



MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Marvista.org

Community Impact Statement



TITLE: Marina Central Park

COMMITTEE: Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability (T&I) Committee

POSITION: SUPPORT

THE MOTION: The Mar Vista Neighborhood Council supports and encourages the pursuit of a feasibility study for the Marina Central Park project.

BACKGROUND: An urban design firm, [SWA](#), and Los Angeles nonprofit, [Streets for All](#), have partnered on a project called [Marina Central Park](#), envisioning the transformation of the unfinished Marina Freeway (CA-90) into a 128-acre multi-use park (including housing and vehicle lanes). This is obviously a huge undertaking, [one that would take at least a decade if it were to move forward](#). [Still, it already has the support of Caltrans, Mayor Karen Bass, Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, and the Del Rey Neighborhood Council \(which this project will most affect among NCs\)](#). Mayor Bass and Sen. Smallwood-Cuevas have already submitted letters of support to U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Some background on the Marina Freeway:

- It is currently 3.1 miles long, built from the 405 freeway to the edge of Marina del Rey, with an unconnected short portion located 40 miles away in Yorba Linda.
- The freeway was originally intended to be a 50-mile route, but support and funding dwindled in the '60s and '70s and the freeway was never finished.
- According to SWA and [other sources](#), has among the lowest traffic volume of freeways and highways in LA county.

What is proposed for the Marina Central Park?

- 50% of the 128 acres are proposed to be converted to "open space"
- The other 50% are proposed to be divided among 10% road and 40% building (~51 acres of building area):
 - Car lanes will be maintained (though not as many lanes as in the current freeway)
 - Dedicated bus rapid transit lanes will be created
 - ~4,000 residential units will be added (with priority for affordable housing), tentatively proposed as "gentle density" with 4 story residential over 1 story retail space



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- Bike trails and paths will be built to connect to other bikeways and pedestrian spaces on the Westside

This project cannot move forward without a 2-year feasibility study. The project leadership is planning to apply for a federal grant, [Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant](#), which is specifically to fund projects that are “removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities.” Regardless of one’s feelings about the merit of this project, it has support from many people with power across the city and across the state, and a feasibility study can only serve to deepen our understanding of the impacts of this project on our community.

If we do not provide our support for the pursuit of a feasibility study, our NC and its community members risk not having a voice in this process. The Marina Freeway does not cross through our neighborhood and will primarily and directly impact individuals in Del Rey. However, there are still potential impacts on health, housing, mobility connectivity, and sustainability for our neighborhood, and we would like to have a seat at the table as this project potentially moves forward. Therefore, we support the pursuit of a feasibility study and would like to be kept informed and party to any findings that result from the study so that we can be more informed in supporting or opposing such a development.

DIRECTED TO:



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ACTION/VOTE COUNT:

MVCC T&I Committee meeting, MONTH 1st, 2023

Motion of support moved by XXXX, seconded by XXXX

Motion of XXXX approved by MVCC T&I Committee XX-XX-XX

MVCC Board Meeting, MONTH 1st, 2023

Motion of support moved by Director XXX, seconded by Director XXX

Motion of support approved by the MVCC Board XX-XX-XX