

PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, Second District

September 26, 2014

Mr. Joseph T. Edmiston
Executive Director
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
570 West Avenue Twenty-six
Los Angeles, CA 90065

Dear Mr. Edmiston:

I am writing in the hopes that our offices can work together to solve an issue of tremendous concern to many of my constituents who live near Wilacre Park in Studio City. As you know, the hiking trails in and around this park are very popular and intensely used. Unfortunately, this has resulted in an influx of traffic and crowds into this quiet residential neighborhood, and with them a significant degradation of quality of life for the area's residents.

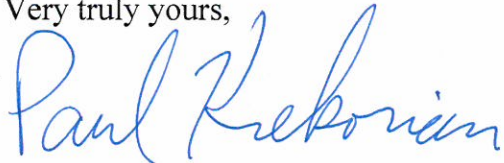
As you know, several years ago, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy implemented a \$3.00 fee to park in this property's parking lot. To avoid the fee, many hikers park their vehicles on nearby streets. But these streets are narrow and were not designed to accommodate such an increased amount of traffic. Residents are understandably upset that their streets have become a free version of the Park's parking lot, resulting in overcrowding, excessive traffic, dangerous driving and illegal parking.

Additionally, the Betty Dearing trail currently ends at a fire access road that deposits hikers onto the end of Iredell Street, a narrow street with no sidewalks. Hikers walk in the middle of the street, impeding local traffic, endangering themselves, and creating a potentially dangerous situation in the case of an emergency.

Residents have also complained about the rude behavior of some hikers. Too often, hikers who live nowhere near the area use the private property of residents as an extension of the park resulting in utterly unacceptable adverse impacts including litter, destruction of landscaping and even the use of front yards for defecation and urination by dogs and humans.

This issue is a top priority for my office. I have been working closely with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation and the Los Angeles Police Department for years in an effort to implement viable solutions to reduce these problems, including parking restrictions and increased law enforcement, and I know my predecessor did as well. The City's remaining options for addressing the hikers' disruptive impacts are limited, and these problems are likely to continue and worsen as long as the Conservancy continues to charge for parking, especially with an inconvenient payment process. I am asking for your personal engagement on this issue, and I hope we can meet soon to reach a solution.

Very truly yours,



Paul Krekorian

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