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Griffith Park Advisory Board
Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles, (323)
661-9465

Email us at: rap.griffithpark@lacity.org
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Agendas will be posted at the Crystal Springs Ranger Station
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November 18, 2015

To whom it may concern,

At its regularly scheduled Board meeting on November 12th, the Griffith Park Advisory Board took exception to the proposals for the use of Griffith Park for events as outlined in the 2024 Los Angeles Olympic Bid Book (*see link at end).

The Bid proposes events that would violate existing Municipal Codes (63.44B16) and contains numerous manufactured images and representations that are inaccurate. It is our strong belief that our Organizing Committee should present an ethical proposal, representing the altruistic spirit of the Olympic Games.

Griffith Park is America's largest Urban Wilderness Park. It has been granted Historic Cultural Monument status and is governed by a comprehensive Vision (plan) that was adopted in 2014 by the City's Recreation and Parks Commission.

The proposed off-road staging of BMX and Off-Road Bicycling in Griffith Park violates City Statutes, the principles of the Vision (plan), and will damage the delicate ecosystem of the Park. Simply put, off-road BMX/Off-Road Bicycling is illegal in all Los Angeles Municipal Parks, and the statements implying to the contrary in the Bid are inaccurate. The USOC application falsely claims that the "impact will be negligible" as "it is a replacement of the existing velodrome" (page 66). There is no velodrome in Griffith Park, nor has there ever been one.

"The park also features numerous trails utilized for hiking and biking." (page 63). Biking on all trails in Griffith Park is illegal, so any suggestion that it routinely occurs is also inaccurate.

The proposed event sites are in Griffith Park's wilderness areas, which contain sensitive flora, fauna and and passive recreation for millions of Angelenos. The required support infrastructure does not exist in the park and in our considered judgement, the disruption that goes with these events is simply not acceptable; and certainly not on the scale required to stage an Olympic competition.

The application also contains manufactured and misleading images and representations of fictitious events that have never taken place in the Park.

As it regards the BMX and Off-Road Bicycling events, the 2024 Los Angeles Olympic bid is sloppy, possibly fraudulent and beneath the dignity of our great city.

We urge the Committee to locate an appropriate venue for BMX and Off-Road Bicycling events and correct the misinformation communicated in the current Bid.

*Los Angeles 2024 Olympic Bid Book
Griffith Park-relevant pages 65-70
<https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/b737bf50-2c9c-4bfc-9ccd-8848c9af31d5>

On behalf of our Board, we remain,
Sincerely yours,

Susan Swan
Chair

Don Seligman
Vice-Chair

Kris Sullivan
Secretary

Chris Laib
Board Member