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Los Feliz Improvement Association
P.O. Box 29395, Los Angeles, CA 90029
(323) 660-1914
www.LFIA.org

July 18, 2010

Jordann Turner
Los Angeles Department of City Planning
200 N. Spring Street, Room 721
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Turner:

In May 2009, the Los Feliz Improvement Association wrote to Jon Kirk Mukri and Rita L. Robinson, and again in February 2010 to you to affirm its strong opposition to recreational mountain biking in city parks, and to express its dismay that the Department of Transportation would be entertaining the idea of imposing mountain biking in our parks under the nefarious guise of "transportation." We had thought and had been assured by our Councilmember Tom LaBonge that this issue had been put to rest. Now we are being requested by you to once again weigh in on this issue, which seems to rise from the ashes at every turn like the proverbial Phoenix.

In our two earlier official opposition to mountain biking in our parks, were these two paragraphs:

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is currently engaged in proceedings that can only be aimed at undermining or reversing the City's long-standing policy, based upon Los Angeles City Municipal Code Section 63.44 B 16, excluding bikes from dirt trials in City parks. The Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA), representing over 1000 households in the Los Feliz area, and, backed by numerous prominent hiking, equestrian and environmental organizations, successfully opposed similar efforts for over a decade. Our opposition to such activities has only become more entrenched over the years as the fragility of our parks has become more obvious.

We believe the DOT lacks authority to initiate any change in the designa-

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tion of dirt trials to permit the use of mountain bikes since this activity is exclusively a recreational use of our parks. If the well-funded special interests groups and trade associations representing mountain bike manufacturing and distributing interests hope to force their way into our City parks, they should be soliciting the support of the Department of Recreation and Parks, which has the authority to determine park policy.

Now, in the face of overwhelming negative public comment (as opposed to the positive comments that were orchestrated by the paid mountain biking industry lobby), the Department of City Planning has distributed its new Draft 2010 Bicycle Plan, which not only entertains the idea of mountain biking in our parks, but includes certain recommendations that are an affront to the Department of Recreation and Parks, and does nothing but cater to an industry lobby. These are specifically item 3.3.1.3: "Assess the viability and future availability of trails for mountain biking"; and item 3.3.1.5: "Identify a subset of trails with no existing equestrian use that may potentially be suitable for mountain biking based on trail width, grade, and existing user counts" as if horseback riding is presumed to be the primary deterrent to mountain biking and ignoring the safety and comfort issues related to hikers and other park users.

The LFIA, along with the vast majority of the commenting public, will continue to vociferously oppose changing the existing ordinance to allow mountain biking in city parks, and it will also vociferously oppose the Department of Transportation's meddling in another city department's affairs.

Sincerely yours,



Donald A. Seligman
President

cc: Jon Kirk Mukri, General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks
Rita L. Robinson, General Manager, Department of Transportation
Tom LaBonge, Councilmember, Council District 4
Ron Ostrow, President, Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council
Bob Young, President, The Oaks Homeowners Association