

Griffith Park ADVISOR

Where do we go from here?

ON MAY 8, 2007, A CIGARETTE IGNITED A MASSIVE FIRE IN GRIFFITH PARK THAT RAGED FOR more than two days. It roared to within a half-mile of the Zoo and came dangerously closer to Griffith Observatory, the Greek Theatre, and neighboring homes. Thanks to the outstanding work of the Fire Department and the City's emergency response team, no human lives or structures were lost. But by the time the blaze was extinguished, it had consumed upwards of 800 acres and burned 25% of the Park's natural habitat. Denuded were the canyons and peaks north and east of Mount Hollywood. Destroyed were a number of popular hiking trails, scenic overlooks, and view sheds. The majority of Mixed Chaparral and Mixed Scrub plant communities in this burn area were immolated, with significant damage to oaks, sycamores, and other woodland communities. While these wounds to the existing ecosystems are critical, many are heartened by the fact that chaparrals plants will self-seed and restore, and that most of the Park's native trees and shrubs will recover naturally over the next 10-15 years. However, in order to allow nature to repair and heal the burned areas, it will be necessary to protect and stabilize the now exposed top soil.

On the heels of the fire, the Mayor and City officials announced that a \$50 million special fund was being established to pay for planning and recovery of the burned areas. Whatever the final sum allocated for this may be, the Griffith Park community is working to ensure that the monies will be dedicated exclusively to this use and that the planning and implementation of the Park's recovery will be forwarded under the direction of experts. At its May 15th Board meeting, the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council passed a resolution requesting that the Recreation and Parks Department use a portion of the announced special fund to retain degreed and credentialed consultants – naturalists, botanists, fire ecologists – to put the recovery process on the highest scientific footing. The full text of the resolution is printed on page 2.



RESOLUTION TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES ON
The Griffith Park Special Recovery Fund And Plan

Adopted May 15, 2007 by the
Board of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council

The Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council supports the creation of a \$50 million special fund to stabilize and restore the 850 acres damaged by the May 8/9, 2007 fire in Griffith Park and recommends that the monies be earmarked as a Dedicated Funds to be controlled and disbursed under the following conditions.

1. That the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (LADRP) perform a comprehensive assessment of the ecological damage resulting from the fire and submit for approval to the Mayor and City Council a restoration plan that includes specific goals, benchmarks for achieving them, a line-item budget and a projected timeline.
2. That the plan be developed in consultation with credentialed environmental professionals dedicated to this purpose who are expert in the restoration of fire blighted natural areas such as Griffith Park; that expenditures from the emergency fund be restricted to natural restoration as treated in the plan, and that they be dispensed under the direction of the LADRP General Manager in consultation with credentialed professionals and staff.
3. That the LADRP submit a report on the progress of the restoration plan to Commission, the Mayor and City Council at three-month intervals presenting benchmark achievements, a review of monies spent; monies contracted, and projected expenses that will affect the remainder of the funds.
4. That the restoration plan govern all activity in the Park and that the City require that all efforts, volunteer or private, conform to its specific goals, benchmarks and timelines.
6. That no emergency funds be spent on new construction unless directly related to fire safety, rescue and emergency planning as set forth in the restoration plan and recommended by City agencies and staff dealing with these specific issues: LADRP, LAFD and the Dept. of Animal Services.
7. That the restoration plan recommend annual funding be allocated in the City's budget for the permanent, scheduled maintenance of Griffith Park to provide for the enlightened management of its chaparral areas and other natural ecosystems.
8. That all funds dedicated to the Griffith Park restoration be audited by the Office of the City Controller on an annual basis, until such funds have been depleted.
9. That tree and plant restoration, to the extent feasible, be limited to native species.

