Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council

Resolution

FAST & FURIOUS ROLLER COASTER

PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FROM EXCESSIVE NOISE

Tuesday, August 18th, 2026

The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council ("GTLNC") urges Los Angeles County to prevent Universal City Studios LLC d/b/a Universal Studios Hollywood ("Universal") from allowing the Fast & Furious roller coaster ("Rollercoaster") to commence regular operations until its noise impacts on surrounding residential neighborhoods are eliminated and compliance with the Universal Studios Specific Plan has been demonstrated.

SUMMARY

Universal began testing the Fast & Furious Rollercoaster on Monday, June 29, 2026, including cycles with vocal riders, and acknowledged that it was monitoring sound from the surrounding community. Residents subsequently reported recurring coaster screams reaching surrounding homes despite Universal's prior assurances that its noise-control measures would prevent significant neighborhood impacts. The County already has Specific Plan requirements for new sound sources and independent monitoring. The problem exists now. GTLNC calls for immediate enforcement, monitoring and corrective action before regular operations proceed.

THE NOISE PROBLEM EXISTS NOW

The requested investigation and monitoring should not delay immediate action to protect surrounding neighborhoods. The issue before the County is not whether residents are experiencing noise; they are. The issue is whether the existing measures are adequate and whether the County's adopted noise protections are being effectively applied to this new sound source. The County should act now while it investigates and verifies compliance.

The ride may fall within the allowable decibel levels identified in the Final Environmental Impact Report ("FEIR"); however, the FEIR could not have evaluated the specific noise characteristics of a rollercoaster that had not yet been proposed, including the frequency, repetition and character of screams now being generated by the ride. The FEIR was certified in 2013, more than a decade before Universal announced the Fast & Furious Rollercoaster. The current recurring screams represent a substantially different noise condition from the project evaluated in that environmental review and warrant specific acoustical study of the ride's actual operations and its impact on surrounding residential neighborhoods.

Live testing has demonstrated that Rollercoaster screams are reaching the neighborhood, including reports of screams being heard inside homes. A Los Angeles Daily News article published Wednesday, August 12, 2026, reports that Universal Studios Hollywood plans to proceed with passholder previews of "Fast & Furious: Hollywood Drift" on August 19, 20, 21 and 23, even as the ride remains in "technical rehearsal" mode and Universal plans to install additional sound barriers specifically to address noise complaints from nearby Toluca Lake residents. The article reports that construction of the two additional sound barriers is expected to continue through early September. Universal's Friday, August 7, 2026 email from Universal's Community Hotline likewise states that, while Universal's testing to date demonstrates compliance with applicable sound ordinance requirements, the company is exploring additional measures to lessen sound levels in adjacent neighborhoods, acknowledges that residents may continue to hear the Rollercoaster during operation, and announced installation of an additional sound barrier beginning the week of Monday, August 10, 2026.

Residents have reported that coaster screams are audible inside their homes, even with windows closed, during both daytime and nighttime hours. One longtime Toluca Lake resident reports hearing the screams inside his home at approximately 10:00 a.m. and again from his master bedroom at approximately 9:00 p.m. with the windows closed.

THE HISTORY: RESIDENTS RAISED THE ISSUE BEFORE THE RIDE OPENED

Residents first raised serious concerns in 2023 upon learning of the proposed Rollercoaster and that it could impose significant and ongoing noise intrusions into their homes, interfering with their privacy, peace and quiet enjoyment of their properties. Those concerns have now become reality. The resulting noise is intolerable.

In November 2010, the County monitored WaterWorld's sound impacts, and the subsequently adopted Universal Studios Specific Plan required specific noise-control modifications to that attraction. The Rollercoaster, however, presents a fundamentally different and far more serious residential noise challenge. One resident reports that rider screams occur approximately every 90 to 120 seconds, for up to 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

Universal assured residents that its sound-engineering measures would prevent such impacts. Its own "Rollercoaster Snapshot," issued as part of its "Commitment to the Community," identified multiple noise-control measures, including sound walls and half-pipe shields.

Those measures have failed.

THE COUNTY HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED THE RULES

The County's Universal Studios Specific Plan already contains specific requirements governing operational noise. Section 16 applies to existing and future operational sound sources and establishes increasingly restrictive noise standards for daytime, evening and overnight hours. Most importantly, Section 16.C provides that new sound sources developed or in-

stalled after adoption of the Specific Plan must comply with those standards upon commencing operations.

