

Communication from Public

Name: Miriam Preissel

Date Submitted: 04/08/2023 10:16 PM

Council File No: 23-0105

Comments for Public Posting: This is a sneaky way for Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield and Nithya Raman to get support for the LA River Valley Bikeway and Greenway Design Completion Project (Vanalden to Balboa). The Sepulveda Basin is not in either Councilmember's district I thought this was already voted down until the vacant seat was filled. They are both opposed to any bike path input or change "not our district" when asked about the dog park bike path, which already had two bike paths, one on Victory and one on Oxnard. Although they are writing motions regarding areas "not in their district". They make their motion appear as if it was a total sustainability issue but sneak in support for the bike path in CD6 also (again not in their district).... "Ensure that the Vision Plan: Evaluates current access, and improves and expands access and mobility to and within Sepulveda Basin and its amenities" "Elevates transit, walking, biking, and other non-private vehicle modes of transportation and proposes methods to reduce vehicle Miles Traveled and private vehicle trips with a clear timeline and benchmarks;" So it protects their support of the Bike path. But also states: "Incorporates indigenous stewardship principles and peoples through inclusive consultation" Which is not what they did with the CD6 community or the Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park Community. The bike path in CD3 is such a nightmare that Blumenfield said as much in a motion "Local community members have raised concerns that if design and oversight/enforcement are not improved now, the River will continue to decline and they intend to oppose future investments in parks and downstream improvements." to received \$650,000 from the General Purpose fund to hire MRCA the (Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority) Rangers to patrol and clean up the hypodermic needles and human waste. (This enforcement is only for CD3), and now they are authoring motions that will compromise CD6 but then when there are problems they will say "Not in My District". How much more will it cost the city to cover pet projects that were not taken into account in the planning? How do you put a bike path along a dog park in CD6, when in CD3 it's a mess, and then author a motion to oversee more outside of your own district? While the proper oversight is worthwhile, it's not from this motion.

Friends of the Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park (501c3)

Arguments against the portion of the "Los Angeles River Valley Bikeway & Greenway Project - Vanalden Avenue to Balboa Boulevard" (<https://eng.lacity.org/about-us/divisions/environmental-management/projects/la-river-valley-bikeway-and-greenway>) that would run along the south side fence of the Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park and compromise parking for dog park patrons. The link to our petition is: <https://www.change.org/PreservetheSepulvedaDogPark>

*Loss of a minimum of 4,200 sq. ft of park space and the mature shade trees within that space

*The Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park” (SBOLDP) is the only dog park in three Council Districts (CD). CD6, CD3 and CD12 & part of CD4, serving approximately 876,000 people

*The community, not only the dog park community but the entire Council District 6 we found has no memory of public meetings. BOE put an ad in the LA Times for one month. Comment was directly requested from “people of interest” which does not appear to have been a serious attempt at public input. This was not offered to the Lake Balboa, Encino Neighborhood Council or any other NC we have talked to have on their agenda for review.

*2 bike paths already exist parallel to this dog park; one is less than 100 feet away. Victory Blvd and Oxnard St along the bus line.

*Disruptive construction for an unspecified amount of time.

*Parking should not be shared with a second recreation use as we are limited and use the grass overflow during peak times already. Wayne Neal, the Principal Grounds Maintenance Supervisor II for Recreation and Parks confirmed this to Jonah Glickman the District Director of CD6 (Attachment 1)

* Barrier frustration at fences is a reality for anyone taking a walk in their own neighborhood. Dogs will chase, bark, dig and some will even jump the fence. Any bike, motorized bike, skateboard or a toddler running are triggers, this is not safe for the dogs or the people using the bike path and creates a safety hazard.

*The answer to the visual issue of Barrier Frustration are tall opaque fences which would block the view to the south diminishing the experience for park patrons.

*Access gate to/from the bike path is planned to be located at the end of the SBOLDP parking lot, adding new foot and bike traffic unrelated to people entering

and exiting the dog park with their dogs. A dog that turns to run at a wheel or skateboard can pull our elderly to the ground.

*Loss of one agility course built as an Eagle Scout project which took 8 years to get approval and actualize without donations from outside of our park.

*Encampments and fires. Bike paths have become magnets for encampments. There was a fire last Wednesday morning in an encampment on the southeast side near the ballfields. The area next to the armory went up in flames in 2019 losing every tree in that area, along with last year's Wildlife area. Our park has the most trees left in this area. We also have porta potties that will be the only outlet for the homeless. We feel like this would be a matter of time that a park unattended at night would have this problem.

*Enforcement is an issue. This has created a problem on the paths from Canoga Park to Reseda. Community volunteers, the "River Walkers" organized to pick up hypodermic needles and human waste. It states in Council File: 19-0884

"Local community members have raised concerns that if design and oversight/enforcement are not improved now, the River will continue to decline and they intend to oppose future investments in parks and downstream improvements."

