

Communication from Public

Name: Julia

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Council File No: 24-0011-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Dear California State Parks Staff and Commissioners, My name is Julia, and I am a regular user of LA State Historic Park. I have seen films outdoors there, and enjoyed the park's natural beauty in the midst of an urban environment. It amazes me that this park can be in the middle of the city, yet also feel secluded. The views are lovely, and the rolling green spaces and number of mature trees are rare in the middle of LA. It is a peaceful oasis and a gem of a space, and I urge you to reject the development of the LA ART gondola at LA State Historic Park. In fact, the park staff's efforts to elicit suggested "improvements" to the park instead of public comment on the gondola's impacts to the park is a manipulative framework that further seeks to stifle the community's voice. In addition, California State Parks should not bend to private billionaire Frank McCourt's profit scheme when this park is public land with public airspace. The park's purpose is to provide a natural and cultural resource, and the gondola accomplishes the opposite with adverse effects such as the following: 1. The gondola would add a massive 98 ft tall station at the entrance of the park, remove 81 mature trees from the park (304 total along the entire route), and fly 5-ton cabins covered in advertising as low as 26 ft over people's heads over vital greenspace, ruining the character and local ecology of the park. 2. Research from the UCLA Mobility Lab found that the gondola would do little to take cars off the road and would likely carry fewer passengers than LA ART claims. Many will likely drive to access the gondola, which would increase neighborhood traffic around the stations for sold-out games. 3. It is not legal to construct a private transportation project that has no true public benefit and only serves to commercialize a historic park. We ask the State Park and Recreation Commission to be good stewards of LA State Historic Park and reject this ridiculous gondola proposal. Community advocates fought for almost 30 years to make LA State Historic Park a reality. It provides vital respite for residents in a dense, urban area of largely working class, immigrant community members whose homes and businesses in Chinatown and on Olivera Street are at risk of displacement from being either directly under or along the gondola route. CA State Parks must respect the work and livelihood of the residents who live in the area and protect the park from this private development. To do

otherwise would set a terrible precedent, allowing developers to chip away at our public land for their personal gain. This process, which is already damaging trust in local and State Parks staff, threatens to permanently damage trust in CA State Parks as stewards of our public lands. Public land should remain for public good, not sold to the highest bidder! Why is State Parks even entertaining a transit project that originated from a private developer? Please stand with the communities of Chinatown, Solano Canyon, and Elysian Park, as well as park-goers all across Los Angeles and exercise your power to preserve this greenspace for our historic neighborhoods. Sincerely, Julia Hirsch