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California State Senate

ANTHONY J. PORTANTINO
SENATOR

TWENTY-FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT



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October 21, 2020

Michael A. Shull
General Manager
City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
221 N Figueroa Street Suite 350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Shull,

I have heard from numerous residents and community groups in and around the 25th Senate District, which includes the iconic Griffith Park, in opposition to the Aerial Tramway proposal to take tourists to observe the Hollywood sign. They have brought to my attention a number of questions that I believe must be answered as part of a full and proper evaluation of the impacts of this project.

- 1) Martinez Arena is a multi-jurisdictional historic resource that serves equestrians in LA, Burbank and Glendale and would be impacted or possibly even eliminated if the Travel Town route were selected. What are the plans to protect this essential resource?
- 2) There would be inadequate parking available at either the Travel Town or the Zoo Magnet routes unless some essential aspect of those sites was eliminated. What plans are you developing to have sufficient parking for the proposed use level of the aerial tramway without eliminating part or all of the route start site?
- 3) Three routes (Travel Town, LA Zoo, Zoo Magnet) would all bring tramway cars within ten feet of the tops of equestrian riders' heads as the Mulholland Trail weaves back and forth underneath it. Noting that horses are notoriously prone to shying and most riders in the park are on rented horses where the horse and rider are not familiar with each other, what are the plans to preserve safe access for equestrians along this primary trail in Griffith Park?
- 4) The Warner Bros route would cut through the one remaining wild section of Griffith Park. What are the plans for eliminating negative environmental impacts?
- 5) The Zoo Magnet High School serves a unique student constituency, providing them an opportunity to excel in a highly academic curriculum with emphasis on animal studies and biological sciences, while observing and conducting research at the zoo facilities and in the nearby park and museums. The Zoo Magnet route would potentially eliminate this school entirely. What are the plans to preserve this essential resource?

6) The Dixon Survey included 29 different recommendations. What progress is being made on studying the other 28 alternatives?

7) The original problem the Dixon Survey was to address was how to bring tourists/visitors from Hollywood to the Hollywood sign without impact to narrow residential streets. How would the aerial tram bring tourists from the Red Line in Hollywood to the Hollywood sign? How would this happen without increasing vehicle traffic in the already heavily congested Los Feliz corridor?

8) So far, adjacent cities and several dozen community and neighborhood groups have voiced strong opposition to all four proposed aerial tramway routes. What are you doing to build community consensus with the proposed plans?

I am proud to have Griffith Park in the Senate district I represent and agree that we must be careful stewards in preserving Griffith J. Griffith's most generous gift. I therefore look forward to receiving your response to these concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony J. Portantino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" being the most prominent.

Hon. Anthony J. Portantino
State Senator, 25th District

CC: Mayor Eric Garcetti
Councilmember David Ryu