

Misleading and false claims regarding precedent events in Woodley Park

Section 1.1.1 of the draft EA describes six previous festivals held in Woodley Park with the intent of establishing precedent for events larger than 10,000 people with amplified music. The discussion of these events as precedents is also in EA section 4.15.2. It doesn't take much time on Google to prove that this section of the EA is woefully incomplete and inaccurate to the point of bordering on fraudulent. Below is a discussion of each festival as described in the EA as compared with verifiable facts, including sources, links & photos. The information is also summarized in tabular form,

Persian Festival

The EA claims attendance "reaches 16,000 people" and "includes a stage, amplified music". The most recent Persian Festival, also called Sidzeh Bedar, was 3/29/2015. It attracted fewer than 6,000 people and was held entirely within Woodley 1. It concluded at 6:00 pm and had one small stage with a small amplification system.

Royal Time TV, the sponsor of the event, put 2.25 hours of the headline events on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usfuqETLSpU> The photos below demonstrate that the crowd was nowhere near the 16,000 claimed in the EA. The crowd is noticeably smaller and less dense than the Israel festival (next) which had a gate count close to 11,000. The amplification used was small and in no way relevant to permitting a giant music festival like AngelFest.



The 2014 Persian Festival was in Lake Balboa, Upper Beilenson Park, and is not relevant to the permitting of a festival in Woodley Park in and near the Wildlife Reserve.

Israel Festival

The EA claims that the Israel Festival “reached an estimated 30,000 attendees”, “includes multiple stages with amplified music” and “includes nighttime lighting”.

The most recent Israel Festival in the Basin was 4/25/2010. An overhyped attendance figure appeared in the press. It was from someone not directly connected with the festival. Yoram Gutman, executive director reported ticket sales of 9,000 (assume that's rounded up) and free attendance of 2,000. (http://www.jewishjournal.com/community/article/can_la_support_an_israel_festival_20110517) It concluded at 7:00 pm and was entirely within Woodley 1. Examination of social media finds two stages, both very small. One was on six inch risers and measured ~8 ft across. The photos below show the size of the crowd. There is no evidence of night lighting which makes sense since the event concluded at dusk.



The Los Angeles Police Department Children's Day Festival

The most recent Children's Day was 9/17/2011. The EA claims "This was the largest event at Woodley Park to date with approximately 60,000 attendees". The 60,000 figure is a complete fiction and is likely off by a factor of ten. An LAPD press release said they were "expecting up to 25,000". A flyer hyped 50,000. This was a free event so there was no gate count. An examination of photos and videos from Children's Day 2011 shows much smaller and less dense crowds than the Israel Festival (above) which had a more verifiable count of 11,000. Children's Day was presented four consecutive years 2008 - 2011. The photos below are from Children's Day 2011 which was claimed to be the largest by the event organizers. (<http://www.kidsare1st.org/childrens-day-2011-san-fernando-valley.html>)

The EA further claims that there were "multiple stages with amplified music operating concurrently". Examination of photos and videos reveal that there was only one small stage with a small amplification system. Like all the other precedent events mentioned in the EA, it occurred entirely within Woodley 1. The festival concluded well before dark at 4:00 pm.



World Festival

There has never been anything called “World Festival” in Woodley Park or anywhere in the Basin. However, WorldFest, a small event promoting new age lifestyle and veganism occurred 5/18/2014 and for a few years before that. The EA claims the event attracts up to “25,000”, another complete fiction. Review of photos and videos from previous event suggest the event was attended by under 5,000 people. Correspondence with the event organizers (now renamed VegFest) confirmed that previous events were attended by a “few thousand” people, but that they were “hoping for more”. When pressed, my contact conceded that past attendance was under 4,000. Like all preceding events, WorldFest was entirely within Woodley 1. Music was presented on a small stage. The event concluded at dusk and did not have lighting. Set up and tear down of VegFest 2016 did not close access to any areas of Woodley and appeared to take less than a few hours each.