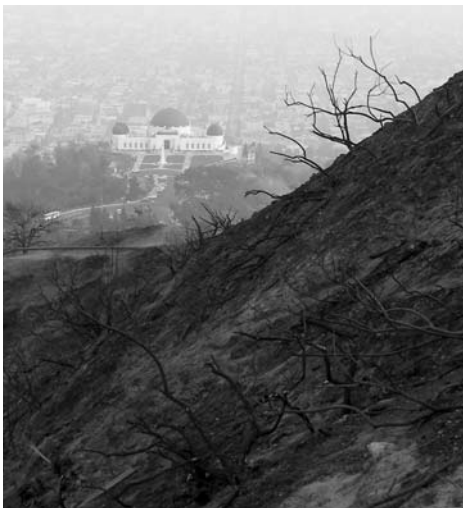
This resolution has been sent to City of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa,
Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Recreation and Parks Department Commission President
Daniel Grunfeld and General Manager Jon Kirk Mukri.

Where do we go from here?

Continued from page 1

ON MAY 23, 2007, the Department of Recreation and Parks and Councilmember Tom LaBonge, in whose District the Park is located, held a public meeting at Griffith Park's Friendship Auditorium. More than 400 concerned citizens turned out. The crowd gave a lengthy standing ovation to the fire fighters, park rangers, police and public safety officers present who had worked so diligently to extinguish the fire and to maintain peace and security in the Park and its adjoining neighborhood in the days that followed.

Recreation and Parks Department General Manager Jon Kirk Mukri reviewed the destruction to the Park and announced that a multi-agency task force had been created to coordinate a synchronized response. In addition to more than a half-dozen City departments, County, State and Federal departments and agencies are participating contributing information and staff to the recovery.



The fire came within striking distance of Griffith Observatory. The hilltop landmark has served the public for 72 years without a liquor license, but its new concessionaire has applied for a variance to serve alcohol. Liquor and risky conduct, like illegal smoking and impaired driving, are linked. Will the City pursue a more cautious policy in the aftermath of the blaze?

Many attending the meeting were heartened to hear Mukri refer to Griffith Park as an Urban Wilderness. His tone seemed to indicate that the Department of Recreation and Parks has embraced the public's oft-expressed desire that Park management devote attention and resources to the Park's natural identity in order to preserve this valuable piece of L.A.'s heritage.

Acknowledging that the fire had been set by an errant cigarette, Councilmember LaBonge announced that the City Attorney's Office was in the process of drafting an ordinance banning smoking

and open fires in all areas of Griffith Park. Hopefully, this ban will help prevent future human-caused fires. The 3300 acres that have not burned are tinder-dry and at risk.

During the question and answer period that followed the official presentation, some members of the public expressed concern for the wildlife that had been lost in the fire; others expressed opinions about native vs. non-native plants, artificial vs. natural reseeding and other topics related to the recovery. Questions were asked about plans, if any, to protect the rest of the Park--indeed all the City's natural parks--from fire as the dry and lengthy fire season wears on. Would a water-dropping airplane be purchased, were extra fire patrols planned? Answers to those questions were not available. However, new signs have been posted throughout Griffith Park advising visitors of fire danger and safety rules and Park Rangers have been seen ordering barbequers to douse their open fires

Some recreationists present expressed heated frustration that several bridle and hiking trails remained closed. Griffith Region Superintendent Vicki Israel urged patience, explaining that the closures were necessary for both human and equine safety. Although Rec and Park crews were working overtime to remove dead branches, boulders and other obstacles from trails, frequent rockslides, tree falls and unstable ground made these areas a minefield of accident conditions.

So where does Griffith Park we go from here? Right now there are more questions than answers. Although funding remains a question mark, Recreation and Parks staff is working overtime to create a recovery plan. Councilmember LaBonge has introduced a half-dozen motions relating to the fire's aftermath. And the media has suddenly awakened to the fact that there is a very important place in Los Angeles called Griffith Park. The community clings to the hope that the disaster will have a silver lining: a brighter future for Griffith Park.

