

January 5, 2023



CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

2022 was dominated by news about community reactions to the Silver Lake Reservoirs Master Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), but there were other events that caught our readers' attention: new activity in the passive-activities-only meadow, concerns about dogs in restricted areas, SLT community meetings and more. *The top 10 articles are presented in chronological order (January to December 2022).*

Click on the link at the end of each article, which will take you to that issue and then scroll to the featured story.



*New for 2023 —
“Protect the Wildlife.
Save the Reservoir.”
lawn signs! Show
your support for
Silver Lake and our
precious reservoirs
with these free signs
from Silver Lake
Together. Email
editor@silverlaketogether.com*

1. Are You High?



“Are You High?” was one of the first stories of 2022—and also one that garnered the most attention. A Duane Street resident asked the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) the show-stopping query during a Silver Lake community meeting on January 19, which was held to discuss the process for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) BOE would conduct in 2022. The question captured the sentiment of many attendees: the city is confusing and frustrating residents and ignoring concerns shared during the multiple community workshops which took place prior to the pandemic.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



Photo courtesy of Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

2. Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary Retains Attorney; Submits In-depth Comments on Reservoirs Draft EIR

In February, the Silver Lake Wildlife Sanctuary (SLWS) submitted a 23-page report to the

BOE, written by the Sanctuary with counsel from the law firm of Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minter LLP. The firm was hired by the SLWS to ensure the city and its Bureau of Engineering consider all public comments on the EIR, as guaranteed by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The SLWS said, “We felt the organization should submit scoping comments that would throw the widest net possible, to enlarge the 'scope' of the report.”

[READ THE SILVER LAKE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY'S FULL COMMENTS](#)

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



3. Death Traps Waiting to Happen

The intersection of Glendale Boulevard and Riverside Drive continued to be a hot topic for residents in Silver Lake. The intersection has been cited as especially dangerous, along with safety concerns caused by the flower vendor working in traffic on West Silver Lake Boulevard. SLT continues to work closely with LAPD and the council districts to find solutions for these dangerous situations, in particular installing a protected turn signal on Glendale and Riverside.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



A picture is worth one thousand words. Cars line up on Silver Lake Boulevard for LAPD's first free VIN etching.

4. Silver Lake Together Co-sponsors LAPD Free Catalytic Converter Theft Protection Event

In April, SLT co-sponsored LAPD's free VIN (vehicle identification number) etching on catalytic converters. The event, held to combat catalytic converter thefts in Silver Lake, was highly successful and took place by appointment on Silver Lake Boulevard on the east side of the Silver Lake Reservoirs Complex. The program was also sponsored by CD 13.

[Read the full story here.](#)

[Read more here.](#)

5. New Watering Rules – And You Thought COVID Guidelines Were Confusing?



SLT helped residents cope with the city's highly-needed actions to reduce outdoor water use. No surprise — the guidelines were contradictory and confusing. The Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and the Los Angeles Department of Water (DWP) and Power both issued new rules. However, MWD restricted outdoor watering to just one day a week, while DWP issued two-day-a-week watering restrictions, with an eight-minute limit. Both would be effective on June 1. We told you it was confusing.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Photo: Silver Lake Conservancy

6. The Meadows: Peaceful Retreat or Free-for-all?

The Meadows, nestled within the Silver Lake Reservoirs Complex, was developed after years of negotiations between city agencies and Silver Lake residents, as a passive-activity-only, dog-free park. Organized sports, fee-based classes, dogs on or off leash, or amplified sound were prohibited within the area. On a Sunday in June, after the Meadows “closed,” a well-organized underground concert was held, featuring three bands playing amplified music. The sounds of the music and cheering crowd could be heard blocks away—and residents were upset (to put it mildly). For the prior three years, SLT had seen an uptick in complaints regarding activity at The Meadows. Including multiple dog bites. The Silver Lake Advocacy Team will meet with representatives from CD 13, LAPD, Recreation and Parks, Silver Lake Rec Center, and LADWP to discuss how the city can better regulate park activity, and to ensure all city. Codes are respected.

