



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

Norma E. García-González, Director

Alina Bokde, Chief Deputy Director

August 7, 2024

Miya Edmonson
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief
Caltrans District 7
100 S. Main Street, MS 16
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Edmonson,

We received your comment letter dated March 6, 2024, on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Devil's Punchbowl Nature Center Replacement Planning Project. The project team has reviewed and addressed comments noted in your letter and the response is attached. This response will also be included as part of the Final EIR.

Thank you again for your letter. For questions regarding this project, please contact me at jchien@parks.lacounty.gov or (626) 588-5317, or Ms. Lynda Hikichi at lhikichi@parks.lacounty.gov or (626) 588-5303.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jui Ing Chien', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jui Ing Chien
Park Planner
Land Management and Compliance

Attachment: Response to Comment Letter

Letter 2 - Caltrans D7 - March 6, 2024

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 897-0673
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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

March 6, 2024

Jui Ing Chen, Park Planner
County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation
1000 S. Fremont Ave.
Unit #40 A-9 West, 3rd Floor
Alhambra, CA 91083

RE: Devil's Punchbowl Nature Center
Replacement Planning Project– Draft
EIR (DEIR)
SCH #2023080345
GTS #07-LA-2023-04431
LA-2/PM 62.79

Dear Jui Ing Chen,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The County of Los Angeles proposes the replacement of the Nature Center at the Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area. The center was destroyed by the Bobcat Fire in 2020 and will be replaced with a new building while also making improvements to the surrounding support site elements including trailheads, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access to buildings and trails, picnic areas, and shade structures.

After reviewing the DEIR, Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans acknowledges that the Initial Study determined that the project would have less than significant impacts on an applicable program, plan ordinance, or policy addressing bicycle and pedestrian facilities and therefore did not warrant a further review in the DEIR. Due to the project location and context, it is understandable that active transportation recommendations are limited. Caltrans concurs with the need for ADA improvements within the project scope and continues to encourage additional pedestrian safety improvements such as high visibility continental crosswalks, signage, and lighting along all streets and roads in the vicinity.

2-1

Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment

Jui Ing Chen
March 6, 2024
Page 2

As a reminder, construction vehicles should transport equipment to and from construction sites during non-peak hours and avoid congested freeway/s. Hauling trucks should be covered with a tarpaulin to avoid debris spillage onto the roadways.

2-1 cont.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Frances Duong, at frances.duong@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS #07-LA-2023-04431.

Sincerely,

Miya Edmonson

Miya Edmonson
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

Cc: State Clearinghouse

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"

Response to Letter 2 – Caltrans D7

3.1.2 Response to Comment 2-1:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Proposed Devil's Punchbowl Nature Center Replacement Planning Project Draft EIR acknowledging that the Project would have less than significant impacts on an applicable program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing bicycle and pedestrian facilities and further concurs with the need for ADA improvements within the project scope. As this comment is not a direct comment on the content or adequacy of the Draft EIR and does not raise a specific environmental issue, no other response is required. However, all comments will be provided to the decision-makers prior to their consideration of Project approval.