

April 4, 2018

Chair and Members of the Design Commission  
Planning Department, City of Pasadena  
175 N. Garfield Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear Chair Yoo and Commissioners:

RE: New construction of public restroom facility  
10 N. Arroyo Blvd., Desiderio Neighborhood Park

The West Pasadena Residents' Association appreciates the call-up of the proposed new construction of a restroom at the Desiderio Neighborhood Park—(PD33) approved by Council on Oct. 27, 2014—and submits the following comments for your consideration and action.

WPRA has reviewed the staff report and the draft project sketches submitted by Onyx Architects and is concerned about the size, design and the location of the structure.

The staff report indicates that it is desirable that the stylistic focus for the restroom is Arts and Crafts, yet the images that were available to us depict a rectangular concrete block box with minimal Arts and Crafts references. Given the setting and the restroom's adjacency to the historic Arroyo Bungalows, as well as the new Habitat construction which clearly manifest the Craftsman style, it seems more appropriate that Arroyo stone and wood siding, exposed rafter tails, darker colors, etc. would be more applicable and compatible. Smooth siding, shed roof, linear box appearance of the toilets and storage facility depicted in the plans is more in line with Ranch styling.

The size of the structure seems large and difficult to reconcile with the small size and nature of the park. The stated 875 square feet is larger than the maximum square footage allotted for most recently-approved accessory dwelling units. Furthermore, four ancillary and utility use areas have been added to the building, such as park storage and an electrical closet. Are all of them necessary?

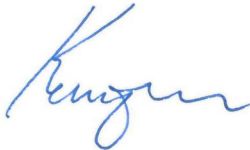
It was long-debated whether to have public toilet facilities in Desiderio Park or not. Placing a restroom building similar in size to those that meet the needs of much larger parks seems misguided. It would be logical that this public restroom's proximity to private residences and small children in such a small park would require greatest care and

restraint, as well as modification of its design and size to prevent any activities other than restroom use.

We trust that its location has been very carefully studied, and that the recommended placement comes with a reliable confidence factor for being the least intrusive and most safe for its neighbors and users of the facilities. However, assurances need to be made to nearby residents and park patrons that there will be ongoing maintenance, safety monitoring, and systematic oversight once it is built.

WPRA appreciates your attention to these comments and looks forward to a smaller structure that will have a significantly more compatible design—both stylistically and practically.

Respectfully yours,



Kenyon Harbison  
President  
West Pasadena Residents Association

cc: Steve Madison, Councilmember—District 6  
Takako Suzuki, Field Representative—District 6  
David Reyes, Director of Planning and Community Development

*The WPRA is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in southwest Pasadena. We represent 7,000 households, including 1,000 paid members.*