

FEASIBILITY STUDY

URBAN BEEKEEPING IN MAR VISTA

MVCC GREEN COMMITTEE
MVCC COMMUNITY OUTREACH

OCTOBER 26, 2011

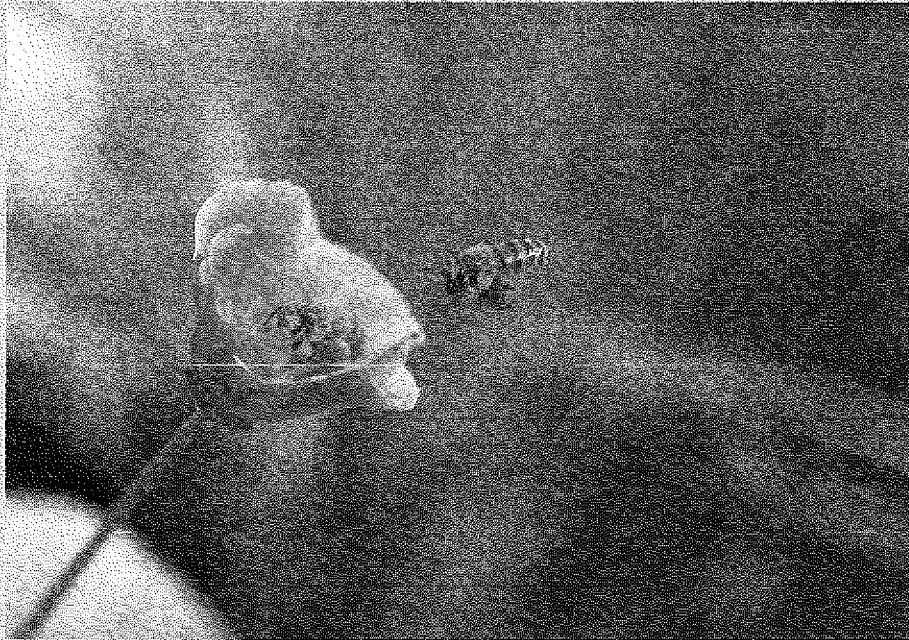
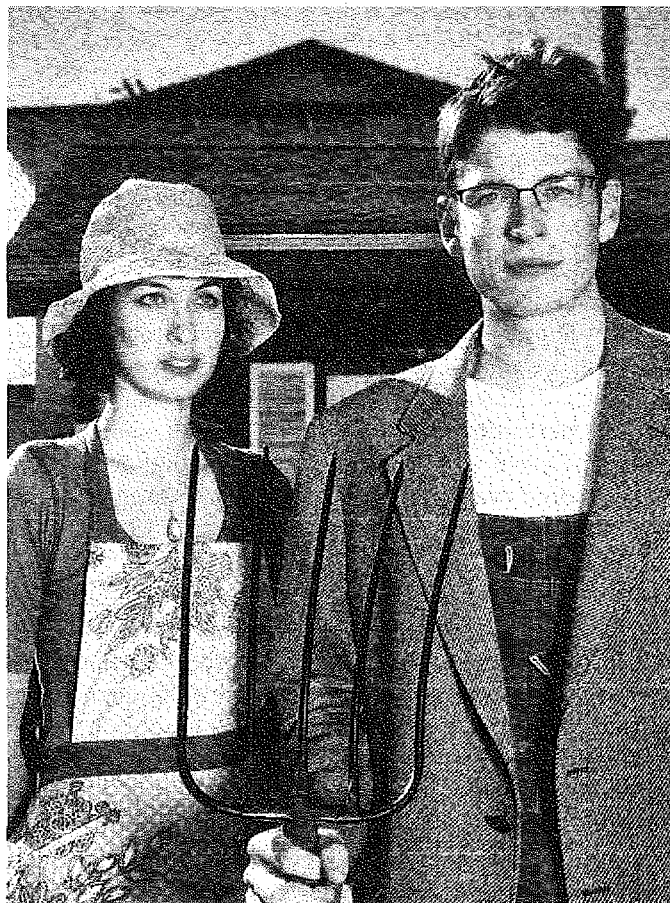


