



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

Russ Guiney, Director

John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

DATE: June 11, 2014

TO: All interested Parties

FROM: Kathline King, Chief of Planning

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
RECIRCULATED SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
PROPOSED OPERATIONAL CHANGES TO THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS**

PROJECT LOCATION

The project site is located at 1008 Elden Way in the northern portion of the City of Beverly Hills, just north of the renowned Beverly Hills Hotel. The City of Beverly Hills is located in western Los Angeles County and is bound by the City of Los Angeles in all directions. The approximately 6.2-acre project site is generally bound by Elden Way to the south, Cove Way to the west, Carolyn Way to the north, and residential uses to the east. The site is located at the end of a cul-de-sac (Elden Way) in an established residential area of Beverly Hills.

PROJECT TITLE

Proposed Operational Changes to the Virginia Robison Gardens

SIGNIFICANT AND UNAVOIDABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Recirculated Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) concludes that according to the City of Beverly Hills threshold for Average Daily Trips (ADT), there is a significant and unavoidable environmental impact with respect to traffic on Saturdays. The traffic impact analysis for the County project was prepared in 2013 using the County's street/traffic standards. That analysis showed that additional trips from the proposed project would not exceed a threshold of significant impact. However, if the City's more conservative Local Street traffic standards are applied, a threshold of significant impact would result. The Supplemental Environmental Impact Report is being recirculated to inform the public that the County performed a feasibility analysis to explore potential mitigation of the significant impact by City standards and concluded that no feasible mitigation exists (see Appendix G). Based on the anticipated Opening Year ADT along Elden Way, the additional project trips of approximately 160 on Saturdays would result in an increase greater than the City's threshold of 16 percent, resulting in a significant

impact, by percentage. However, this impact would not create an operational impact along Elden Way or the surrounding intersections.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To meet the current primary goals of the Virginia Robinson Gardens, the proposed project consists of revisions to the operational characteristics and public accessibility of the project site, requiring modifications to the operational regulations and schedule established in the 1980 EIR and 1998 Support Agreement, as described in the SEIR. Further, since the Draft SEIR was circulated in 2012, minor revisions were made to the operational changes initially proposed with the Draft EIR to address concerns from the adjacent neighbors (including adjustment to days the facility is open to the public, reduction in the number of hours per day, reduction in the number of special uses and prohibited street parking).

These minor revisions are incorporated below in the current Project Description.

The following operational limitations and schedule are proposed:

- Days open to the public: Monday to Saturday (6 days per week), closed Sundays; all holidays, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day
- Hours for public use: 6.5 hours per day (9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
- Number of patrons in attendance: Maximum of 100 visitors per day with advanced reservations, in any combination of the currently allowed uses (tours, classes/seminars, commercial filming, etc.)
- Types of events: Public programs to conform to new days/hours and number of participants allowed; however, subject matter for seminars/classes to be determined at the discretion of the Park Superintendent based on how well the classes interpret the historical collections of Mrs. Robinson. This includes continuation of the use of the site for tours of the grounds for biology, botany, and horticulture groups
- Special Uses: Limited to four per year, with expanded themes. Themes would be determined at the discretion of the Park Superintendent. Programs must continue to focus on the historical interpretation of the facility. For special uses, there would be no restrictions on the number of guests or hours/day of operations; however, tickets would be required so as to regulate the number of visitors to assure safety and a quality experience. Additionally, the event voluntarily complies with city ordinances, which require no amplified music after 10:00 p.m., and valet service must obtain city parking permits for use of public streets to avoid overlapping events with surrounding neighbors
- Parking: All parking requires advanced reservation as follows:
 - Parking required on the property (22 spaces, upper parking lot, entrance off Elden Way)

- No street parking permitted on Elden Way. Further, a sign will be posted on the property indicating that no parking on Elden Way is allowed for visitors
- With advanced reservation, visitors would be allowed to walk to the gardens from nearby public streets pursuant to street signs; visitors could also walk to the gardens from public transportation (primarily buses, but also to include taxi)
- Allow visitors to be dropped off at the entrance of the gardens (e.g., via the City of Beverly Hills free ride for disabled residents)

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Recirculated SEIR will be available for public comment for 30 days from June 12, 2014 to July 11, 2014. All comments must be postmarked or dated by July 11, 2014. Although the Final SEIR consisting of the Draft SEIR, Comments and Responses to Comments and Changes to the Draft SEIR is being made available with this recirculation, comments should be limited to information pertaining to the significant and unavoidable impact in Transportation/Traffic (Section XVI and Appendix F of the Final SEIR).

The County of Los Angeles encourages public comment on this project. The Recirculated SEIR for the proposed project is available for your review at the following locations beginning June 12, 2014:

- The Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department: 510 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020. Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 7:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
- Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation website: <http://parks.lacounty.gov> (Click on “Newsroom” on the top banner. Then click on “Environmental Documents” on the pull down menu to locate the Recirculated Supplemental EIR)
- Beverly Hills Public Library: 444 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

WHERE TO SEND COMMENTS

Written comments will be accepted via email or at the following address during the comment period listed above:

Los Angeles County
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Avenue, Room 201
Los Angeles, CA 90020
Attention: Joan Rupert, Section Head, Environmental and Regulatory Permitting
Email: jrupert@parks.lacounty.gov

PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will not be held.