly benefit my community and so I urge the City to provide the remaining funds needed to begin construction of this project right away. If you have any questions about my support, I can be reached at 323.906.1560.

Sincerely,

M. Jane Haven, PhD.
Executive Director, Taking the Reins

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