

Communication from Public

Name: Miriam Preissel
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Comments for Public Posting: Our community should not be waiting for an outside event to determine what the basin needs, the basin needs to be cared for now. We are tired of inhaling smoke. Copper wire is being melted down to sell so we are also inhaling toxins. We don't have enough rangers. There are NO PATROLS after 9pm. Contractors are dumping whole bungalows that the city is paying to haul away. We continue to send firefighters into encampment fires without knowing what can explode and injure them again. After the fireman lost his ear the LAFD spokesperson said "Maybe now the city will listen to us." This CF only confirms that no one is listening, the basin itself seems not to be worth the effort. If the Ad Hoc Committee on the Olympics doesn't know what it will be stepping into, it needs to research this. It will be scorched earth by then, the money the city pays to haul away the garbage could be used to maintain and enforce it NOW. A website could be built NOW. There should be an advisory board. Community volunteers should not be used after this area has been an ignored wasteland only for future events. We are there for the basin now, not to be manipulated into being manpower for ambitions down the road. We are setting a "priority" of a redundant, unsafe bike path that will line the river with lights every 100 feet that will be immediately dismantled for the copper and left for the city to find the money to repair and replace while we have a large backlog of lights that have already been stripped of wire, our city streets dark. There is a right way to support this incredible resource and that is not waiting for the photo op and glorifying what it will be in the future. This area needs oversight NOW, for the present community and wildlife, it should not be kicked down the road to the Olympics and the Vision Plan. The community input for the Vision Plan was that it is not maintained well now, so they don't think ANYTHING should be done if there is no money in it's budget to keep it maintained and safe. Do we just get input and then ignore it? As the city is cutting vacant positions because of its budget crisis, looking for our city departments to function without proper funding is fantasy. Do the hard work and make this area the best it can be now, make it safe, now. Our city council kicks these issues to where they think the money is, instead of budgeting our city to be the best it can be. And this is an amazing resource that is suffering. Right now.