The County also has an established independent monitoring system. Section 16.F requires a qualified third-party acoustical consultant, retained by the County, to monitor designated sites without prior notice to Universal for a 24-hour period every quarter. The County Director may also require additional monitoring to determine compliance and enforcement. We are not asking the County to create new rules. We ask the County to enforce the rules it already has.

GTLNC CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE COUNTY ACTION

We call on Los Angeles County to act now to:

1. Determine and publicly confirm whether the Fast & Furious roller coaster is a "new sound source" subject to Section 16.C of the Universal Studios Specific Plan, and require demonstration of compliance before passholder previews and regular operations commence.

2. Identify the six (6) designated noise-monitoring locations shown in Figure 16-1, including their street addresses or geographic coordinates, and provide all Section 16 monitoring and compliance reports for those locations from January 1, 2023 through the present.

3. Confirm whether the County has conducted Section 16 independent, unannounced 24-hour monitoring ***during*** Fast & Furious testing with riders aboard. If not, conduct that monitoring immediately under representative operating conditions before passholder previews and regular operations commence.

4. Provide the County's current monitoring protocol and methodology, including the precise location and height of each monitoring point, the distance from the Rollercoaster and the Universal property line, the equipment and measurement procedures used, the procedures used to distinguish Universal-generated noise from other sound sources, and the operating conditions during each measurement.

The County should ensure that monitoring locations adequately capture noise at the Universal property boundary and in affected residential areas.

5. Evaluate whether the six (6) designated monitoring locations adequately capture the actual geographic distribution of Fast & Furious noise impacts. Where they do not, exercise the County Director's authority under Section 16.F to require additional monitoring locations necessary to determine compliance and enforcement.

6. Confirm the status, location, scope and schedule of the additional sound barrier announced by Universal, including whether installation began during the week of August 10, 2026, and whether the barrier will be completed and operational before any further passholder previews or regular operations.

7. If monitoring demonstrates noncompliance, require immediate corrective action to achieve compliance and eliminate the noise impacts.

WE FURTHER CALL ON UNIVERSAL TO:

8. **NOT** to proceed with passholder previews or regular operations until the noise problem has been eliminated, the promised noise-control measures have been completed and their effectiveness has been demonstrated, and compliance with the applicable Specific Plan standards has been demonstrated.

9. Continue implementing noise-control measures until the noise problem is eliminated and the promised level of neighborhood protection is actually achieved. Be transparent about Universal's independent testing, including results, means and methods of data collection, and applicable acoustical engineering studies of the ride.

10. If the additional sound barrier is insufficient, implement additional effective measures, including expanded sound walls, half-pipe shields, sound tunnels, vehicle shielding, operational restrictions, and / or other appropriate engineering solutions.

11. Work with the County to establish operating practices that ensure compliance with the increasingly restrictive nighttime noise standards, particularly after 10:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.

THE COMMUNITY HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW

The Specific Plan requires Universal to maintain a 24/7 community hotline and a written log of operational complaints, including their nature and the response or resolution offered. That log must be provided quarterly to the County Director and the Community Advisory Panel. The Specific Plan also requires Universal to respond to each complaint within 24 hours or the next business day with an update on its actions.

The County should obtain and review the Universal Studios community hotline complaint log concerning Rollercoaster noise, including the number, dates, locations, substance of complaints and responses provided. This will allow the County and the Community Advisory Panel to assess the extent and nature of the reported noise impacts and Universal's responses to those complaints.

We request that the Rollercoaster noise complaints, testing results, noise-control measures and any Section 16 compliance issues be formally reported to the Community Advisory Panel and addressed at its next quarterly meeting, if not sooner.

JURISDICTION

The Rollercoaster is located in Universal City, an unincorporated County area, while its noise impacts cross jurisdictional boundaries into neighboring City of Los Angeles communities. The County's Planning Department identifies the Universal Studios Specific Plan as the governing plan for the County portion of the Evolution Plan site. This is not a reason for the City and County to pass the problem back and forth. It is a reason for them to work together.

GTLNC therefore asks the City of Los Angeles to advocate for its affected residents while asking Los Angeles County, the jurisdiction responsible for the Universal Studios Specific Plan, to enforce that Plan.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Universal has repeatedly said it wants to be a good neighbor. This is the time to prove it. Residents did not ask Universal to stop building the Rollercoaster. We asked Universal to control its noise — and Universal told us it would.

The original noise-control measures have failed. Universal must finish the job.

