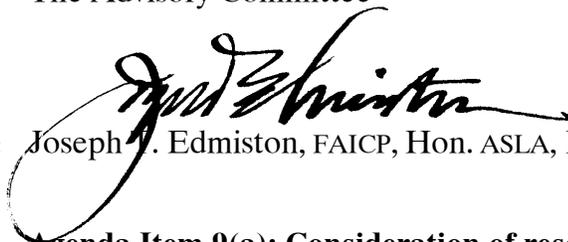


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: April 24, 2017

From :  Joseph W. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 9(a): Consideration of resolution authorizing (a) opposition to proposed zone change of the Weddington Golf and Tennis property (APN 2375-018-020) adjacent to the Upper Los Angeles River, (b) support of Councilmember Paul Krekorian's (Council District 2) efforts to preserve said property as public open space, and (c) the use of the Conservancy name and logo on relevant sign-on letters and related materials, City of Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing (a) opposition to the proposed zone change of the Weddington Golf and Tennis property (APN 2375-018-020) adjacent to the Upper Los Angeles River, (b) support of Councilmember Paul Krekorian's (Council District 2) efforts to preserve said property as public open space, and (c) the use of the Conservancy name and logo on relevant sign-on letters and related materials, in the City of Los Angeles.

Background: The subject 16-acre property is located adjacent to the north bank of the Los Angeles River (via the paper street, Valleyheart Drive) in Studio City, near its intersection with Whitsett Avenue. (The address is 4141 Whitsett Avenue.) It is designated as Opportunity Area #4 in the *Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan*.

Save Los Angeles River Open Space, an affiliate of the Studio City Residents Association, have requested that the Conservancy sign on to a letter (see attachment) to Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Krekorian (District 2) supporting his efforts to acquire the site as public open space, and opposing the recent requested zone change by the current owners. The current owners seek to develop the site with a 200-unit condominium complex.

While much of the property is developed with tennis courts, the approximately 10 acres of golf course and driving range remain unpaved, contributing much needed potential for stormwater capture to the watershed. The unpaved portion of the property also offers some habitat to birds and other wildlife in a highly developed area where such habitat is limited to non-existent. The proposal to develop the site with condominiums would eliminate these public benefits, and could also limit public access to the river bank.

Fiscal Impact: None.