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Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 25-1295

1 message

LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>

Fri, Sep 18, 2026 at 4:27 PM

Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>

To: albertoveloso.rvnc@gmail.com, Clerk.CIS@lacity.org

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enabled by the to Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or resolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website. Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Council's rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at empowerla@lacity.org.

***** This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. *****

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Rampart Village

Name: Alberto Veloso

Email: albertoveloso.rvnc@gmail.com

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(8) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 09/15/2026

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 09/18/2026

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 25-1295

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Rampart Village Neighborhood Council (RVNC) opposes the proposed Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit (LAART) project and supports continued opposition to the project by Los Angeles City Council and neighboring communities. Although the project is outside RVNC's boundaries, Los Angeles State Historic Park (LASHP) is an important regional public resource used by our constituents, and we stand in solidarity with communities that have raised concerns about the project. The RVNC's primary concerns are: 1. Environmental impacts: The project would require the removal of more than 200 trees, including mature trees in LASHP, Historic Olvera Street, Elysian Park, and along the

route. The loss of established shade trees and native plant communities would reduce environmental and recreational benefits in already heat vulnerable areas. 2. Impacts on public park space: Construction and operation would disrupt community activities and events at LASHP, including a farmers market and cultural and recreational programming. The proposed gondola infrastructure would also permanently alter the park and its entrance. 3. Tribal and public engagement: The RVNC is concerned about the adequacy and accessibility of public participation in the project. We also support meaningful government to government consultation with Tribal Nations regarding proposed changes affecting LASHP. 4. Financing and accountability: The RVNC is concerned that there is not a sufficiently transparent, publicly available financing plan and that private interests are significantly involved in advancing the project. The RVNC supports evidence based approaches to addressing traffic and access issues around Dodger Stadium and requests that public agencies prioritize solutions that improve transportation and access without sacrificing public park space, mature trees, community events, or the quality of life of surrounding neighborhoods.



Community Impact Statement for CF #25-1295.pdf

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Alberto Veloso, President / Ronee Reece, Vice President
Lara Morrison, Treasurer / VACANT, Secretary
Quazi Huda, Community Interest Rep / Robert Reyes Villagómez, At-Large Rep
Kahlinah Garrett, Resident Tenants Rep / Gaines Newborn, Business Rep
Philip Armstrong, At-Large Rep / Luna Watanabe, Student Youth Rep
Shafi Ahmed, Community Based Organization Rep



Community Impact Statement

Position: SUPPORT #25-1295; OPPOSE LA ART.

September 15, 2026

To: California Department of State Parks Commissioners

CC: Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles City Mayor's Office, Los Angeles Metro Committee

RE: Community Impact Statement opposing proposed LA ART project

Los Angeles State Historic Park (LASHP) is a "A State Park for the People by the People" and the only State Park created from community organizing from the Chinatown Yard Alliance that advocated and won public park space instead of an industrial warehouse.¹ This is an example of how environmental justice, if pursued and funded, can enrich our communities as well as how public agencies should act on behalf of the public. Just 3.5 miles away from Rampart Village, many of our constituents celebrate the park which is a space for relaxation, recreation and connection. The proposed Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit (LA ART) project threatens LASHP through an aerial gondola that, if approved, would degrade LASHP, negatively impact surrounding communities and violate public trust and intergovernmental relations through discarding meaningful tribal and public engagement to advance private transit funded by billionaire interests. This project has no meaningful funding plan and is not evidence based – it is more akin to a Disneyland transit option than serious infrastructure that will alleviate the traffic issues that Dodger Stadium has incurred for decades.

While outside of the boundaries of Rampart Village, we move to oppose this development in solidarity with the Historic Cultural North Neighborhood Council which moved to oppose the project in April 2024. Since then, the Highland Park, Elysian Valley Riverside, Pico Union, Bel-Air Beverly, Greater Toluca Lake, Hermon, Studio City, and Silverlake Neighborhood Councils have submitted opposing community impact statements relating to this project.

Above all, we recognize that the City of Los Angeles stands on unceded Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash lands. All development and land use decisions should move to shared stewardship and repatriation with Los Angeles first people. On August 18, 2026, the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians reaffirmed their opposition to the project, citing lack of legally required government to government engagement regarding the State Parks General Plan Amendment process. We stand with their call for the State Parks and Recreation Commission to not approve the proposed General Plan Amendment at the upcoming October 29 meeting and meaningfully consult with the tribe who had blessed the park upon opening.