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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Special thanks to Chelsea and Rob McFarland for their commitment and dedication in support of this program.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mar Vista Community Council at its regular meeting on June 14, 2011 voted to approve the preparation of a Feasibility Study for beekeeping in Mar Vista. The Feasibility Study was intended to evaluate the applicability of a recently adopted beekeeping ordinance by the City of Santa Monica to Mar Vista; and if the adoption of this policy supported the Green Committee's goal of creating a more sustainable community. The Feasibility Study included a wide outreach program to facilitate the exchange of information about discovering levels of interest by stakeholders, facilitate presentations from experts to address stakeholders concerns and provide education for the various beekeeping practices in an urbanized setting.

During the four-month process, presentations were made to update on the progress of the Feasibility Study, and receive feedback at three standing MVCC committees (Green Committee, Community Outreach and PLUM) with a combined attendance of approximately 62 stakeholders. Additionally, an initial one-day event was scheduled at the Mar Vista Farmer's Market to test interest in the community-at-large which resulted on the signatures of 511 participants in support of legalizing beekeeping in Mar Vista. Since it was difficult to ascertain true stakeholder's status or find levels or interest and more in-depth reporting of nature of concerns an on-line survey was made available at the MVCC website. 213 responses were tabulated from Aug. 20, 2011 to Oct. 24, 2011.

The committee agreed to include a copy of the Survey in the MVCC Quarterly Newsletter to be hand delivered to 10,000 households within the boundaries of MVCC resulting in 20 responses received by MVCC Chair as a result of the newsletter survey by mid October 2011. An online petition was set up in Change.org, which drew 1,854 additional positive responses. A monthly community event was held each month which included a free-screening of the film "the Vanishing of the Bees" at the local library, two green tent demonstrations showing beekeeping equipment at the Mar Vista Farmer's Market, a Honey Tasting event at a local coffee shop in South Mar Vista, and a booth at the Fall Festival an MVCC sponsored event at Mar Vista Park which resulted on the direct interaction with stakeholders and additional signatures for a combined total of 3,040.

The committee also reviewed over 75 articles on beekeeping; best practices, planning articles on Urban Agriculture, Law articles as it relates to bees, health articles associated with bee stings, articles about Africanized bees, state, county and city beekeeping regulations to help in the evaluation of the recommendations and conclusions of the Beekeeping Feasibility Study.

The Feasibility Study concludes that: 1) Supporting beekeeping efforts may result in positive changes that permit the healthy growth of honey bee colonies, increase the production and quality of fruits, vegetables and flowers in Mar Vista's organic home gardens, consistent with the objectives of the Green Committee; 2.) Urban Beekeeping may provide nutritional and affordable options for local grown honey bee by-products such as honey and wax that could result on training and development of a new local industry; 3.) Improve standard practices for removal of feral (wild) hives which is deficient and wasteful of natural resources that may have a positive result in our local environment; 4.) Assure that the adoption of future policies must also include conditions relating to maintenance, location, registration and notification to assure for the safety of all Mar Vista Stakeholders which may result in the continued preservation of quality of life and preservation of single-family residential districts.

WHY A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF BEEKEEPING IN MAR VISTA?

Beekeeping for commercial or non-commercial uses is not permitted in Residential zones in any part of the City of Los Angeles including Mar Vista. It has been recently permitted in other cities in California including the City of Santa Monica. Various residents noted that bees are already in the gardens surrounding Mar Vista and wanted to know the steps to legalize beekeeping in Mar Vista's residential districts such as it is permitted in Santa Monica. It was also noted that the readily available solution to unwanted bees was extermination and perhaps education about rescuing bees was also important.

