

RECEIVED

Linda Vista-Annandale Association
Pasadena, CA

2022 JAN -7 PM 3: 48

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

January 7, 2022

Re: Council Meeting 1/7/2022; Agenda Item 25.; Music Festivals -- Increase in Displacement Events for 2022.

Mayor Gordo and Councilmembers,

The Linda Vista-Annandale Association (LVAA) has several significant concerns with this Agenda item and the proposed large number of Music Festivals, resulting in a very significant increase in Displacement Events in the Central Arroyo.

1. **Increase in Displacement Events To exceed 20: "Temporary" or Permanent?** Just how "temporary" or permanent was the 2017 increase in Displacement Events from 12 to 15? We believe that the original intent of the increase was to temporarily expand the number of Music Festival Displacement Events to enable the agreed upon large number of Music Festivals over a number of years, and, then the base number of Displacement Events under the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance would revert back to 12. In fact, the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance was amended to make the 15 number permanent under the assumption that the Music Festivals would occur as envisioned over an extended period of time. However, both the original contract with AEG and the 2020 revised contract with AEG were never fully implemented or realized. At some point, the 15 number for Music Festivals should have been publicly reviewed, and consideration given, based on the situation with the AEG contracts, whether or not the base number of Displacement Events should revert back to the original number in the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance, which is 12, and the Ordinance amended back to 12. This did not occur.

Now, you are asked to treat the 15 number as the permanent "ceiling" and increase the number of Displacement Events for AEG Music Festivals to a "temporary" 20 plus as indicated in the Staff Report. Actually, the total number of proposed Displacement Events for 2022 is unclear: is the proposed increase for 2022 composed of 10 Music Festivals plus 1 Rose Bowl game plus 1 July 4th Event plus 8 UCLA games plus 2 International Soccer games, for a total of 22 Displacement Events this calendar year? Is this new number of 19 as currently counted by Staff, or 22 as we count, intended as another permanent increase in the number of Displacement Events? Has this possibly permanent total proposal received adequate public review and comment? When and how will this "temporary" number be terminated? Is eventual termination tied

explicitly to the dates in this latest AEG contract amendment for Music Festivals? Who has reviewed the terms of the AEG contract amendment? What if this contract falls into inactivity just like the prior ones?

We request that the Council consider amending the base number of Displacement Events in the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance from 15 back to the original intended 12. As to this proposal, the temporary status of the Music Festival Displacement Events over the Ordinance base number of events should be fully provided for in the Council action, including defining what triggers the end of the "temporary" status of the Music Festival Displacement Events over the Ordinance base number.

Related to the number of permitted Rose Bowl (Recreational) Displacement Events is the question of what circumstances will cause the Council to be unable to make required Finding 3? What is the acceptable amount of disruption to passive Open Space and Recreational use of the Central Arroyo? What does the Recreation and Parks Commission think? The staff discussion in Finding 3 seems to say do not worry, we will take care of the disruption. Is this analysis sufficient?

2. **Significant, Major Changes Have Occurred to the Neighborhood Protection Plan Maintained and Implemented by the RBOC, and, Therefore, Required Finding 4 Possibly Cannot Be Made and the EIR Addendum May Be Inaccurate and Inadequate.** Recently, the detailed and comprehensive successful (unwritten) Neighborhood Protection Plan for major events, carefully crafted and implemented over an extended period of time in cooperation and consultation with the neighborhoods surrounding the Central Arroyo, has been changed, reduced, and modified. The Plan has been significantly changed, reduced, and modified based on the Rose Bowl's assertions that it has insufficient money to fund the Plan, and assertions of staffing and labor shortages.

As to the LVAA neighborhood area, the Plan now consists primarily of distributing temporary signs throughout the LVAA neighborhood indicating No Event Parking. Luckily, this new Plan was successful during the UCLA season because UCLA attendees typically are familiar with the Rose Bowl area and know not to intrude into the surrounding neighborhoods. As to the Rose Bowl game, the LVAA area did not experience significant issues, but we are aware of problems in the East Arroyo area.

As to the Music Festivals (and the proposed Soccer Games) attended by people generally unfamiliar with the Rose Bowl and its surrounding and adjacent neighborhoods, it is not clear at all if such a changed Plan will be sufficient to provide adequate Neighborhood Protection. As to Finding 4, the staff's conclusory message is:

No need for concern – there will be minimal disruption and impact. Considering the significant changes to the Neighborhood Protection Plan, this assertion appears insufficient and inadequate, and it is not clear that the Council can make Finding 4. Similarly, as to the EIR Addendum, the assertion that there have been no significant changed circumstances including to the surrounding area since the EIR simply is not true as to Neighborhood Protection and the Plan for such protection of all the surrounding and adjacent Rose Bowl impacted neighborhoods. Exactly how will the changed, reduced, and modified Plan be adapted and restored, improved, and expanded as necessary for the increased number of Music Festivals? Will the City and the RBOC wait for key issues and problems in the neighborhoods to occur prior to reacting? No answers have been available up to now and no CEQA enforceable mitigations provided.

3. **Public Policy and the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance.** The Arroyo Seco Public Land Ordinance, together with its cousins, the Arroyo Master Plans, are among Pasadena's most important statements of principles and values: the Arroyo is a unique, irreplaceable passive, recreational open space asset that deserves protection and enhancement.

Previous discussions of major increases in Displacement Events focused typically on Displacement Events inside the Rose Bowl Stadium. Now, almost the entire Central Arroyo is at issue, and the primary question is just how commercialized should the Central Arroyo be allowed to become? Should the Arroyo Seco Public Land Ordinance and the Master Plans be revoked? What is the commitment of the City to the Arroyo? Where and when will the basic public policy issues that arise with endless expansion of commercial uses of previously recreational Arroyo land be fully and directly publicly discussed and basic public policy decisions going forward be made?

