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Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council	Palms Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council	South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council	Venice Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council	West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa	Westside Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council	Westwood Community Council
North Westwood Neighborhood Council	Westwood Neighborhood Council

Mr. Mike Shull  
General Manager, LA City Department of Recreation & Parks  
6152 N Figueroa St, Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Cc:

Hon. Mike Feuer, Los Angeles City Attorney  
Hon. Paul Koretz, Council District 5  
Joan Pelico, CD5 Chief of Staff  
Debbie Dyner Harris, District Director  
Hon. David Ryu  
Nicholas Grief, CD4 Chief of Staff  
Nikki Ezhari, CD4 District Director  
Grayce Liu, General Manager, LA City Department of Neighborhood Empowerment  
Terri Tippet, WNC Chair  
Lisa Morocco, WNC Vice Chair  
Jane Wishon, WNC WRAC Representative  
Barbara Broide, WNC WRAC Alternate

May 9, 2019 - Via Email

*Re: Rancho Park Golf Course Restaurant Concession and RFP*

Dear Mr. Shull and honorable LA City Councilmembers,

As Chair of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), I have been asked to convey our collective dismay at the process that led to the awarding of a new concessioner for Rancho Park, and the manner in which the community was eliminated from the RFP process that failed to ensure open discussion of the impact of any new concessioner on the community. While we acknowledge the need to develop our parks and create new revenue for the department, this need cannot supersede the Department and Commission's commitment to operate in a transparent manner that is inclusive of the community.

Neighborhood Councils were created, per city charter in 1999, to ensure that city government is “responsive to the different needs and lifestyles of Los Angeles’ rich variety of communities.” WRAC is an alliance of 14 Neighborhood and Community Councils that span the entire west side of Los Angeles. We represent the interests of neighborhoods and residents in three Council Districts, from Westchester and Mar Vista, to Del Rey and Palms, to Westwood and West LA to Brentwood and Pacific Palisades. Our

board is made up of Presidents and Vice Presidents (or their designees) of NC or CCs in all these communities, and we speak for the entire west side when we take a position. We remind our local law or policy makers that residents across the Westside region are vested community members who pay attention to their city, and expect to have a voice on issues that impact their communities. Our leadership board takes seriously the city charter that empowers us with a voice in the way our neighborhoods evolve and our communities grow; and we believe this is ultimately the best way to grow our great city.

The WRAC board is unanimously disappointed at the manner in which the RFP for a concessioner at Rancho Park Golf Course was awarded to a new and locally untested vendor, without any community consultation or engagement with the Westside or Westwood Neighborhood Councils throughout the course of the RFP. We understand the existing concessioner may file suit, alleging that the process was tainted and that the issuance of RFPs No. CON-G17-007 (cancelled) and CON-G18-002 (re-issued) was unfair. We ask that in light of the absence of neighborhood input and the controversy surrounding this RFP, it be re-issued with the objective of ensuring an open process which involves the input of the surrounding community impacted by the considerable activities proposed by the concessioners. Impacted communities must be given a chance to participate in discussions related to proposed changes in use of park areas, such as is the case in the changes proposed for the Rancho Park Golf Course.

We also urge the Department of Recreation and Parks to designate a staff person as the formal Neighborhood/Community Council Liaison to WRAC and its member councils, just as Planning and DWP have done. This will ensure a close working relationship with Neighborhood and Community Councils across the Westside, to the benefit of Angelenos as well as the Department. Looking ahead, it is important that RFPs which impact our community and neighborhood parks are not completed or awarded without the valuable input of neighbors and community stakeholders who invest their volunteer time and resources to ensure the sensible and measured growth of this great city.

Thank you and best,

Maryam Zar  
WRAC Chair