The Green Committee noted that beekeeping may benefit stakeholders by having access to by-products such as, honey and beeswax for candle making as well as helping reestablish a healthier honey bee population that is compatible with on-going organic gardening in the area.

The Feasibility Study was proposed on May 19, 2011 as a collaborative effort between the MVCC Green Committee, furthering the goals of creating a healthier, more sustainable community and the Outreach Committee to direct an outreach effort to test the level of interest of residential stakeholders in Mar Vista and learn about the complex subject of urban beekeeping.

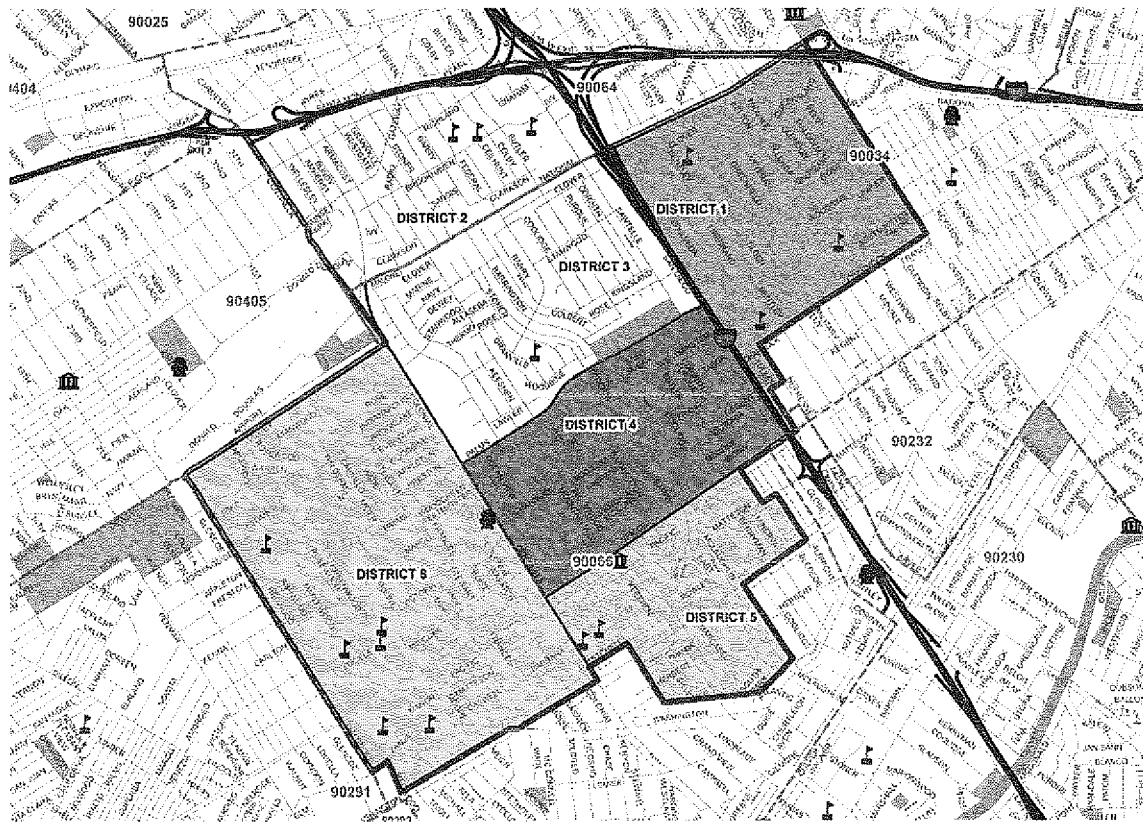
The Feasibility Study objectives was to look at opportunities and threats in establishing a pilot program within the MVCC Boundaries that would allow accessory beekeeping uses in single-family residential districts; include education about bee's behavior, beekeeping best practices, health information related to bee stings, and review the regulatory process adopted at other cities.

The study would also make use of innovative public participation tools to measure community interest and concerns such as: surveys, petitions, and blogs to solicit comments and opinions from stakeholders.