EDITORS NOTE: A closer look at the recent history of the proposed ordinance banning smoking in City parks presents a textbook case of how the desire for revenue enhancement too often drives decision-making in Griffith Park. The push was initiated earlier this year by the Smoke-Free Parks coalition, an American Lung Association-led group that sought a curb-to-curb ban on smoking in all City parks. During the City Council hearing phase, the City Attorney was instructed to write the ordinance exempting golf courses from the ban (Griffith Park has five). The reason cited: Golfers like to enjoy the cigars they purchase at the clubhouse while they play; the City gets a small cut of the concessionaire's net from their sale. Therefore, prohibiting smoking on golf courses could result in revenue loss. The May 8/9 fire, however, put the issue in perspective. The planned exemption was quickly scrapped. The small loss of revenue from cigar sales pales to insignificance beside the millions that will be spent restoring the Park. See related story on page 7: Should Urban Parks Be Cash Registers?



The City Attorney is in the process of writing an ordinance designed to prohibit open flames and smoking everywhere in Griffith Park. Whether the open fire ban will be a seasonal or year-round remains to be seen. The May 8/9 event is only one of four fires that have broken out in the Park so far in 2007. Of the others, one flared in January, two in March. Both months are well outside L.A.'s traditional fire season.

FIRST GRIFFITH PARK NATURAL



Preserving L.A.'s natural heritage in the City

BY BERNADETTE SOTER, CHAIR, PARKS, RIVER AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE (PROS), GGPNC

PERIODICALLY, NATIVE QUAIL are seen rustling beneath the native oak canopy at the end of our block that marks its transition into Griffith Park. But last year, the neighborhood witnessed a first. A family of wild ducks was waddling down the center of our street directly towards Los Feliz Boulevard. Whatever had prompted the mother to abandon her nest on nearby Roosevelt Golf Course, we realized that without an escort to the river a mile east, her flightless brood would die. Alas, spooked by our presence, she exploded skyward. All we could do was round up her chicks and take them to the water's edge. Within seconds of release, a female of their species, one of the thousands of aquatic birds who live along the river in Griffith Park, glided over and took the newcomers in tow. Last seen, they were paddling contentedly downstream behind their new mom.

Given half a chance, the wild things that inhabit Griffith Park will survive and flourish, but only if

we take steps to protect them. This was true before the fire. It is even more critical now. Bobcats, whose tracks can be seen atop Toyon Canyon, need our help to preserve their habitat. The fragile and endangered Nevin's barberry shrubs that dot the hillsides and trails near Griffith Observatory must grow undisturbed to survive. Deer that bed down in the Park's woodlands, on its golf courses and picnic grounds, need reliable plant food sources and safe migration routes. Nocturnal species like raccoons, skunks and owls ask us to respect the night. Reptiles and insects entreat us to sustain the landscape that is their home.

Recognizing that the Park's natural heritage is at risk from a development-driven Draft Master Plan and ongoing attempts to reshape its landscape, the Los Feliz Improvement Association launched the *Griffith Park Urban Wilderness Petition* directing the City to protect and preserve all of its natural, green and open spaces. The petition does not change the

Park's current diversity of uses and attractions, but looks down the tunnel of time and recognizes that the Park's natural heritage is fragile and will not long persist unless its survival is made a priority now. The petition has been endorsed by the Greater Griffith Park, Hollywood United and Atwater Village Neighborhood Councils, the Oaks Homeowners Assn, the Sierra Club, and many other caring organizations. More than 11,000 individuals from 300 zip codes have signed it to date.

As these pre-fire photos taken in Griffith Park show, nature persists in the heart of the City. Let's work together to keep it that way for our children and grandchildren to come.