DEA Festival

There is no such thing as the “DEA Festival” as described in the EA. However DeaFestival, an event for the hearing impaired and their families, most recently occurred 9/24/2011 in Woodley 1. Attendance was less than 5,000. Music and speeches were presented on a small stage. The event concluded at 5:00 pm.

(<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.364201866986203.82814.363118173761239&type=3>)



Irish Festival

The EA includes the Irish Festival, claiming 35,000 attendees. There is no way to support this claim. The most recent Irish Festival in Woodley Park was 6/19/2004. The festival has since moved to other locations. There is essentially no information available about the 2004 event and no basis for the attendance claim. On their own history page, the organizers don't even include the Woodley Park location. <http://www.irishfair.org/#!/about/c188u>

Summary of EA Presentation of Precedent Events

- ALL previous events were in Woodley 1 - between Japanese Gardens & Woodley Ave.
- NONE were anywhere near the Wildlife Reserve, or in Woodley 2 or 3.
- NONE were on the cricket fields or archery range.
- ALL preceding events were MUCH SMALLER.
- Previous events were daylight only - no night lighting.
- No preceding events were 3 days. All but one were 1 day. Two-day Irish fest was 2004, well before 2011 Master Plan and Special Events Policy.
- "Amplified music" stages were tiny. Photos show small stages on 2-3' risers with small consumer grade amplifiers. Nothing like what is used at large festivals.
- None had parking on sports fields or golf courses.
- Section 4.15.2 assertions "four of these events averaging over 10,000 attendees" and "Typical events average one to two days, with additional short periods of set-up and take-down/restoration of the areas (typically up to a week of closure periods). These events reduce opportunity for recreational activities by general park users for temporary periods with associated temporary impacts" are contradicted by the facts.

The many discrepancies between the EA sections 1.1.1 & 4.15.2 assertions and the verifiable facts:

- Call into question the veracity of the entire document.
- Raise questions about the due diligence of the review process leading to the draft FONSI.
- Suggest that the environmental consultant, ESA, should not receive any future contracts.
- Represent a deficiency, especially when added to all the other deficiencies that call for the denial of waivers to the current policies.

Comparable Festivals in Other Locations

Stages 2 & 3 - 15,000 People

The EA show Stages 2 and 3 accommodating 15,000 festival goers each. Stage 2 is within the Wildlife Reserve as defined in the 2011 Master Plan (Land Use Plan). Stage 3 directly abuts the Wildlife Reserve, and the festival boundaries south of this stage overlap the Reserve. So what does 15,000 people look like?

Kaaboo Festival, Del Mar Fairgrounds and Raceway.

The Kaaboo festival, Sept 2015, had attendance of 15,000 to 16,000. Note that Kaaboo was held at an appropriate venue - a fairgrounds/raceway. Below: partial views of the audience.

(<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2015/sep/20/kaaboo-festival-hits-and-misses/>)



The promoters want to place crowds this size, with attendant noise and lighting within the boundaries of the Reserve as defined in the USACoE Master Plan of 2011. Note that the Special Events Policy, also part of the 2011 Master Plan specifies an 50 person limit for events in the Woodley 3 part of the Wildlife Reserve. A large food vending area and a double row of portable toilets are also located within the boundaries of the Wildlife Reserve. Stage 3 would be 278 feet from the Wildlife Lake as measured precisely in Google Earth.



Stage 1 - 50,000 People

The promoters have designed Stage 1 to accommodate 50,000 people. Future Music Festival, held in Olympic Park, Sydney AU had nearly 50,000 attendance in 2014 and 2015. Note that this venue was designed to host large crowds. These photos capture only part of the crowd.

(<http://www.theguardian.com/music/2015/mar/01/future-music-festival-review-sydney>)



A crowd larger than what these photos can include would diagonally border the Reserve. It is 980 feet from the Wildlife Lake measured precisely on Google Earth.