Both committee's could organize regular presentations to increase awareness and educations including a screening of the documentary film "Vanishing of the Bees", presentations by urban beekeeping organizations, presentations by experts on the different fields from medicine to gardening, and invite guests from other municipalities that can respond to questions about beekeeping regulations and coordinate with other standing committees such as Planning and Land Use, Traffic and Infrastructure and Education and Cultural Committees.

The Feasibility Report will also list a response to questions received from stakeholders, list publications about health risks associated with the keeping of bees and lastly provide recommendations as to possible actions by the MVCC. The Feasibility Study goals are to uncover the different elements that would prevent the implementation of this program or the necessary components that could make it a successful program.

FEASIBILITY STUDY BOUNDARIES



BACKGROUND

In response to raising concerns about a recent documentary film: "Vanishing of the Bees" which reported diminishing honey bee populations worldwide attributed to the Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and the desire to follow a movement of bee keeping in urban environments would grow healthier communities and bee populations. Mar Vista residents have formed a Green Committee which brings topics of sustainability including growing organic, native and drought tolerant gardens with a wider variety of flowers, fruits and vegetables that could be supportive of beekeeping.

MVCC COMMITTEES

A Feasibility Study was initiated by the Green Committee on May 19, 2011 as a collaborative effort between the Green and Outreach committees to test the level of interest of stakeholders, assure that the implementation of the program would be compatible with sustainable goals for Mar Vista, uncover the different elements that could prevent the implementation of a pilot program and to present a report that identifies different requirements that could be adopted in tailoring future ordinances. The MVCC Board approved the initiation of the Feasibility Study at its regular meeting on June 14, 2011.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Community Outreach Program for the Feasibility Study main task was to raise awareness and find innovative ways to engage stakeholders. As noted in the executive summary the committee tried different tools to measure and evaluate responses. It was found that the most valuable tool in shaping the recommendations was the range of responses provided in the survey. The report includes a map with stakeholder's responses.

After almost six-months from the original idea to initiate a pilot program for beekeeping in Mar Vista, we feel confident to have reached a high level of awareness within the district about a proposed beekeeping pilot program; we also feel comfortable to have uncovered a range of attitudes towards beekeeping including a number of legitimate concerns relating to an increased bee presence and potential increase to bee stings.

LAND USE REGULATIONS

Beekeeping for commercial or non-commercial uses is not permitted in Residential zones in any part of the City of Los Angeles including Mar Vista. It has been recently permitted in other cities in California including the City of Santa Monica. Various residents noted that bees are already in the gardens surrounding Mar Vista and wanted to allow bee keeping as an accessory use receiving benefits from bee products such as flower pollination, honey and bee wax for candle making as well as help reestablish a healthier honey bee population that is compatible with on-going organic gardening in the area.

The committee started out by reviewing the City of Santa Monica's ordinance, adopted in January 10, 2010 to test its applicability. Regulations from 15 other municipalities were reviewed and seven cities were selected from this group for a more in depth comparison: Chicago, Denver, New York, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Santa Monica and Seattle. The cities also represented urbanized centers, similar in scale to the City of Los Angeles with residential districts and zoning and lot area regulations similar to what exists in the Mar Vista community area. Cities were also selected for their innovative sustainable policies which are important factors to the Mar Vista community and part of the Green Committee Goals in sponsoring the study. Two cities were selected from the State of California to understand the regulatory process as these may overlap the State regulations.

Table I on page 8, provides a summary of the key elements and allows a simple comparison between the language of the different regulations. Additionally, we spoke with planners, and local urban beekeeper organizations to find out any major issues that could present a liability to our community in adopting a pilot program. We found no such evidence.

Based on the reporting and direct conversations with staff from seven different municipalities that allow beekeeping in residential districts, it was concluded that municipalities didn't experience an increase or reporting of bee sting accidents.

