



## HOMEOWNERS OF ENCINO

"Serving the Homeowners of Encino since 1983"

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Email: Deborah.L.Lamb@usace.army.mil

Subject: Proposed AngelFest Music Festival Sepulveda Flood Control Basin – October 7-9  
SPL-2016-00001-ERB AngelFest

**Project Description:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District (Corps), has received a request from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks (City), the recreational lessee at Sepulveda Recreation Area at the Sepulveda Dam and Basin, for a proposed special event entitled AngelFest. As proposed by the City and as described in supporting materials provided to the Corps, the event would be a three (3)-day commercial family-friendly music, food, and cultural event with maximum attendance of 65,000 people per day (including approximately 1,200 workers). The event would be developed and managed by the *Make Good Group* and designed to have a cross-generational and multicultural feel highlighting the unique contributions the City of Los Angeles makes to the world. Tickets for the event are proposed to cost approximately \$295 for the three days, with a portion of every ticket sold being donated to the Los Angeles Parks Foundation which would use the funds to improve the recreational amenities within the Basin. The AngelFest event is proposed to occur Friday, October 7, 2016, through Sunday, October 9, 2016, Sunday, when activities would end at 9:45 p.m. During the event, five performance stages and other additional festival areas, including concessions, would be open to ticketholders at the northeast portion of the Basin including Woodley Park (I and II), the cricket fields, the archery range, the Japanese Garden, and the northern developed part of the Wildlife Area (known as Woodley III).

**Homeowners of Encino's position:** Because of the size, number of visitors and amount of vehicular traffic involved, Homeowners of Encino opposes granting a permit for this project for the following reasons:

The Basin's primary function is flood control, and only secondarily *minimal* recreational usage. The Sepulveda Basin should not become a City-wide venue for "entertainment" functions, concerts, outdoor spectaculars, etc. These activities interfere with the Basin's natural habitat and negatively impact its ecosystem and environmental sustainability. The use of the Basin for large events such as music festivals should not be permitted. The Basin is unique in that it is a flood basin, not an ordinary "park. We believe that musical festivals are incompatible with the intended purpose of the Basin.

Homeowners of Encino agrees with the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society's concerns that "Woodley Park is a deceptively complex, mostly self-contained ecosystem. Erecting a security barrier around its Wildlife Reserve during a huge event with loud music, bright lights and pyrotechnic displays does next to nothing to protect that ecosystem. From the pocket gophers that feed raptors, herons and owls to the insects and plants that feed resident and migrant bird populations, the entire park weaves a web of support that is robust yet fragile. Birds and other wildlife in the park have taken decades to acclimatize to

freeway noise and airplane overflights — but five music stages blaring from 10 AM to 11 PM, 65,000 people tramping around daily, plus all the trucks, structures, cables, generators, porta-potties and untold other hardware needed for this project, will tear the fabric of that web in ways that will in some cases be felt for years, or forever.”

The suggestion that the event’s sponsor, *Make Good Group*, will contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Parks Foundation in exchange for allowing the AngelFest event is fraught with faulty logic and is irrational. By that reasoning, the Army Corps should allow demolition derby or motorcross events in the Basin to raise even more money. The obvious environmental destruction clearly does not offset the economic benefits gained. The Basin must never be viewed simply as a money machine.

Homeowners of Encino believes no more than 1000 visitors should be permitted in a single day to a single event because of the huge negative environmental impacts it brings. The Basin must be restricted to low density recreational uses that do not impact the natural ecosystem of the Basin. Music festivals, cultural festivals, rock concerts, band competitions, farm shows and county fairs or other large scale events are destructive to the Basin’s natural environment. Recreational activities that draw thousands of visitors, massive automobile traffic and congestion should not be permitted.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerald A. Silver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gerald A. Silver  
President