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October 28, 2013

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

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

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Report for the Griffith Park Crystal Springs New Baseball Fields Project (SCH#2013011012)

The City of Los Angeles (City), Bureau of Engineering (BOE), is proposing to construct two new youth baseball fields within the existing Crystal Springs Picnic Area, located in Griffith Park in the City of Los Angeles (see attached Figure 1, Project Location Map). 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 west of the Golden State (I-5) Freeway. As Lead Agency, the BOE has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR), which evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. The City is requesting input from responsible agencies, trustees, and other interested parties on the Draft EIR. Potential impacts associated with the proposed project and addressed in the Draft EIR include: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, recreation, transportation and traffic, and mandatory findings of significance.

Project Description: 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 to the west of the Golden State (I-5) Freeway (Figure 1). Current Griffith Park facilities in the project area and vicinity 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.

Each baseball field would consist of a natural grass and dirt playing surface, two dugouts, bleachers, outfield/perimeter fencing, a press box, security 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.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.

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Approximately forty-nine trees would be affected by the proposed project. Thirty-three (33) trees may be removed, twelve (12) trees with trunks less than five (5) inches in diameter may be relocated, and four trees (4) may be temporarily impacted due to construction. 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. Approximately seven (7) picnic tables would be relocated. Additionally, the restroom at Crystal Springs would be upgraded for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Project Alternatives: Layout 1B and North Atwater Park Location

Two alternative locations for the baseball fields, both in Griffith Park, are being considered. The first alternative, Layout 1B would be in 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 1B Alternative

The baseball fields for the Layout 1B 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.

Public Review Period: The Draft EIR is being made available for public review for a 45-day period from October 31, 2013, and closes on December 17, 2013. The document may be viewed at the following locations:

- Bureau of Engineering, Environmental Management Group, 1149 South Broadway, 6th Floor, contact: Maria Martin at (213) 485-5753, fax: (213) 847-0656
- Bureau of Engineering website:
http://eng.lacity.org/techdocs/emg/Environmental_Review_Documents.htm
- Atwater Village Branch, Los Angeles Public Library, 3379 Glendale Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90039
- Silver Lake Branch, Los Angeles Public Library, 2411 Glendale Blvd. Los Angeles, CA, 90039
- Hollywood Field Office, Councilmember Tom LaBonge, CD #4, 6501 Fountain Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 90028
- Glassell Park Satellite Office, Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, CD #13, 3750 Verdugo Rd., Los Angeles, CA, 90065

During the public review period, a public workshop and hearing will be held. The public workshop and hearing will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at the Witherbee Auditorium of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens, 5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027. Please use the Children's Discovery Center entrance. The workshop will begin at 5:30 pm with the public hearing commencing at 6:00 pm.

Following the close of the review period, the City will prepare responses to comments and will compile these comments and responses into a Final EIR. All responses to comments submitted on the EIR by public agencies will be provided to those agencies at least 10 days prior to final action on the project. The Board of Recreation and Parks or City Council will make findings regarding the extent and nature of the impacts as depicted in the Final EIR. The Final EIR will need to be certified as complete by the City prior to making a decision to approve or deny the project. Public input is encouraged at all public hearings before the City.

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 45 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 Draft EIR Comments" in the subject line)

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Maria Martin at (213) 485-5753. We would appreciate the name, telephone number, and e-mail address for the person to contact if we have any questions regarding your comment.

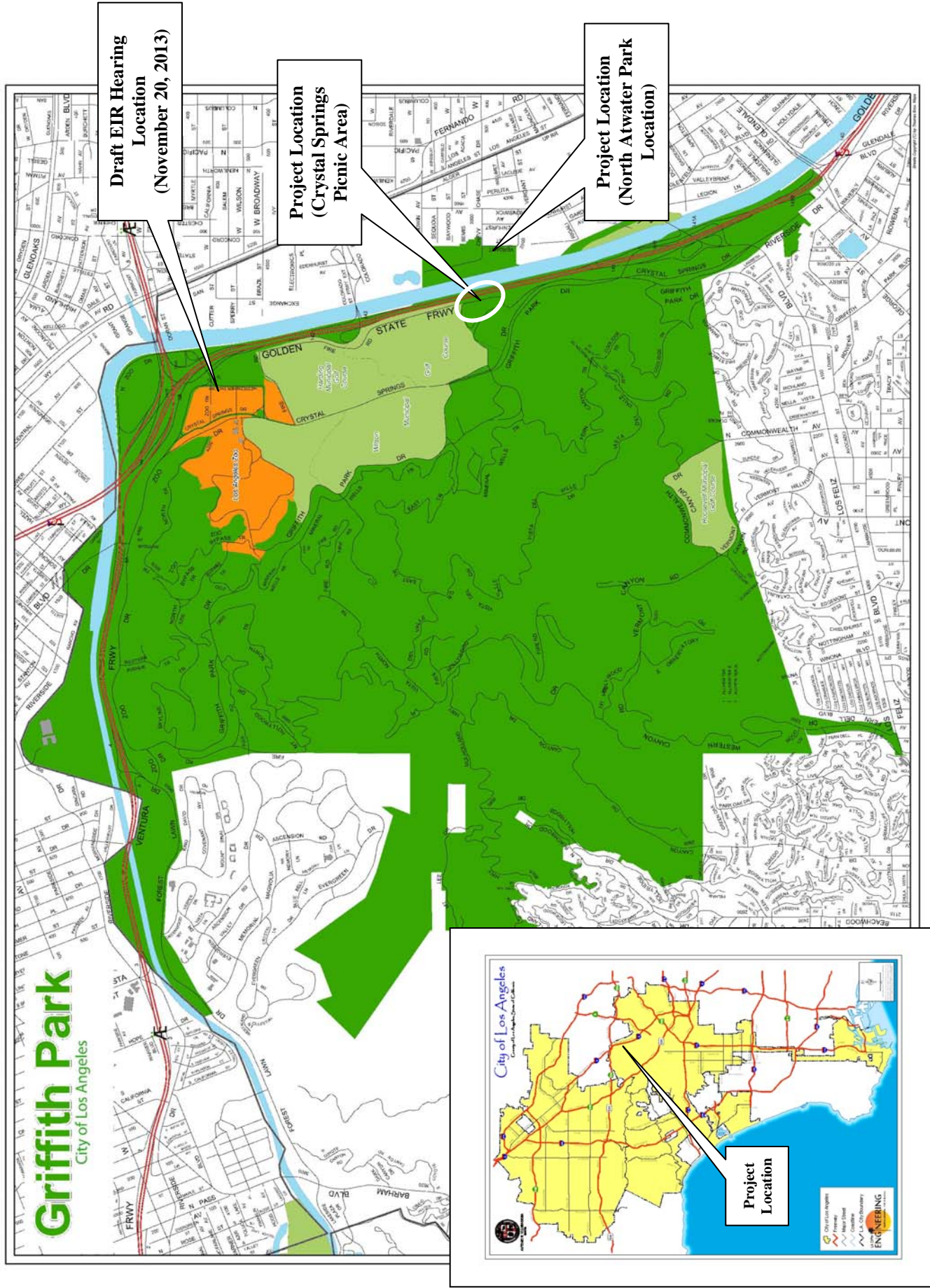


Figure 1
Project Location Map