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January 10, 2013

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Stakeholders and Interested Persons

From: City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering
Environmental Management Group
1149 S. Broadway, 6th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015-2213

Subject: **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Griffith Park Crystal Springs New Baseball Fields Project**
- State Clearinghouse No. (SCH#): Pending Assignment by OPR -

The City of Los Angeles (City), Bureau of Engineering (BOE) is the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below. The City is requesting input from responsible agencies, trustee agencies, stakeholders, and other interested parties on the scope and content of the environmental information relevant to the statutory responsibilities of responsible and trustee agencies and to the concerns of interested organizations and persons. Using the information obtained through this public process, the City will prepare an EIR to analyze the environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives. The contents of this Notice of Preparation have been prepared in accordance with Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.

Project Location

The proposed project would be located in Griffith Park in the City of Los Angeles (see attached Figure 1, Project Location Map). Griffith Park is a 4,200 acre municipal park located north of downtown Los Angeles that is operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and provides a wide range of recreational uses within urban Los Angeles. The project would be located on the eastern edge of Griffith Park adjacent to the Golden State (I-5) Freeway (Figure 1). Current park facilities in the project area include the Pote Baseball field, the Crystal Springs Picnic Area, and, North Atwater Park, which is east of the Golden State (I-5) Freeway but within the boundaries of Griffith Park.

Proposed Project

The City is proposing to construct two new youth baseball fields within the existing Crystal Springs Picnic Area. The fields would be constructed in the northern part of the picnic area which is northeast of the existing Pote Baseball Field, south of the Wilson Municipal Golf Course and east west of the Golden State (I-5) Freeway. Each baseball field would consist of a natural grass and dirt playing surface, two dugouts, bleachers, outfield/perimeter fencing, a press box, sports field lighting and a



scoreboard. Landscaping and irrigation systems would also be installed. The northeast segment of the access loop driveway which currently allows circulation around the Crystal Springs Picnic Area would be eliminated and a *cul de sac* would be constructed at each terminus of the impacted loop driveway segment. Construction of the northern *cul de sac* would eliminate five (5) parking spaces and construction of the southern *cul de sac* would eliminate one sand volleyball court.

To accommodate the proposed project, approximately forty-four trees would be affected. Thirty-two (32) trees may be removed and twelve (12) trees with trunks less than five (5) inches in diameter may be relocated. Removed trees would be replaced in accordance with City policy. The replacement and relocated trees would be planted at appropriate locations within Griffith Park as determined by the Department of Recreation and Parks. Additionally, approximately seven (7) picnic tables would be relocated.

Project Alternatives: Layout B and North Atwater Location

Two alternative locations for the baseball fields, both within Griffith Park, are being considered. The first alternative, Layout B would be within the Crystal Springs Picnic Area southeast of Pote Field. The second alternative location is at North Atwater Park, across the Golden State Freeway and the Los Angeles River (see Figure 1).

Layout B Alternative

The baseball fields for the Layout B alternative would contain the same elements as the proposed project. One field would be located just southeast of Pote Field in the southern end of the Crystal Springs picnic area and the second would be located southeast of the first field on the grassy area across the loop driveway and parking area.

To accommodate this alternative, fifty-six (56) picnic tables would be relocated within the Park (location to be determined) and several trees would be removed and replaced in accordance with City policy. No changes in circulation or parking are anticipated under this alternative.

North Atwater Park Alternative

The North Atwater Park alternative would involve retrofitting of an existing softball field and constructing one new youth baseball field just north of the existing softball field. The existing backstop, bleachers and player benches at the softball field would remain; the backstop, bleachers and benches at the new field would match the structures at the existing softball field.

To accommodate this alternative, approximately fifteen (15) trees would be removed and an existing basketball court would be displaced.

Potential Environmental Effects

Potential impacts associated with the proposed project include:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Noise
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

An analysis of potential environmental effects is provided in an Initial Study Checklist, which can be viewed or obtained at the following locations:

1. Bureau of Engineering, Environmental Management Group, 1149 S. Broadway, 6th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90015. Contact: Maria Martin at (213) 485-5753, fax: (213) 847-0656.
2. BOE website: <http://eng.lacity.org/techdocs/emg/projects.htm>.
3. Atwater Village Branch, Los Angeles Public Library, 3379 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90039. (323) 664-1353.
4. Silver Lake Branch, Los Angeles Public Library, 2411 Glendale Blvd. Los Angeles, CA, 90039. (323) 913-7451.
5. Hollywood Field Office, Councilmember Tom LaBonge, CD #4, 6501 Fountain Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 90028. (323) 957-6415.
6. Glassell Park Satellite Office, Councilmember Eric Garcetti, CD #13, 3750 Verdugo Rd., Los Angeles, CA, 90065. (323) 478-9002.