[Read the full story here.](#)



7. The Meadow Issues Continued: Once Peaceful Meadow Becomes Hot Spot for Underground Concerts and Fireworks

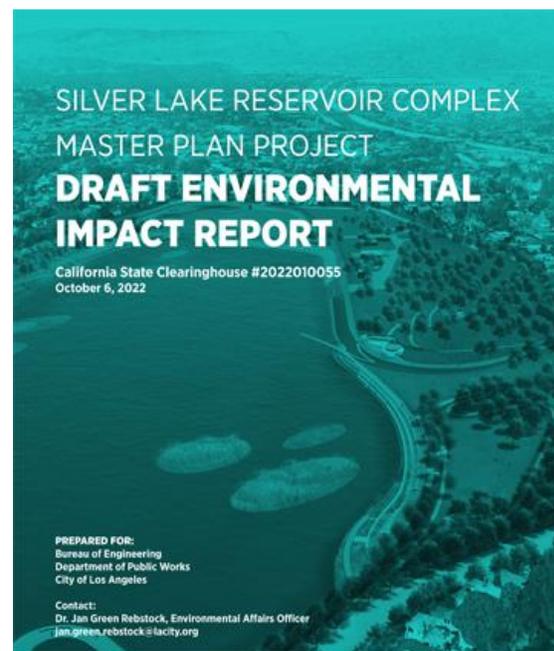
In July, SLT reported on the growing nuisance of prohibited activity taking place in what was intended to be a sanctuary of outdoor peace, The Meadow. Originally designated as a dog-free "passive activity only" green-space, the Meadow has become a hot spot for underground concerts, fireworks, and other illegal activity. After meeting with city agencies and representatives, the Silver Lake Together Advocacy Team held a virtual community meeting on July 28, to discuss community concerns. Representatives from the LAPD, Recreation and Parks, LADWP and other city agencies were scheduled to participate.

[Read the full story here.](#)

[Read the meeting results here.](#) (Hint, it's good news.)

[Read about the new signs here.](#)

8. Reservoirs DEIR Released— 180 Months of Construction, Thousands and Thousands of Truck Trips, and Multiple Closures Outlined in Document



After months of delays, in October, the BOE's Draft Environmental Impact Report was released. The reaction from residents was immediate and strong. The top concerns were removal of the perimeter fence; noise nuisances caused by special events and amplified music; construction noise; negative impacts on wildlife; traffic, congestion and crime; duration of the project; disruption of the quality of life for residents living within 500 feet of the complex. In addition, many of Silver Lake Recreation Complex' features, including the dog parks, walking paths, the Meadow, and the recreation center will be CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC for years during the multiphase construction plan.

[Read the full article here.](#)

9. Can You Hear Us?



Several community meetings were held to discuss the DEIR during the remainder of 2022. After strong objections to recommendations in the recently-released draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Silver Lake Reservoirs Master Plan appear to have been ignored, residents asked the same question, “Can you hear us?” Moreover, an attendee did not miss the opportunity to point out the irony of how the BOE, elected representatives, and special interest groups continue to ignore vocal opposition to the Master Plan.

[Read the full article including results of votes at meetings.](#)

10. What Some Want Versus What We Need

Committee passes motion that would require the SLNC governing board to hold a special community meeting to discuss the SLRC DEIR before taking a position.

The objections to the DEIR and proposed Reservoirs Master Plan continued, and more than 100 people attended the November 14 virtual meeting of the SLNC Reservoir Committee. After two-plus hours of comments, the overwhelming majority of those who attended (80 yes to 6 no) supported a motion that would require the SLNC governing board to hold a special community meeting to discuss the SLRC DEIR before taking a position. This decision is consistent with prior meetings' outcomes, including the 2019 in-person work group meetings, the more than 400 comments contained in the actual DEIR, comments expressed during the October 2022 SLNC board meeting and Reservoir Committee, Bureau Of Engineering meetings, and, most recently, during the Silver Lake Reservoir Committee meeting.

[Read the full article including a piece by CPA Terry Jackson on the true costs of the Master Plan.](#)

[Read resident and Silver Lake Green committee member Hugh Kenny's article, "Who Is Getting the Ax in Silver Lake?"](#)

Let Us Know!

www.silverlaketgether.com

Need help with an issue in Silver Lake? Do you have ideas that will help our neighborhood or want to share community news?

Email Us

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