

**ARROYO SECO
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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Tom Marble
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March 24, 2010

c/o Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
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Ernie Sanchez, Retail, Wholesale, & Service

Hon. Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Parking Fees in City Parks

Dear Mayor Villaraigosa,

It has come to our attention that the Department of Transportation is studying a proposal to charge for parking at Griffith Park. We appreciate that the City of Los Angeles has been forced to explore new revenue opportunities to alleviate the current budget shortfall. However, this idea goes against the spirit of Colonel Griffith's wishes when he gave the park to the City, that access to the park should be free. This park policy has been adopted City-wide as a given right of the citizens in all public City parks.

Setting the precedent of paid parking in Griffith would likely spread to other parks administered by the Department of Recreation and Parks. Many stakeholders of the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council use Ernest E. Debs Park. Paying for parking would be a hardship for many park users and would curtail local recreational opportunities, which have already been impacted by economic troubles.

The Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council respectfully urges you to reject any plan to charge parking fees in the City's parks.

Sincerely,

Hank Shaeffer, President
president@asnc.us

cc: Ed Reyes, Councilmember, First District
Jose Huizar, Councilmember, Fourteenth District
John Mukri, General Manager, Department of Recreation & Park
Rita L. Robinson, LADOT General Manager