The County must enforce its own rules — now, before this becomes a permanent neighborhood condition. The noise is happening now. The noise problem must be solved now. The monitoring must happen now. Regular operations can wait.

dated: Tuesday, August 18th, 2026

The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council
City of Los Angeles

By: _____
Tess Taylor
President

Note: The City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system arises under Los Angeles City Charter, §900; 901 (1999). The Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council's (GTLNC) position may not reflect the official determination of the City of Los Angeles.

Preliminary list of recipients, subject to confirmation and possible supplementation. This list is for information purposes only and is not part of the subject resolution itself.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY — PRIMARY ACTION

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, Fifth District - **PRIMARY ACTION RECIPIENT**
Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor, First District and Chair,
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Holly J. Mitchell, Supervisor, Second District
Lindsey P. Horvath, Supervisor, Third District
Janice Hahn, Supervisor, Fourth District

Liza Frias, REHS, Director, Environmental Health
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Amy J. Bodek, AICP, Director
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

David J. DeGrazia, AICP, Deputy Director, Current Planning
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel
County of Los Angeles

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Karen Bass, Mayor
City of Los Angeles

Adrin Nazarian, Councilmember, Council District 2
Los Angeles City Council

Alexis Wesson, Chief of Staff, Council District 2

Hugh Esten, Communications Director, Council District 2

Denise Schall, Senior Field Deputy, Toluca Lake / Studio City, Council District 2

Hydee Feldstein Soto, City Attorney
City of Los Angeles

Todd Gilman, Deputy City Attorney
Los Angeles City Attorney's Office

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Henry Stern, State Senator, 27th District
California State Senate

Nick Schultz, Assemblymember, 44th District
California State Assembly

Anthony Thornton, Field Representative, 44th District
California State Assembly

NBCUNIVERSAL / UNIVERSAL DESTINATIONS & EXPERIENCES

Mark Woodbury, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
Universal Destinations & Experiences

Jean-Louis "JL" Bonnier, President & Chief Operating Officer, Pacific Rim
Universal Destinations & Experiences

Scott Strobl, Executive Vice President & General Manager
Universal Studios Hollywood

Glen Connally, Senior Vice President, Technical Services
Universal Studios Hollywood

Cindy Gardner, Executive Vice President, Global Communications
NBCUniversal and Corporate Affairs, Universal Studios

Tracy Cohen, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs
NBCUniversal

Joy Forbes, Vice President, Planning & Development
NBCUniversal

COMCAST CORPORATION - CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

Brian L. Roberts, Chairman & Co-Chief Executive Officer, Comcast Corporation

Michael J. "Mike" Cavanagh, Co-Chief Executive Officer, Comcast Corporation
(Designated Chief Executive Officer, NBCUniversal, upon completion of the planned separation)

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL

The Universal Studios Specific Plan establishes the Community Advisory Panel ("CAP") to foster communication concerning ongoing operations and to allow community representatives to provide input to the County and the Applicant. The Specific Plan identifies six (6) community organizations as CAP members:

1. Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood Association: Fred Hoffman, President
2. Cahuenga Pass Property Owners Association: Krista Michaels, President
3. Hollywood Knolls Community Club: Charles Malki, President
4. Studio City Residents Association: Barry Johnson, President and Francesca Corra
5. Toluca Estates Drive Homeowners Association: Ed A. Romano, Chief Executive Officer and Greg Thorpe, Treasurer
6. Toluca Lake Homeowners Association: Brooke Karzen, President and Steve Hampar

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CAP

Los Angeles County Supervisorial District Representative
Diana Oganesyan, San Fernando Valley Field Deputy, 5th District

Los Angeles City Council District 2 Representative
Denise Schall, Senior Field Deputy

Los Angeles City Council District 4 Representative
Won Jung, Field Deputy

The Specific Plan provides that the CAP receives monitoring and compliance reports and information concerning violations of the Specific Plan's operational requirements.

ADDITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council: Anastasia Mann, President
North Hollywood Neighborhood Council: Jillian Burgos, President
North Hollywood Northeast Neighborhood Council: Zaid Diaz-Arias, President
North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council: Greg Wright, President
Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council: Howard Katchen, President
Studio City Neighborhood Council: Jerry Lewis, President
Valley Village Neighborhood Council: Tony Braswell, President

ADDITIONAL HOMEOWNERS / RESIDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association: Matt Epstein, President
Valley Village Residents Association: Tim Thornton, President

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