



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

February 9, 2023

Subject: PPCC forms Potrero Canyon Oversight Committee and requests a walk through as well as community questions answered

Sent via email to:

Cathie Santo-Domingo, Assistant General Manager, Planning, Maintenance and Construction

Jose Fuentes, PE, CCM, Deputy City Engineer, City of Los Angeles

Traci Park, L.A. City Councilmember, Council District 11

Dear Cathie, Councilmember Park, and Mr. Fuentes,

The Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has been the most broad-based, representative voice of Pacific Palisades since 1973. We have recently seen the opening of the George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon (GWPPC) and are now proudly the host community for this beautiful new regional passive park. The Park has had ongoing maintenance issues since its opening, and we have some questions we'd like answered for the community.

We understand that contractor Ford E.C., Inc., is nearing completion of its contract for minor grading, infrastructure, and landscaping of George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon. The community has questions about certain aspects of the work that has been performed, including whether all work has been completed according to plan, the quality of the work (alarming erosion has been noted in certain spots), warranty terms and amount of funds remaining in Potrero Canyon Trust Fund. We'd also like to know who is the successor landscape contractor for maintenance?

The community also has concerns about how the project will be maintained upon completion of Ford EC's contract and would like PPCC to have a copy of that contract to have on file and as a reference point. We seek clarity upon which contractor and/or City Department will assume responsibility of the park's maintenance and what the scope of responsibility will be as well as term length of any maintenance contract.

Some of the issues about which we continue to be concerned, include:

- Fencing: low on left side of Frontera entrance of the park should be raised to 6 ft. to align with existing fencing, and measure 6 feet above the cement retainer step, to prevent people from climbing over the fence at that lower point. There are also other areas of fencing that need attention.
- Rhino gate: the Rhino gate installed at the end of the park trail, before descending down toward what will be the start of the lateral trail does now allow passage, but it should. The gate should either be operable or reinstalled in order to allow for pedestrian passage during the Park's hours of operation (from sunrise to sunset).
- Pump: the pump at the mouth of the canyon which should recirculate any standing water throughout the canyon must be completed or repaired so that it is working properly. We'd like to understand how that pump is intended to work so we can determine if standing water a symptom of the working condition of the pump.
- Areas of erosion: Several areas of soil erosion throughout the canyon, including landslides and possible sinkholes, should be inspected and repaired. This includes but is not limited to:
 - erosion in the slope to the right of the fire road after you enter the park at Frontera;
 - the large slide that occurred on the slope to the left and below the fire road, in the area where the Friends St. trail connects with the fire road;
 - cracks/fissures and loosely packed DG along the Friends St. trail; and
 - a smaller slide above a side trail on the east side of the canyon, near the overlook area above the canyon mouth (which caused a debris pile that impedes the pathway), is still present.
- Riparian area/standing water: if the proposed pump does not remediate the problem of visibly standing water, will further "fixes" be necessary to eliminate standing water conditions or can the engineering be explained to the community in order to allay concerns over mosquitos or other standing water ailments.

Further and importantly, the staff at the Palisades Recreation Center, which is tasked with oversight of the new George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon, needs a complete set of keys to all gates and locks. These include

- Trilogy locked gates at four entry points
- Pad locks at every gate (pedestrian and vehicle) including the entry gate, the rhino gate and the maintenance gates.

- Keys or combinations for any other locks, such as the new restrooms, the irrigation controllers, and back flow cages.

Rec Center office and maintenance staff should have all the operation manuals and warranty information for every piece of equipment, along with names and sources of the equipment.

As such, PPCC requests a coordinated meeting at the site with BOE, RAP and CD11 reps to discuss these issues and concerns. Before BOE conducts a final walk through of the project and signs off on Ford E.C.'s work. The PPCC committee that has been set up to oversee the GWPPC project as well as the Rec Center office request to be furnished with a complete "as built" plans and specifications for the Potrero park project.

Please let us know if we can work to set up this meeting and get the requested information before the walk through. We'd like to make sure that at least two representatives of the PPCC from the newly formed Potrero Canyon Oversight Committee (PCOC), are present at that walk through, and that the community maintains open lines of communication and information sharing with the new contractor.

Thank you and best,

Maryam Zar

PPCC President

On behalf of the Potrero Canyon Oversight Committee of the PPCC

CC: Kristen Ly, Project Manager, BOE

Daryll Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction, RAP

Robert Buenrostro, Senior Park Maintenance Supervisor, RAP

Gabriela Medina, District Director, CD 11

Michael Amster, Brentwood-Palisades Deputy, CD 11

Sonya Young-Jimenez, Superintendent of Venice Beach and West Region, L.A. City Department of Recreation & Parks

Jasmine Dowlatshahi, Senior Park Director, L.A. City Department of Recreation & Parks

Andrew Starrels, Pacific Palisades Park Advisory Board (PAB), President

Rick McGeagh, Pacific Palisades Park Advisory Board, Vice President