To sign the Griffith Park Urban Wilderness Petition visit Yuca's at 2056 Hillhurst Avenue. Or volunteer to become one of the individuals, families, affinity groups and businesses circulating it throughout the community, by contacting ggpnc@ggpnc.org or chrislaib@aol.com

HISTORY SURVEY IS UNDERWAY

EDITORS NOTE: The groundbreaking Griffith Park Natural History Survey survey was inaugurated before the major fire of May 8/9. According to its founder and initiator, George Grace, the survey continues post-fire and assumes greater importance than before.

BY GEORGE GRACE, GRIFFITH PARK NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY STEERING COMMITTEE

THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT GLOBAL WARMING will significantly affect the local ecology, including the ecology of Griffith Park. There can also be no doubt that reliable scientific data about Griffith Park is essential to the goal of providing informed stewardship of the Park's ecosystems. Unfortunately, there is very little scientific data about Griffith Park, and what exists is not easily retrieved. The Griffith Park Natural History Survey is an effort to fill this void in knowledge, compile existing information, and establish an easy way to make the data available to the public via an internet website. After an initial launch, the website will require ongoing funding for maintenance and database updating as new study information becomes available. Franklin Hills Residents Association (FHRA) and the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC) have partnered with Griffith Park Rangers to sponsor the project. It is hoped that additional local groups and organizations will soon join the partnership.

Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc. (CEM, Inc.), headed by Dan Cooper, has been hired to conduct the project. CEM, Inc. will research and develop materials for a web-based ecological information center, the Griffith Park Natural History Survey. The two phase survey will include compiling existing information, and developing new information about the flora and fauna in Griffith Park. Data will be digitized and made available to the public through an internet based website.

Phase I of this effort will include the compiling of annotated wildlife checklists for Griffith Park (bird, mammal, reptile and amphibian). These lists will synthesize current and historical information on species status and abundance in the park, and will draw on a variety of sources, including unpublished studies/reports and field notes, specimen records (L.A. Co. Museum of Natural History), the Los Angeles Breeding Bird Atlas, and the Los Angeles Christmas Bird Count. Some baseline original fieldwork will be required to confirm existence of species of conservation concern not typically encountered when casually birding or hiking (e.g., Greater Roadrunner, Horned Lizard). These are referred to as "target species searches" below.

Phase 2 will involve the design and development of the actual website, and will include more extensive field investigations and monitoring necessary to determine critical conservation areas for selected species and ecosystems within the park. The website will include a homepage with a mission statement and description of the Natural History Survey. The website will include digitized maps, reports and species checklists, which will be also available at the Griffith Park Visitors Center. It will also include identification tools, including photographs of characteristic and conspicuous species. The site will link to local/partner organizations and studies, enabling visitors to get involved in conservation issues in and around the Park. It will also include acknowledgments of donors to the Natural History Survey, as well as information about donating funds to ongoing conservation efforts.

Phase 2 field investigations will be coordinated by CEM, Inc., but will be largely voluntary. These will augment initial species lists and current natural history knowledge and will include:

- * Estimates of sensitive breeding bird species within the park, including raptors and habitat specialists particularly dependent on the park for habitat in urban Los Angeles (e.g., California Quail).
- * Wildlife movement/crossing investigation, using roadkill surveys and other methods for detecting medium-sized and large mammals.
- * Amphibian survey of major drainages within park.
- * Rare flora mapping, working with local chapter of California Native Plant Society and other groups.

Both Phase I and Phase II will be coordinated by Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc.

The project to be administered by a steering committee consisting of:
Albert Torres, Chief Park Ranger, Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation and Parks
George Grace, Franklin Hills Residents Association
Daniel S. Cooper, Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc.

Phases I and 2 initial fieldwork and checklists will be completed by June 30, 2007. Completion date for the Phase 2 website is estimated at September 30, 2007.



Wildlife sightings in Griffith Park. Opposite page, top left: look closely and you'll see an elusive bobcat drinking from one of Griffith Park's seasonal streams. Top right, Ceonothus in bloom, one of the Park's native shrubs. Below, a doe leads her fawn through one of the Park's golf courses. This page above: a buck and great horned owl.

