

**LOS ANGELES
EQUINE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA**

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15th District: Vacant
Mayor's Office: Scott Perez

commissioner.gross@yahoo.com

December 19, 2020

Larry Gross, President
Board of Animal Services Commissioners
221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: West Valley Animal Shelter

Commissioner Gross:

We the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee (LAEAC), are aware that the Dept. of Animal Services has proposed converting the West Valley Animal Shelter into a "Community Resource Center." Many west valley residents and Neighborhood Councils have objected to the plan. The LAEAC is also concerned because the West Valley Animal Shelter serves as an emergency shelter for large animals during fires and is the only such shelter with this capacity in the entire valley. The loss of the large animal emergency facilities available at West Valley Animal Shelter at a time when the likelihood of disastrous wildfires is increasing is unwise.

After a series of public meetings concerning the above proposal, the Department is in the process of revising it. If the proposed conversion proceeds, it is imperative that the facility remain available as an emergency shelter for large animals. At a minimum, if the West Valley Animal Shelter is converted to a "Community Resource Center," the private operator must agree to accept large animals during emergencies.

Dale Gibson, President. Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee
Councilman Paul Koretz CD-5 & Chair Personnel & Animal Welfare
Councilman John Lee, CD-12 & Vice-Chair Personnel & Animal Welfare
Brenda F. Barnette, Gen. Mgr. LAAS