In the County of Los Angeles, apiaries are regulated under the Jurisdiction of the Department of Agricultural Commissioner Weight and Measures. Mr. Ariel Verayo is assigned to inspection and registration of beehives in the County of Los Angeles. He noted that abatement of hives for the year was typical than other years about 197. However he explained that it did not include beekeepers. The county's permitting system is in addition to the local regulations such as in the case of the City of Santa Monica or the City of Long Beach. The registration fees are \$10.00.

OUTREACH

Mar Vista Honeybee Feasibility Study Calendar

5/19/2011	Presentation to Mar Vista Green Committee to propose beekeeping feasibility study for a pilot program - Passed Unanimously
6/14/2011	Presentation to the Mar Vista Community Council - Passed Unanimously
6/16/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting
6/22/2011	Launched online petition through Change.org
6/23/2011	Mar Vista Feasibility Study Meeting @ Venice Grind
7/3/2011	Mar Vista Farmers Market outreach event (green booth) - 511 signatures
7/12/2011	Mar Vista Community Council Meeting
7/21/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting
7/23/2011	Hosted a public screening of Vanishing of the bees at W.B. Fontenot Gallery
7/27/2011	Mar Vista Outreach Committee Meeting
7/31/2011	Mar Vista Farmers Market - outreach (MVCC Green Booth)
8/9/2011	Mar Vista Community Council Meeting
9/7/2011	YMCA Outreach & Education Lecture: Culver City / Palms
9/10/2011	Honey Tasting Outreach Event: Rumor Mill Café - 1st Place = Harry's Honey
9/12/2011	KPCC Interview about Mar Vista Honey Bee Initiative
9/13/2011	Mar Vista Community Council Meeting
9/15/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting
9/17/2011	Interviewed by USC Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism
8/13/2011	Wax Symposium Community Outreach Event
8/18/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting: Presentation from County Inspector
8/20/2011	National Honeybee Awareness Day - Yellow Carpet Event / Film Screening Over 100 people (including 70 who stayed through the film screening)
8/24/2011	Mar Vista Outreach Committee Meeting: Medical Presentation
9/18/2011	Mar Vista Farmer's Market Outreach
9/20/2011	Mar Vista PLUM Committee Meeting
9/27/2011	Windward School Outreach: Garden Club
9/28/2011	Mar Vista Outreach Committee Meeting
10/2/2011	Mar Vista Farmer's Market Outreach
10/2/2011	Public Example: Bledsoe Water Meter Rescue & Santa Monica Adoption
10/8/2011	Pollination Party at the Learning Garden with David King
10/11/2011	Mar Vista Community Council Meeting
10/15/2011	Mar Vista Fall Festival Outreach
10/18/2011	Mar Vista PLUM Committee Meeting
10/22/2011	Vanishing of the Bees Screening: Park La Brea
10/23/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting - Presentation of Feasibility Study
10/25/2011	Wildwood School Outreach
10/26/2011	Cal Poly Pomona Interview
10/29/2011	Girl Scouts 100 Year Anniversary: LA convention center
10/30/2011	LA Green Festival - LA Convention Center - Presentation at 4pm
11/5/2011	LMU Outreach: Vanishing of the Bees Screening

