



LA PARKS ALLIANCE

February 26, 2021

US Mail and VIA EMAL in care of jim.deboo@gov.ca.gov

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit (LA ART)

Dear Governor Newsom:

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the proposed alignment of the Los Angeles Aerial Tramway (LA ART). As you may know, this private project, being shepherded by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro), would connect Union Station to Dodger Stadium via an aerial tram. Metro's Notice of Preparation identifies only two pathways for this project, both of which propose to fly over Los Angeles State Historic Park. In so doing, the tramway would take an invaluable public resource for private gain from an under-resourced community and irreparably harming the state park.

Two decades ago we formed a coalition to create a state park at this 32-acre site. The landowner and the politicians at the time envisioned building a warehouse district on this vacant land. The community saw the possibility for a magnificent wide open space to serve some of the most under-resourced and underserved populations in Los Angeles. Local community members spent hundreds of hours fighting to reverse the entitlements, secure the public funding, and then lobbying Governor Davis to direct State Parks to purchase the land. These same advocates went on to invest countless hours in public meetings to ensure the park would offer a wide-open vista with minimal development. The General Plan, adopted in 2005 by the State Parks Commission lays out those sentiments very explicitly.

Today, the advocates for the tramway propose to build a de-facto aerial highway over the park. This will impede current uses, and will forever alter the openness, the vista, the elements that make this park unique in Los Angeles. The users of the park will not benefit from the tramway,

rather they will experience the uncomfortable sensation of being stared at by the passengers in the gondolas passing frequently overhead. The community members are being asked to give up their one place of open space and its wide vista to make room for a private project.

This project takes public resources for private benefit and such a taking requires complete transparency. Yet the process has been anything but transparent. The process has been deeply flawed. Staff from both the lead local agency as well as State Parks have been prevented from speaking to any of us about the details of the project and how it will affect the park. The Notice of Preparation fails to mention several steps in the process including obtaining local rights of way, and amending the General Plan of the State Park, something only the Parks Commission can approve. We can only surmise that the applicant is seeking to minimize public engagement or awareness.

We are writing to let you know that we are very much aware of this project, and that we are willing to push back hard to protect this park we fought so hard to create. The proposal alignment targets the park rather than avoiding it. It shows disrespect to the park users and those who fought to create it in the first place. We would hope the applicant would find a pathway to satisfy their desire to connect the two endpoints of Union Station and Dodger Stadium in a way that does not impact public resources. State Parks should never be viewed as a path of least resistance for infrastructure. We have inherited a magnificent State Park system through the efforts of generations before us and we have an obligation to pass it on unimpaired to future generations.

Sincerely,

LA PARKS ALLIANCE



Clockshop
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Executive Director



Arts District Community Council LA
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Program Director



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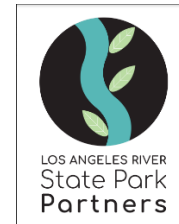
Latino Outdoors
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Los Angeles River State Park Partners
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Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park
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California State Parks Foundation
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Cc: Wade Crowfoot, Secretary Natural Resources Agency