

November 29, 2022



# CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

## What Some Want Versus What We Need

More than 100 people attended the November 14 virtual meeting of the SLNC Reservoir Committee, an *extremely* high number for an advisory committee meeting. The only item on the agenda was the Silver Lake Recreation Complex Master Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). 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.

Although there are some who'd like to "gaslight" Silver Lake residents, and use derogatory dog whistles like "NIMBY," we are blessed to be a park rich community, including the Silver Lake Recreation Center, which is and has always been open to ALL. The key issues that concern the overwhelming majority of residents are quality of life disruptions, such as noise, traffic/congestion, cost, years of construction, facility closures, and forced relocation of wildlife. This is a question of what some WANT versus what Silver Lake NEEDS. Make sure your voice is heard.

**THERE IS STILL TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR WRITTEN COMMENT AT THE BUREAU OF ENGINEERING WEBSITE.**

You don't have to craft a long statement — a brief and simple sentence stating your position will suffice and has just as much impact as a lengthy analysis. The comment period is open until 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 2, 2022.

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## Truth Check

We thank the *Eastsider* for including Silver Lake Together (SLT) in their [recent article](#) on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Reservoirs Master Plan. And while we understand the need for editing requested quotes, we disagree with the *Eastsider's* inference that SLT believes public comments “seemed to support keeping things the same.” In fact, we think it is clear that the vast majority of Silver Lakers are overwhelmingly opposed to the drastic changes proposed in the Master Plan.

For the record: here is the statement SLT submitted:

*Based on hundreds of comments made by Silver Lake residents and stakeholders during community workshops in 2019, in emails and phone messages, and in comments made during public virtual committee and BOE meetings, the Silver Lake Together Advocacy Team stands with the community and supports Alternative #1 (No Changes Made) offered in the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex Draft Environmental Impact Report.*

*Silver Lake Together recognizes that traditional issues, such as the vigorous protection of the wildlife species that make their homes in Silver Lake, are crucial factors in protecting our urban environment. However, environmental issues are also equity issues. Silver Lake is a park-rich, upper middle class neighborhood, and spending over \$300 million dollars to transform an already widely used and more than adequate park into a ‘global tourist destination’ is an irresponsible distribution of limited funds. We believe it is selfish to deprive park-poor neighborhoods in Los Angeles of the mental and physical health attributes recreation centers and open green spaces provide.*



## Money Doesn't Grow on Trees. Money Grows on Construction Projects.

*A financial professional's view by Terry Jackson, CPA*

I'm a CPA and I have worked with clients who build parks, do environmental remediation, have trucking fleets, build senior housing with public/private partners, and manage war rooms for lobbying campaigns. So, I have an insider's view.

\$268 million—repeat that over and over until it sinks in. This is the estimate from 2020 for the cost of the proposals in the Silver Lake Reservoirs Master Plan. The cost of construction projects has risen dramatically in the last two years and today when jobs go out to bid the material and subcontractor estimates are an eye-opener. There is no funding for this project and the LADWP won't kick in a nickel. Where would the money come from? The most likely source would be a Community Facilities District bond which would be charged to properties within the district and added to property tax bills. The potential size of the facilities district would not be large and it would be very difficult to achieve the two thirds vote to approve the bond. Other potential funding sources are not even close to the funds that would be needed.

In addition, the Draft Environmental Impact Report estimates thousands of heavy haul trucking trips and 250,000 cubic yards of excavation. The report also estimates that the best-case timeline to complete the project is five years. However, with no funding in place, it would be a piecemeal project that would not meet the "best case" forecast.

There are many improvements that could be implemented in a greatly reduced project. The project, as proposed, is overblown and needs to be scaled back to something achievable and realistic. If we were to ask members of the Park and Recreation department what they would do with a \$300 million capital improvement budget, I don't think they would say, "Let's spend it all in Silver Lake."