¹ Thousands Celebrate Grand Opening of Los Angeles State Historic Park
<https://www.parks.ca.gov/NewsRelease/809>. Accessed: August 20, 2026

We call for the Los Angeles Mayor's Office, California State Parks Department and LA ART to listen to the surrounding communities who have rejected this plan for 8 years and shut down this project. We oppose the LA ART project for the following reasons:

1. **Environmental destruction:** To build the proposed development, more than 200 trees must be cut down, including in L.A. State Historic Park, Historic Olvera Street, Elysian Park and along the route.² The surrounding community would lose shade providing trees that would increase the urban heat island effect, deteriorate the urban environment and drive-up energy costs for cooling. Additionally, State Parks staff and community groups have cultivated native plant communities that serve the needs of local flora and fauna, including endangered species. LASHP trees have established themselves over the past 20 years. With an exacerbating climate crisis, we need to preserve mature trees, not cut them down for a self-serving transit project.
2. **Inequitable development:** The surrounding neighborhoods of Chinatown, Solano Canyon, William Mead, and El Pueblo are working class neighborhoods that are some of the most park poor in the city. This project would displace an existing farmers market, community events such as the Kite Festival, and disrupt daily activities such as birthdays, community sports and collective art. This disruption would be both temporary with construction impacts and permanent with gondolas flying overhead during park operation hours and one of the gondola towers occupying the park entrance.
3. **Flawed public participation process:** Over the past 8 years since the project has been proposed, there has not been meaningful, accessible or authentic public engagement regarding this plan. There has never been a public hearing at the park. Most recently, a State Parks virtual town hall for the was found to be largely inaccessible to residents who use screen readers, adaptive tech or are unfamiliar with technology.³ Important to note is the ethical and legally dubious way that developer has been allowed to fund, organize and prepare materials for official State Parks public input events despite having a direct stake in the project; obstructing the ability for the public to objectively consider the pros and cons of the project.
4. **Lack of financing plan:** LA ART proposes that the project will be privately financed, however there is no publicly available financing plan. Frank McCourt, the billionaire developer and former Dodger owner, is central to funding supporting non-profit organizations such as LA ART and Zero Emissions Transit (ZET) behind this project. Somehow, this project will be "donated" from LA ART to ZET while McCourt Partners funds the lobbying, engineering and design processes.⁴ As the City of Los Angeles is cutting budgets, faces possible fiscal responsibility for the Olympics, we find it irresponsible for public agencies and representatives to consider a project with such nebulous organizational accountability and without a concrete financing plan.

We appreciate the continued opposition of L.A. City Council and request continued opposition to this project and any project that threatens public park space and well-being for private interests. We support Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez' traffic study that will identify solutions to the areas traffic and access issues using evidence based methods, rather than this project that has been pushed through by

² Supplemental Environmental Impact Report.

<https://www.metro.net/documents/2025/12/la-art-draft-supplemental-environmental-impact-report.pdf/>. Accessed: August 21, 2026.

³ LA residents criticize 'deceptively maze-like' public comment process for Dodger Stadium gondola <https://lapublicpress.org/2026/05/la-dodgers-gondola-state-park/>. Accessed: August 20, 2026.

⁴ <https://mccourtpartners.com/portfolio/los-angeles-aerial-rapid-transit/>. Accessed: August 20, 2026.

billionaire interests that have spent more than a million dollars in lobbying over the past two years at the state and local level.⁵ In the context of the cost of prime downtown Los Angeles real estate, this amount of money for acres of public land should be recognized as theft and struck down as such.

We request that our public agencies and officials oppose this project and advance proposals that address the real problems of inequitable park access, traffic congestion and quality jobs without sacrificing the quality of life of communities that would be most impacted by this project.

In service,

The Rampart Village Neighborhood Council

PRESENTED BY: Ronee Reece

SECONDED BY: Quazi Huda

YES: 8 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2 INELIGIBLE: 0

ON THIS DATE: September 15, 2026

⁵ MCCOURT PARTNERS REAL ESTATE LLC AND ITS AFFILIATES, CHAVEZ RAVINE LAND COMPANY LLC AND AERIAL RAPID TRANSIT TECHNOLOGIES LLC.

<https://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Lobbying/Employers/Detail.aspx?id=1473970&session=2025&view=activity>.

Accessed: August 20, 2026.