The motion requested that MRCA (The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority) Rangers be brought in to patrol the path. "\$650,000 was allocated from the Council Community Projects line item in the General City Purposes Fund No. 100-56 and designated for 'MRCA River Rangers', in Council File: 22-1034) This is ONLY a solution for CD3. This would have to be readdressed by the new Councilmember for CD6.

*Recreation and Parks follow the County of Los Angeles "Park Design Guidelines and Standards" which states that the standards for finding areas to build dog parks: https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/dpr/1029701_ParkDesignGuideline2017.pdf

b. Must be placed on property that is not currently developed for recreational use and/or in areas of parks that are not heavily used for other recreational activities so as to reduce the potential for conflict.

c. It must not displace another organized recreational use or unstructured use in a park given the County's limited park resources and need for active recreation and passive open space areas.

d. It must have sufficient adjacent parking, preferable off street, that does not require users to cross a street.

What is odd is that this path is on the south side before White Oak Ave. changes sides to the north against our park and then back to the South side at Balboa Blvd. One of the problems with staying on the south is that O'Malley Field was allowed to be built over the access path. The most common-sense change would be staying on the South side (avoiding the dog park) then cross over to the north at the bus overpass half way to Balboa. That would avoid the dog park as well as O'Malley field. Everyone wins!

Attachments: 1. Wayne Neal Dept. of Recreation and Parks
 2. Jonah Glickman District Director CD6
 3. Tarzana CIS

Attachment 1: Wayne Neal Dept. of Recreation and Parks
03/31/2023

Jonah, Good Day

Just for your awareness the parking lot at the Sepulveda Basin Dog Park is at its peak, especially on the weekends with patrons parking their cars in unauthorized areas on the turf which causes park damage to the irrigation valves and turf. I would not recommend any additional recreational concepts that would attract additional vehicles to the parking lot. You may want to notify Miriam as this was an issue in the last meeting.

Thank You

Wayne Neal
Principal Grounds Maintenance Supervisor II
City of Los Angeles
Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Valley Region Maintenance
Office: (818) 756-8189
Email: Wayne.neal@lacity.org

Attachment 2: Letter from Jonah Glickman District Director CD6
04/03/2023

Hi Miriam,

I hope you are doing well. Council District Six has been hearing from a number of constituents and stakeholders who have concerns with the current plan to construct a bike path on the north bank of the LA River in the Sepulveda Basin between White Oak and Balboa. This is part of a larger project but the segment of the bike path from White Oak to Balboa is within CD6.

I am supporting the community in their efforts to find out more information about this project and I have been trying to address their concerns at a number of levels. I am having conversations with the Bureau of Engineering, Rec and Parks, US Army Corps of Engineers, Council Districts 3 and 4, Neighborhood Councils and other community stakeholders and governmental agencies.

The City Council already voted last year to approve the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project and I am being told that any changes to the location of the bike path are not feasible at this time. However, I am still exploring options for additional community engagement and feedback on this project. I continue to support the community in investigating these concerns.

Sincerely,
Jonah

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Jonah Glickman
District Director
Sixth Council District
14410 Sylvan St. Suite 215
Van Nuys, CA 91401
P: (818) 778-4999



Attachment 3. Tarzana CIS
Council File 22-0247
03/26/2023

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Tarzana Neighborhood Council

Name: Jeffrey Mausner

Phone Number: 310-617-8100

Email: j.mausner@tarzananc.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(14) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 03/28/2023

Type of NC Board Action: Against unless Amended

Impact Information

Date: 03/29/2023

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-0247

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Board adopts the Animal Welfare Committee's request to file a Community Impact Statement regarding City Council File 22-0247 as it pertains to the Sepulveda Basin Dog Park as follows: We are against the portion of the Council File that may pertain to the Dog Park unless it is amended as follows: 1. None of the land of the Dog Park is to be taken for the bike path. 2. No trees, especially shade trees, in or adjacent to the Dog Park are removed. 3. The Dog Park is not closed during construction. 4. The bike path has sufficient separation from the Dog Park so that dogs in the park will not chase bikes along the fence line, causing injury to other dogs or people in the Dog Park or adjacent to it. 5. For safety purposes the parking lot for the Dog Park should be separated by fencing, without a gate, from any current or future bike path. 6. Because dog owners want to use the Dog Park after they get home from work lights should be installed. 7. It is further recommended that before any plan for the bike path is approved and before construction begins, users of the Dog Park, the organization Friends of the Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park, as well as the impacted Neighborhood Councils, should be given an opportunity to provide input, at a town hall or other meeting. Hundreds of local residents regularly use the Dog Park and have not been given an adequate opportunity to provide input. There are alternatives to the current plan which have been developed by users of the Dog Park, such as continuing the bike path south of the Los Angeles River, which have not been given a hearing.