*Photo: Mixville from Marc Wanamaker, Bison Archives*

## Rancho Los Feliz: 1770-1843

On Saturday, December 10, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., at the Silver Lake Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, Phyl Van Ammers will present a fascinating program on the history of Rancho Los Feliz, [one of the first land grants made in California](#), and its place on a branch of El Camino Viejo, “the old road.” The Tongva/Kizh people and the Tataviam peoples used the road for thousands of years and Silver Lake is part of its rich history. This local history program is sponsored by the library and the Silver Lake History Collective.

**Saturday, December 10, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., Silver Lake Library, 2411 Glendale Boulevard.**  
For ADA accommodations, call 213-228-7430 at least 72 hours in advance of the event.

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*Pantry food distribution begins with sorting donations.*

*High school volunteers break down boxes after receiving a large donation of produce from Trader Joe's.*



## Caring for Those in Need Since 2010

The Silver Lake Community Church (SLCC) food pantry has operated weekly since 2010. It currently serves approximately 80-90 families per week (18,000 people a year.) And these numbers do not include the unhoused population, which is served on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. SLCC did not stop operating during the pandemic, and it's still a challenge to provide enough food, and necessities like diapers, clothes, blankets and more to those in need.

"As usual, during the holidays we will have an increase in patrons, so the numbers could go up in the next few weeks to over 125 families," said Stephanie Young, Silver Lake Community Church's office manager.

Young also noted that fresh produce, dairy products and proteins are scarce, and are needed to keep the food pantry stocked for the hundreds of families assisted. For the unhoused, easy-to-open cans, crackers, small cereals, protein bars, and items that don't need to be cooked or opened with a can opener, and don't require refrigeration, are in great demand.

To help during these very challenging times, please visit [www.silverlakechurch.com](http://www.silverlakechurch.com). Whatever you can donate will be truly appreciated.

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## LAPD Northeast Toy Drive



Senior Lead Officer Jose Ramirez reminds us that the 2022 LAPD Northeast Division Toy Drive is underway. Toys for 3- to 12-year-old girls or boys can be dropped off at the Northeast Station, 3353 North San Fernando Road. Last year, Northeast gave away 600 toys. The 2022 goal is to give away 1,000 toys during a holiday party that includes refreshments, holiday games and music and, of course, the opportunity to meet with L.A. city first responders. The toy give away festivities will take place December 17 at Northeast Station. People may come to Northeast Station to register their kids to get a toy. Parents must show proof that they live in the Northeast Division.

And on a more serious note, here are crime stats for Northeast from November 6 to November 12:

Homicide: 0

Rape: 1

Robbery: 2

Aggravated Assaults: 3

Gang Crimes: 1

Shots Fired: 0

Victims Shot: 0

Burglary: 6

Theft: 9

Grand Theft Auto: 7

Burglary From Motor Vehicles: 34

Recovered Vehicles: 2

Violent Crimes: 2

Property Crimes: 11

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# Holiday Safety Tips

*Compiled in cooperation with the LAPD Crime Prevention Section*



We've seen the reminders and heard the warnings, but the holidays can be a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. The Los Angeles Police Department wishes you a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season and asks that you share these tips with your family, friends and neighbors.

[READ AND SHARE THE SAFETY TIPS](#)

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## In Case You Missed It

**Catalytic Converter Theft Ring:** This fascinating story covers the takedown of a nationwide catalytic converter theft ring that made hundreds of millions of dollars. NBC Los Angeles explains how the multimillion criminal enterprise even used a custom mobile app to make it easier for thieves to find buyers on the east coast—and why California was the center of the ring. Silver Lake was the first community in L.A. to participate in LAPD's popular catalytic etching program, which was co-sponsored by LAPD, CD 13 and Silver Lake Together.

[WATCH THE NBC STORY](#)

[READ SLT'S ARTICLE ON THE ETCHING PROGRAM](#)

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## Let Us Know!

[www.silverlaketgether.com](http://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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