

Marian Dodge
2648 N. Commonwealth Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Re: CF 15-0548
Anza Trail Certification

Honorable Councilmembers:

The certification of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail where it passes through Griffith Park along the Los Angeles River is a tremendous asset for the City of Los Angeles. It is an integral part of the history of California and of the City. The success of the expedition in establishing the City of San Francisco solidified Spain's claim to California and kept the Russians from claiming California. One of its *soldados*, Jose Vicente Feliz, was later assigned to El Pueblo de Los Angeles as its *comisionado* or city manager. For his excellent work Feliz was granted Rancho Los Feliz which later became Griffith Park and the Los Feliz district.

One of the *padres* who accompanied the expedition kept a diary in which he describes the area where the Anza expedition camped beside the river where it makes a bend toward the west around a mountain. The mountain he describes is now Griffith Park and the level land where they camped is currently the LA Zoo parking lot, the Autry Museum, and Ferraro Soccer Fields.

The Anza Trail complements the City's River Revitalization Plan as well as the federally proposed Rim of the Valley Corridor and President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative and "50 State Report." This is a particularly important segment of the trail because it passes through publicly owned land so it is accessible to hikers and walkers. The certification of the Anza Trail allows the City to partner with the National Park Service to enhance recreational and interpretive opportunities along the LA River where it passes through Griffith Park.

Sincerely,

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