Scoping Meeting

In addition, a scoping meeting will be held to obtain input on the scope and contents of the EIR, at the following date, time and location:

Thursday, January 24, 2013

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Wilson/Harding Golf Course Banquet Room
Griffith Park
Los Angeles, CA 90027

(Follow the signs to the Wilson/Harding Golf Course; access to parking lot is from Griffith Park Drive.)

Responses/Comments

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to:

Ms. Maria Martin
City of Los Angeles
Public Works, Bureau of Engineering
Environmental Management Group
1149 S. Broadway, 6th Floor, Mail Stop 939
Los Angeles, CA 90015-2213

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to Maria.Martin@lacity.org (please include “Griffith Park Crystal Springs New Baseball Fields” in the subject line). We would appreciate the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of a person to contact if we have any questions regarding your comment.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Maria Martin at (213) 485-5753.

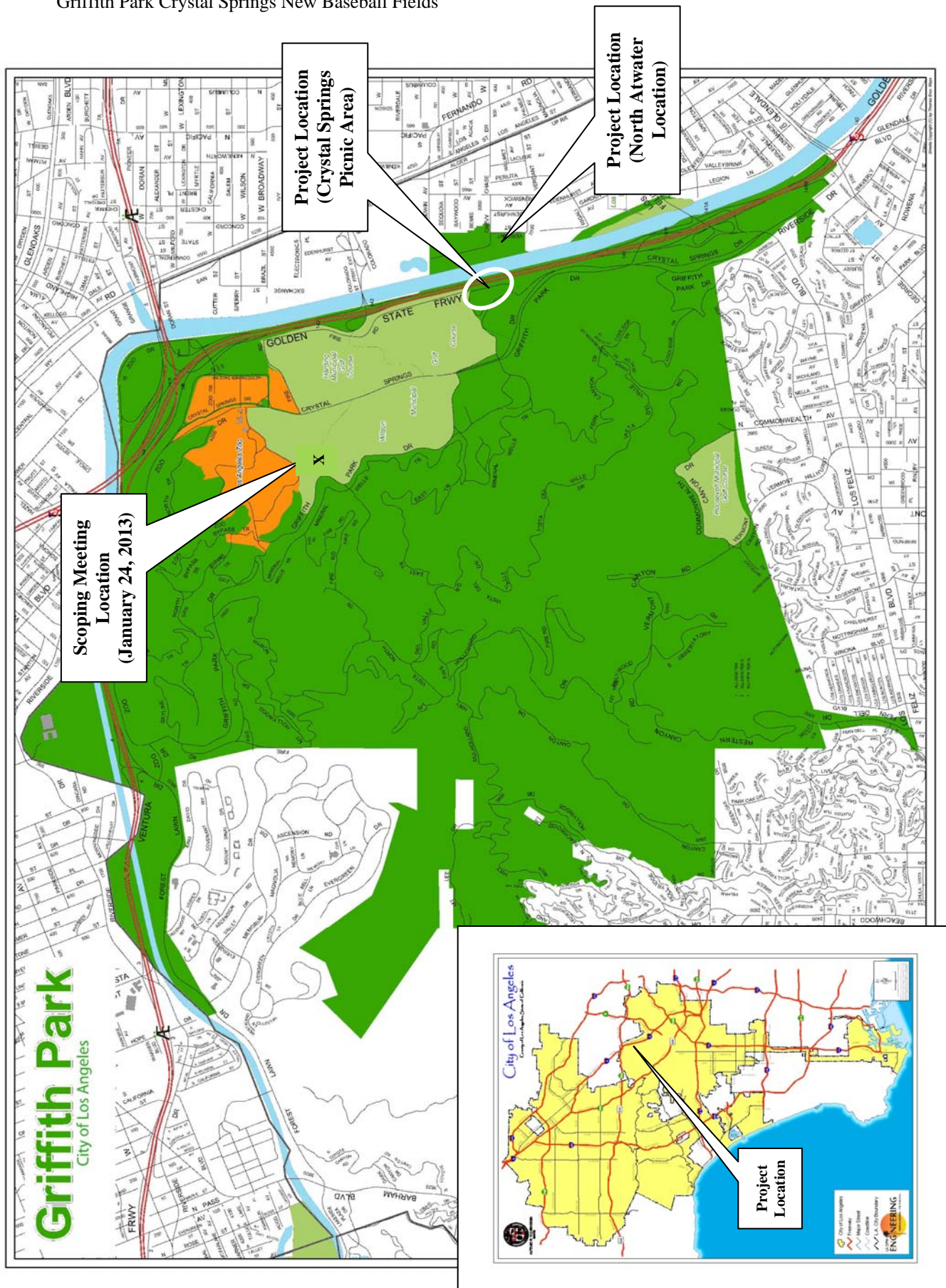


Figure 1
Project Location Map