

September 24, 2025

California State Parks Commission  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

**Agenda Item 13: Planning Updates, Los Angeles State Historic Park General Plan Amendment**

Dear Honorable Members of the California State Parks Commission,

On behalf of Council District 1 and the communities surrounding Dodger Stadium, I am writing to urge you to not consider the state general plan amendment that would be required for the proposed LA Aerial Rapid Transit Project (LA ART) or Gondola, which is slated to cut through the heart of the newly renovated LA State Historic Park (LASHP) until after the City of Los Angeles moves the project through its process first.

LA ART is a private, unsolicited, and unfunded proposal initiated by Frank McCourt, the former owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers and current part-owner of the Dodger Stadium parking lots, that is controversial and opposed by community members in Chinatown and Solano Canyon, the most impacted residents of this proposed project. The gondola has faced significant community opposition, environmental concerns, and is in the midst of ongoing litigation.

Should Metro decide to move forward with the new EIR, the proposed project will need several City, State, and Federal approvals in order to proceed. One of the approvals the project will require is a City General Plan Amendment. We urge you to wait to consider the State General Plan Amendment until after the City of Los Angeles moves through its own process first.

In order to address the long-standing issues of vehicular traffic impacts from Dodger Stadium, my office dedicated \$500k to fund a much needed, City-led Dodger Stadium Traffic Study to recommend a comprehensive set of transportation improvements that would be responsive to the voices of our local community. The recommendations would dovetail with the implementation of transportation projects for the LA 2028 Olympics. The City approvals for the project will first need to consider the City-led Dodger Stadium traffic study.

For context, the City of Los Angeles recently successfully advocated the State Legislature to remove Section 3 of SB 71 and the bill is now at the Governor's desk. The City's resolution, unanimously passed by the Los Angeles City Council and signed by Mayor Karen Bass [can be found at this link](#). The reason Section 3 needed to be removed is that it would have required that **any** legal challenge to the LA ART—not just CEQA—be resolved within 365 days, including appeals. The legal challenges outside of CEQA are not subject to the applicant's payment of court costs, unlike the CEQA streamlining provisions in the rest of the bill. This short timeline and non-payment of court costs for any legal challenge outside CEQA would have severely limited residents' — many of whom are low income — and the City's ability

to fully mitigate the impacts of this project. This wasn't neutral CEQA reform—it was a special exemption that undermined due process, cut off community voices, and stripped away the City's local authority over land use decisions. We thank Senator Scott Wiener and the State Legislature for agreeing with the City of Los Angeles on SB 71 and not creating a special carve out for the LA ART.

We should be setting policy for the public good, not favoring one billionaire's project at the expense of the neighborhoods and parks it affects. I am particularly concerned that the gondola proposes to remove two acres of the newly-renovated and long-fought-for Los Angeles State Historic Park (LASHP). The community surrounding LASHP scores in the top 5% of Disadvantaged Communities according to CalEnviro Screen 4.0, and has fought for many years to replace a contaminated, industrial rail yard with a much needed and highly-utilized State Park. This gondola is designed to transport Dodger Stadium ticket holders from Union Station to the privately owned Dodger Stadium parking lot that is closed to the public, through LASHP park and other cherished public spaces such as a portion of Historic Olvera Street and other public and privately owned land.

Please do not schedule the general plan amendment for the Los Angeles State Historic Park at the State Parks Commission until the City of Los Angeles moves the project through its own planning process first.

Should you have any questions or need further clarity on my position, please contact Helen Campbell, Planning Director for my office at [helen.campbell@lacity.org](mailto:helen.campbell@lacity.org).

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eunisses Hernandez".

Eunisses Hernandez, Los Angeles City Councilmember, 1st District