EDITORS NOTE: The proposals for commercializing Griffith Park contained in the Draft Master Plan, now undergoing public comment and revision by the Griffith Park Draft Master Plan Working Group, are based on the premise that they will produce revenue to better maintain the Park. Not so, says this article by a longtime Sierra Club and alternate Working Group member. Close inspection reveals that the chief beneficiary of commercialized activity is the concessionaire: net returns to the City are small and 80% of the monies collected in the Park are sent outside its borders. Los Angeles fully funds its libraries and does not expect them to pay their own way. It should do the same for its parks. This is especially true for Griffith Park, whose donor, Colonel Griffith stipulated that it be free.

Should Urban Parks Be Cash Registers?

BY JOE YOUNG, Reprinted with permission from the *Griffith Park Guardian*.

Municipal governments covet sources of money; They call them “revenue enhancements.” These revenue enhancements range from raising fees for parking violations to raising sewer fees to taxing businesses which operate within the municipal boundaries. More recently many municipal governments have been casting their revenue-starved eyes on a resource heretofore considered a public trust: Urban parks.

There are many ways of obtaining funds from the urban parks. One way is to charge for access. Another is to charge for parking. Another is to provide services and charge for use of these services. Another approach involves the implementation of public-private partnerships by which facilities are financed and constructed within the parks by private entities which provide a service, such as an amusement ride, to users. Users pay for these services, and a portion of the revenues make their way to municipal coffers, but, alas, not necessarily to fund the parks themselves.

The City of Los Angeles is joining the bandwagon on using urban parks as revenue sources. The City developed a draft master plan for Griffith Park, the largest urban municipal park in the United States, which, if implemented, would accelerate this process. On one hand, the draft master plan claims that its vision for the park embraces protection (“...the Park’s range of facilities and recreation areas, open space, natural resources and opportunities for activities and events will be protected...”). But the draft master plan also seeks to “increase Park revenues and capture revenues generated by Park users.” In the draft’s section on Park Management, the perceived benefits of financial partnerships include “the introduction of market-driven solutions for service delivery where none currently exist.”

What sorts of “service delivery”? Picnicking? Hiking?

Over the nearly 100 years since Griffith Park was donated to the City by Griffith J. Griffith, a number of recreational facilities have been constructed. These include the Griffith Observatory, the Greek Theatre, five golf courses, Traveltown, the Zoo, and the Autry Western Heritage Museum. (Much of the original acreage was eradicated when the 134 and 5 Freeways were built. The Toyon landfill consumed more acres.) All of these facilities bring in revenue to the City. It’s no wonder that the City views Griffith Park as fertile ground for revenue enhancing schemes.

Something is irretrievably lost when free use and openness are traded for revenue. The very reason for urban parks is the tranquility, quietness, and peace brought about by the very avoidance of frenetic activities usually associated with “revenue enhancements.” People need the escape of parks, and urban residents even more so. Urban Parks should be a place of refuge from hectic city life, not sources of income for the municipalities.

The Working Group that was convened to rewrite the widely rejected Melendrez Draft of a new Master Plan for Griffith Park, continues to work diligently to produce a document the public can approve. The Group has articulated a new vision for the Park as an Urban Wilderness which places emphasis on sustainability and recognizes that in the 21st Century, its greatest value to Los Angeles is in its role as the City’s great green and natural open space. The panel has also identified new usable space in Griffith Park served by public transit where facilities such as new playgrounds, athletic fields and bus accessible picnic areas can be added without displacing the Park’s current users or natural features. Many recommendations made by the Working Group before the fire have assumed new importance in its aftermath. Working Group meetings are open to the public. They take place the first Monday of the month (holidays excepted). The next meeting is Monday, June 4th at 6:30 p.m. at the Ranger Station in Griffith Park. The public is welcome.