4. **Sound Issues.** The last Music Festival was a sound disaster – not just for the surrounding neighborhoods, but for the entire Pasadena area. We understand that South Pasadena residents were so impacted, they called the Police. In addition to the sound levels themselves, there was a directly related problem: the performer(s)' lyrics were repulsive and objectionable.

As to the sound level issues, we were told that this Agenda item was postponed so that the Rose Bowl and AEG could solve the issues, and put appropriate provisions in the contract amendment. Now, the message in the Staff Report is that the sound consultant will study data from the next Music Festival before coming producing a solution. This is not acceptable. What happened to the data from the offending event? What more is there to study? Why cannot we have a recommended solution now for

the Council and public to review? We suggest that we put all this off again until the solution is announced publicly and discussed.

As to objectionable lyrics, the Rose Bowl answer is that the First Amendment means that the Rose Bowl has no way to control just how objectionable any show is – AEG can choose any performers and the Rose Bowl has no way to control content.

Nonsense. There is no reason at all that the AEG contract cannot require that the promoter use its best efforts to seek “family-friendly” entertainment, and that the selection of types of performances should be subject to advance review by the City. Neighbors surrounding the Central Arroyo are a captive audience – we have no choice except to listen. Alternatively, maybe Music Festivals should be rated in advance so that families can choose to leave the area and not be forced to listen.

Thank you for considering our comments and significant concerns with this proposal.

Sincerely,

Nina Chomsky

Nina Chomsky, LVAA President;
cc: LVAA Board of Directors

RECEIVED

East Arroyo Residents Association 2022 JAN 10 AM 8:07
PO Box 93828 Pasadena CA 91109

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

7 January 2022

To: Mayor Victor Gordo and the City Council

These comments are submitted in support of Item 25 on the Agenda for the January 10, 2022 City Council meeting regarding RBOC's Contract Amendment with AEG.

SUMMARY: East Arroyo Residents Association (EARA) supports Rose Bowl Operating Company's (RBOC) request for additional temporary displacement events due to pressing financial needs of RBOC. There are other important considerations regarding Arroyo Seco governance that must also be addressed promptly so that our neighborhoods are better protected from the proliferation of activities. Our environmental concerns also need to be addressed. But now is not the time for that debate.

To move things forward, EARA respectfully requests that the task force convened to review the operations of RBOC and how it is required to fund its operations make definitive recommendations soon.

DISCUSSION: RBOC has requested that the maximum number of major events allowed in the Arroyo Seco be increased to 21 temporarily due to a pressing need for more funding to satisfy RBOC's debt obligations. RBOC has the opportunity to make more money if additional music concerts are approved. RBOC will also most likely request permission to host the annual 4th of July extravaganza. So this evening, please make the record clear that the residents surrounding the Rose Bowl area will be impacted by major events for 22 times in 2022 if the Council approves RBOC's request.

This number—22—does not include the myriad of smaller scale events that have proliferated since the 1980s when the Pasadena Police Department made a successful effort to reduce crime in the Central Arroyo Seco. Residents and visitors who had previously been deterred from enjoying nature and other amenities have since flocked to the Arroyo Seco.

As far as residents are aware, there is no master calendaring system. This prompts some of us to describe the Central Arroyo Seco as a three-ring circus, but with no ringmaster. There is also no clear enforcement of the noise ordinance or proper enforcement of the permitting process. This has led to noise pollution of a character different from what we experience from RBOC music concerts, but of concern nonetheless.

Despite our ongoing issues with noise and other irritants, we have done our best to work with RBOC who has demonstrated good faith in their efforts to work with us. We support the additional temporary events. We request that the July 4 event be included in the count so there is no artifice in the number of events approved this evening for 2022.

01/10/2022
Item 25

We anticipate that RBOC will work effectively with AEG and with us to manage the level of noise flowing from open air outdoor stages erected in the golf course area. We expect that protocols will be put in place so that each music group is required to use state of the art equipment and speaker placements that are designed to direct noise towards those who attend the concerts and away from our neighborhoods.

As for the pressing need for environmental sensitivity in Arroyo Seco governance, we in District 1 hope that the coming months will provide us with the opportunity to help tame the circus and focus more on addressing fragile environmental concerns.

Respectfully submitted

Joan Aarestad
President, East Arroyo Residents Association

Martinez, Ruben

From: Kathleen O'Kane <...t>
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 2:24 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Steven Mermell; Nina Chomsky
Subject: Council Meeting 1/10/2022; Agenda Item 25.; Music Festivals -- Increase in Displacement Events for 2022

CAUTION: This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you *know* the content is safe. Report phish using the Phish Alert Button. [Learn more...](#)

Good afternoon,

Nothing has changed since my last correspondence to the city council! No neighborhood consultation, or planning to mitigate the impact on the neighborhoods that surround the Rose Bowl. The last festival concert was an unacceptable Noise disruption. Neighbors living close to the Rose Bowl felt compelled to leave their houses.

Have you thoroughly considered the ramifications on those of us who live adjacent to the Rose Bowl. First it was 12 events, then 15 displacement events now 20 or 22 (depending on who is counting) are being requested, where does it end? We have been living on Linda Vista for 40 years and the traffic, sound and trash during these events is tremendous. Where do our concerns fit into the equation.. How many more weekends will be disrupted!

Please consider the issues addressed by Nina Chomsky, LVAA President, in her January 7th, 2022 correspondence to the council.

Sincerely,
Kathleen O'Kane

Pasadena,CA 91103

Sent from KOK's iPad. ★

“being kind doesn't cost anything”

01/10/2022
Item 25