ANGELFEST™ — ALTERNATIVE SITES

A number of potential locations in the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area were considered and investigated as potential sites to host the festival. The mission and vision of AngelFest™ is to celebrate Los Angeles, the City of Angels, while simultaneously showcasing, supporting, and protecting the city's commons including its fiscally challenged parks.

Woodley Park was chosen as the preferred site due to its location and centrality within Los Angeles city limits, its size, beautiful setting and festival-ready ambiance, experienced park personnel, **history of hosting large events**, number of available parking spaces, close adjacency to multiple public transportation and bicycle opportunities, easy freeway and major street access, good sightlines for stages, ease of people movement on site, good public safety and security options, potential to isolate sensitive ecological areas, and **low impacts on surrounding neighborhoods**.

The following is a list of other locations considered and investigated, along with reasons they were not suitable.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Reason for Rejection</u>
Grand Park	Constricted small spaces, failed "Made In America" site, LA County park
Griffith Park	No suitable large open space fields, limited parking, limited freeway access
Griffith Park Golf Courses	Sightlines interrupted by tree lines, limited parking, limited freeway access
Exposition Park	No main stage area, hosts "FYF", constricted areas inhibit people movement
Dodger Stadium	Parking lots too hot for stages/festival-goers, stadium setting needs mega-bands
Rose Bowl	Not City of LA, limited access & parking, stadium-centric, has competing festival
State Historic Park	Not a City of LA park, undergoing redesign and renovation, no parking
Hansen Dam	Chopped-up spaces inhibit sightlines and people movement, no parking
Harbor Regional Park	Limited & hilly open areas, limited parking, Harbor College adjacent hours
Venice Beach	Too small, no parking, limited transit access, tough to secure perimeter
Will Rogers State Beach	Too small, no parking or transit, PCH only access, tough to secure perimeter
Zuma State Beach (Malibu)	Not in City of Los Angeles, limited access (PCH only), no transit
King Gillette Ranch	Not in City of LA, only two roads in and out, homes directly adjacent
Whittier Narrows State Park	Not in City of LA, failed site of "Hard Fest" created unhappy locals
Pomona Fairplex	Not in City of LA, failed site of "Hard Fest", LA County Fair time conflict
Alamitos Beach (Long Beach)	Not Los Angeles
Orange County Great Park	Not Los Angeles
Orange County Fairgrounds	Not Los Angeles
Del Mar Fairgrounds	Not Los Angeles

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Q3, 2015

Aerial Photo: Google Earth Feb 2016

White text & figures: Draft EA fig 6

Red text & figures: Draft EA fig 6

White audience numbers: Draft EA 2.3.1.3

Blue areas: Audience concentration EA fig 5

Pink areas: High traffic food, toilets

Yellow line: Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve - Environmentally Sensitive

ACoE Sepulveda Land Use Classification Nov 2011

Red dashed line: Event site boundary: draft EA fig 6

Green line: Woodcrete fence.

- MEDICAL AREA
- PORT-O-JOHN'S
- EXISTING BUILDINGS

FULL SCHEME [LAYOUT]

FOOD + BEVERAGE

KIDS ZONE

750

COMEDY TENT

750

STAGE 5

500

ENTRANCE

SITE OPS, OFFICE

EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION

FOOD + BEVERAGE

FOOD + BEVERAGE

ZOCALO

BLEACHERS

30,000

ENTRANCE

STAGE 4

15,000

STAGE 3

STAGE 1

50,000

TALENT & PRODUCTION

EXHIBITION

15,000

STAGE 2

FOOD + BEVERAGE

PRODUCTION ENTRANCE

PRODUCTION ENTRANCE

Dodger Stadium: 56,000 capacity
 40-45,000 typical
 Staples Center: 18,000 capacity
 Hollywood Bowl: 17,500 capacity