Mike Ebert’s classic book, *Griffith Park: A Centennial History*, continues to be the number one text on the history of this extraordinary resource. This engaging 448-page volume chronicles its 100-year evolution from Spanish rancho to the world’s largest urban park, pausing along the way to describe its triumphs and setbacks, heroes and villains, with an occasional surprise thrown in.

In a recent interview, Mike Ebert expressed his continuing admiration for the Park’s complex benefactor, Colonel Griffith J. Griffith, “Having grown up in poverty, he genuinely wanted to improve the lives of the poor. Having been in prison, he wrote powerfully about making prison a place of rehabilitation for others. And as a man who lived much of his life in fancy hotel suites, he appreciated the gift of open space. He believed that city people could be healthier and saner if they had a place to stroll or hike or ride a horse that was away from the crowded, difficult, sometimes mean city streets.

But to Eberts, “the single most visionary thing about Colonel Griffith was his heartfelt belief that his remote, dusty and rather backward hometown was destined to become a great and sprawling city.

His gift--a rugged tract of land outside the city limits in 1896--would become a wild and natural oasis where "the plain people" would come to breathe. It was an absurd, bombastic, boosterish thought back then, but it turned out the Colonel was exactly right."

Published in 1996 by the Historical Society of Southern California, *Griffith Park: A Centennial History* is essential reading for those who care about Griffith Park and Los Angeles history. Copies are available at Skylight Books in Los Feliz, 1818 North Vermont Avenue, (323) 660-1175 or can be ordered by mail from the Historical Society of Southern California (323) 222-0546 or through amazon.com

Autry Rides Again. Many Park observers recall how quickly the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum sprang into existence in Griffith Park back in the 1980's. The City awarded the private Autry foundation a long-term lease on ten acres of prime parkland at the rate of \$1 per year. It happened so fast that many Park advocates and users knew nothing about it until ground was broken. Now, the Autry National Center is seeking to nearly double the size of its facility in Griffith Park as a result of its 2003 merger with the City's oldest museum, the Southwest Museum in Highland Park. The implications for Griffith Park and the survival of the iconic Southwest Museum as a vital institution are many. As the Autry's leaseholder, the public is encouraged to become involved. As a

first step, review and file your comment on the Autry's conceptual plan at the EIR Public Scoping Meeting on June 11, 2007, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Autry National Center, 4700 Western Heritage Way in Griffith Park. Next step, request that a public oversight committee, similar to the one that represented the public's stake in Griffith Observatory's successful expansion, be created to ensure that the Autry's plan meshes with the public's vision for Griffith Park.

To read the scoping letter and view preliminary expansion diagrams provided by the Autry National Center, go to www.ggpnc.org. More detailed plans will be on view at the June 11, 2007 Scoping Meeting in Griffith Park.

Los Feliz Beach: the best place to be for FoLAR's 18th Annual Great L.A. River Clean-up

SATURDAY, MAY 12TH THE COMMUNITY DOUSED THE POST-FIRE BLUES WITH WATER. For the fourth straight year, the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council "adopted" the Los Feliz Bridge site in Griffith Park on the L.A. River, boosting turnout there for the Friends of the Los Angeles River's marquee event at 15 different sites along the river. Through the efforts of the Council's PROS and Outreach Committees, volunteers--including students from areas schools--were greeted with juice, coffee, continental breakfast and, of course, Los Feliz Beach t-shirts commemorating the day. Later, after a first stop at Hollywood United Neighborhood Council's (HUNC) hand washing tent, the GGPNC provided weary but happy participants with fruit and cold beverages. Their hard work made the river sparkle!

GGPNC thanks these Griffith Park area merchants for their generous contributions: Albertsons Supermarket, 2035 Hillhurst Ave Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, 2081 Hillhurst Ave Nature Mart, 2080 Hillhurst Ave Yuca's, 2056 Hillhurst Ave Plus Jim Sophos, Pearl Yonezawa Event Co-Chairs Kathryn Louyse, Rosemary DeMonte, Bernadette Soter and every individual who volunteered.



