

# Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SUNLAND TUJUNGA

7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042 • www.stnc.org • 818-951-7411 • FAX 818-951-7412



March 11, 2015

Jaime A. Contreras  
Rec. & Cultural Facilities Program  
Bureau of Engineering  
City Hall, Suite 2305  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

VIA EMAIL: [Jaime.Contreras@lacity.org](mailto:Jaime.Contreras@lacity.org)

**RE: Oro Vista Park Development  
11101 North Oro Vista Avenue, Sunland, CA  
Proposition K**

Dear Mr. Contreras,

Thank you for meeting with us at the Oro Vista Park site on Wednesday, February 24, 2015. The park is progressing beautifully and our community excitement is building. We appreciate the tour and the time taken to answer questions and explain some of the changes that have been made to the original design. Consequently, we have discussed some issues that will need further attention:

1. The Equestrian members of our group are concerned about the gravel composition of the parking lot and its impact on the horses. A suggestion was made by committee member Lloyd Hitt to cover the unfriendly gravel with dirt around an 8-10 foot outer perimeter of the parking lot so that horses can use this surface safely to get from their trailers to the open trails. Other options should to be explored.
2. The original Oro Vista Park plans included hitching posts for the horses that were to be donated by a private donor who can no longer supply them. This Equestrian geared park needs hitching posts. You mentioned an alternative solution being considered that included metal bars for the horses to tie up to. The equestrian members felt this option could be dangerous and cause horses to break their necks. Wood hitching posts would have some give when a horse pulls against them. Wood posts are inexpensive and durable. Perhaps we can find another local resident or ranch willing to donate them.
3. It is important for there to be direct access to the extraordinary trail system connected to Oro Vista Park so our equestrians, hikers, bikers, and visitors from other communities can connect to the beautiful and extensive trails system in the area that surrounds the park. The best access sites would be two trails on either side of the park from the South side of the Tujunga Wash and at the West end of Grove Street. We were disappointed to see that you are no longer planning to construct the outer trail along the Northern and Western perimeters of the park because of the estimated \$40,000 cost. We are requesting that you see what the contractor can do to reduce this cost so this trail can be constructed.

4. Many residents are interested in having exercise equipment installed on site to attract a larger demographic to the park and increase our community health and fitness. We are aware that Recreation and Parks has installed this kind of equipment in more than 42 parks around Los Angeles, and are pleased to hear you and your department can see a variety of locations onsite that would accommodate such equipment. We will follow up with your suggestion to talk to our Council office to identify additional funding for this initial equipment purchase and installation in the future.
5. We are concerned about the lack of fencing that will surround the park when completed. Right now, temporary fencing has been installed that will be taken down after construction. We believe this fence could be a major factor in keeping undesirable elements out of the park when it is closed. More options need to be explored including a possible volunteer system to open and close the gates at curfew as discussed in the original plans.
6. You informed us that the large shade structure sheltering the picnic tables from the sun in the original plans will not be built due to a difficulty with permits and pricing. We want to make sure the necessity of shade is not ignored. Large Pepper trees to match the ones already on the property would make a good alternative to the proposed structure. We are hoping that all of the trees and native plants shown in the original plans will be planted before the park is completed.

Thank you for your suggestions and your time. The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council looks forward to the opportunity to see our community provided with the much-anticipated amenities and recreational opportunities the opening of Oro Vista Park will bring as a part of our San Gabriel-Verdugo Mountains Scenic Preservation Specific Plan. Perhaps monies left over from some of the project elements that have been deleted can be used to help provide our remaining requests.

We look forward to working with you, the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council and Councilman Felipe Fuentes on ways to problem solve our way into the park that was promised to our Sunland-Tujunga community.

Sincerely,

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

  
Mark Seigel  
President

cc Councilman Felipe Fuentes, felipe.fuentes@lacity.org  
Kevin Davis, President, Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC) – Email:  
lifesaver1935@yahoo.com