

P.O. Box 1673  
Hollywood Hills, CA 90078  
323-663-1031  
[president@hillsidefederation.org](mailto:president@hillsidefederation.org)  
[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)



PRESIDENT  
Marian Dodge  
CHAIRMAN  
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VICE PRESIDENT  
Charley Mims  
Cassandra Barrere  
TREASURER  
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The Honorable Bernard Parks  
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee  
City Hall, Room 460  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
May 11, 2010

RE: Opposition to proposal to charge fees for the Los Angeles Zoo parking lot

Dear Councilmember Parks:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, representing thirty-three associations from the Ventura County line to Mt. Washington, opposes the charging of fees to park in the Los Angeles Zoo parking lot. When Col. Griffith J. Griffith donated the land for Griffith Park to the city in 1896, he made it abundantly clear that access was to be free to the public. He recognized the need of the masses in our new metropolis to have access to fresh air and nature in his book *Parks, Boulevards and Playgrounds*, 1910. In his autobiography, Griffith wrote, "Public parks are a safety valve of great cities and should be made accessible and attractive, where neither race nor creed nor color should be excluded."

If the city implements a parking fee, it would mean that access to the park would no longer be free as Griffith intended in his bequest. It would establish a precedent for charging parking fees in the other fourteen parking lots within the park. It would, in effect, deny access to the park by the poor and low-income residents of the city at a time when they need a "safety valve" the most.

The Federation understands that the city is facing a financial crisis; however charging parking fees has not proved to be a reliable revenue generator for the city. Indeed, the largest unpaid debts to the city are owed by parking lot companies.

The Federation asks that the city respect the wishes of Col. Griffith when he gave the largest private land gift Los Angeles has ever received and abandon the idea of charging parking fees anywhere in Griffith Park.

Sincerely yours,

Marian Dodge

Bel Air Knolls Property Owners  
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners  
Bel Air Ridge Association  
Benedict Canyon Association  
Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood  
Crests Neighborhood Assn.  
Encino Property Owners Assn.  
Forrest Hills Homeowners Assn.  
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West  
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.  
Highlands Owners Assn.  
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.  
Hollywood Heights Assn.  
Hollywoodland Homeowners  
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.  
La Tuna Canyon Community Assn.  
Laurel Canyon Assn.  
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.  
Mt. Olympus Property Owners  
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.  
Nichols Canyon Assn.  
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon  
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.  
Outpost Estates Homeowners  
Residents of Beverly Glen  
Roscomare Valley Assn.  
Shadow Hills Property Owners  
Sherman Oaks Home Owners  
Studio City Residents Assn.  
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.  
Torreyson Flynn Assn.  
Upper Mandeville Canyon  
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.