BE PART OF THE SOLUTION IN GRIFFITH PARK

Turn off your engine.

This year
walk, stroll, bicycle
or trot the
LADWP Festival of Lights

TOGETHER WE CAN END GLOBAL WARMING

IN JULY 2006, A COALITION OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS and other groups asked the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to convert its annual Festival of Lights in Griffith Park from an automobile to a pedestrian-friendly event that will promote environmental responsibility instead of Global Warming. The LADWP responded that it was too late to make changes in 2006, but that dialogue would be opened and change would take place in time for 2007. Aside from one meeting with the community on February 7, 2007 nothing so far has changed.

As currently configured, the 30-day event promotes the generation of toxic Greenhouse Gasses, encourages inefficient use of fossil fuels, and teaches the 500,000 visitors - mostly children - who drive it each year that it is fun to pollute. Its ripple-effect also promotes toxic emissions beyond Griffith Park. Long Festival wait lines slow down through and local traffic in one of the City's most densely traveled corridors, and even affect the 5 Freeway for over a mile in both directions. On the more popular evenings, when visitors wait one to two hours, the slowdown reaches to the 134 Freeway, causing hundreds of thousands more automobiles as well as long-haul trucks to idle, producing more GHGs.

The impetus for asking the LADWP to transform the Festival of Lights is the growing awareness of Global Warming and its serious consequences. The LADWP Board of Commissioners' July 18, 2006 adoption of principles to reduce its generation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's signing August 1, 2006 of an anti-GHG pact with President Bill Clinton, GB Prime Minister Tony Blair and CA Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger indicate that this awareness now reaches into the highest chambers of government.

Some 156,000 automobiles drove through the Festival of Lights in 2005, but only 17,500 event-goers chose to walk the one-mile route because the toxic engine fumes being released made the option unpleasant and unhealthful. The Festival's transformation into a pedestrian-friendly event with appropriate ADA accommodations, will not be a success unless Festival visitors are required to turn off their engines. Prohibiting automobiles at the 2007 Festival will send a dramatic message to the public that the City is serious about its commitment to reduce GHG Emissions. Going forward, in concert with the public, the Festival can be redesigned to be a human-scaled instead of automobile-scaled event that will teach children environmentally sound ways to have fun and will promote healthy habits.

This year, turn off your engine. Park your car and take the family for a holiday walk in Griffith Park.

Is it a Festival of Lights or a Festival of Tail Lights? Judging from the sign at right much of the annual event's glow derives from brake lights, as thousands of auto-bound visitors idle for up to two hours before reaching the electric display. Wouldn't be healthier for people, the Park and the planet to simply park in the Zoo lot and take a one-mile walk in a winter wonderland?



Join the PROS Committee

The Parks, River and Open Space Committee (PROS), a standing committee of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council, is open to all stakeholders who care about Griffith Park and the Los Angeles River. The PROS Committee is inclusive. In addition to motivated individuals, more than a dozen neighborhood organizations regularly attend its meetings and participate in its deliberations. They include the Greater Griffith Park, Hollywood United and Atwater Village Neighborhood Councils, the Sierra Club, the Los Feliz Improvement Assn, the Oaks Homeowners Assn, the Franklin Hills Residents' Assn, Friends of Fern Dell, Equestrian Trails Inc Corral 38 and Preserve Atwater Rancho.

Attend the next PROS Committee Meeting:

Monday, June 25, 2007

7 o'clock p.m.

Griffith Park Ranger Station

Community Meeting Room

4730 Crystal Springs Drive, Griffith Park

The agenda will be posted beforehand

online at www.ggpnc.org

If you are interested in making an agenda presentation or would like to suggest a topic for a future meeting please send a message to the

webmaster at

www.ggpnc.org