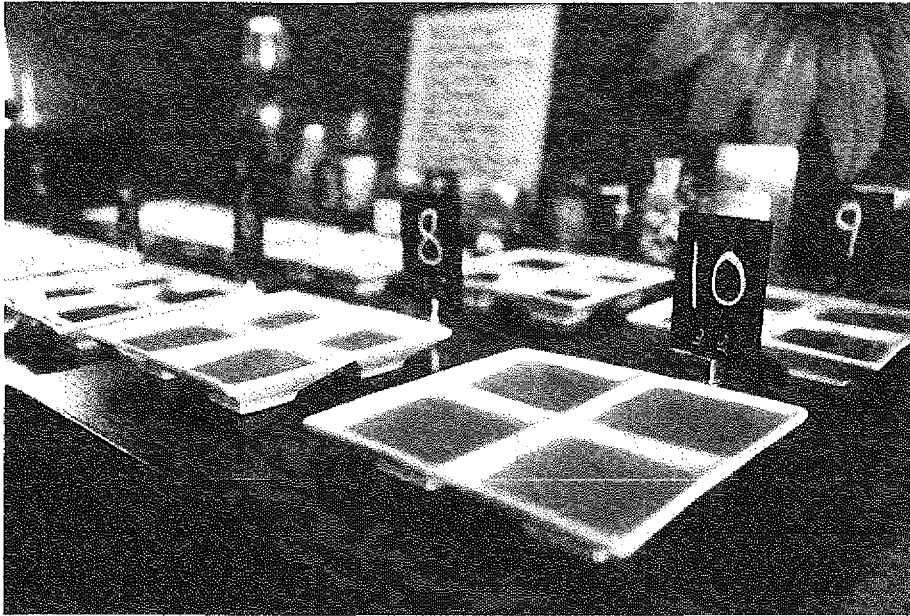
OUTREACH EVENT PHOTOS



Mar Vista Farmer's Market – "The GREEN Tent" Outreach Event



Mar Vista Fall Festival – October 15, 2011- HoneyLove Outreach Booth



HoneyLove Outreach Event: Honey Tasting at Rumor Mill Café



08/20/11 - Chelsea McFarland, Sherri Akers (MVCC Green Committee), Bill Rosendahl (Los Angeles City Council: District 11), Rob McFarland at Mar Vista Branch Library for National Honey Bee Awareness Day Event

SURVEY RESPONSES AND ANALYSIS

As noted in the Executive Summary, presentations were made to update on the progress of the Feasibility Study, and receive feedback at three standing MVCC committees (Green Committee, Community Outreach and PLUM). Since it was difficult to ascertain true stakeholder's status or find levels of interest and more in-depth reporting of nature of concerns an on-line survey was made available at the MVCC website. A sample of the survey is included in Page 9.

212 responses from MVCC Stakeholders were tabulated from August 20, 2011 to October 24, 2011 as summarized in Page 10.

SURVEY RESPONSES

TOTAL = 213 (MVCC Stakeholder Responses)

MVCC Yes = 81.2% (173)

Survey Question: I support the project, but do not want to participate = 51% of Yes (89)

Survey Question: I would like to participate in the project as a beekeeper = 30% of Yes (51)

Survey Question: I would like to participate in other ways (volunteer, donate etc.) = 19% of Yes (32)

Survey Question: I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista = 0% of Yes (1)

MVCC No = 13.6% (29)

Survey Question: I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista = 100% of No (29)

MVCC Not Sure = 5.2% (11)

Survey Question: I support the project, but do not want to participate = 73% of Not Sure (8)

Survey Question: I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista = 18% of Not Sure (2)

Survey Question: I would like to participate in other ways (volunteer, donate etc.) = 9% of Not Sure (1)

In tabulating the Survey responses for the final report, we chose to include only one answer per household. We also dismissed clear duplication or errors mentioned by the survey respondent. There were a few instances (less than 15) that responses noted the same household, or did not listed a complete address in those cases we chose not to include the responses in the final report.

As noted below a total of 12 responses contained incomplete addresses or double household responses and were not included in the map or final results

Note: exact addresses available from MVCC Chair, and intentionally left out for study purposes.

Results: 6- yes, 1- not sure, and 4-no
 3600 block of Mountain View Ave - yes
 3700 block of Meier - yes
 3700 block of Corinth Ave - yes
 3600 block of Barrington Avenue - yes
 3400 block of federal Ave - yes
 200 block of Coolidge Ave - yes
 11000 block of Kingsland Street - yes
 11000 – block no address: not sure
 11000 – block no address: no
 3300 block Inglewood Blvd - no
 3300 block Inglewood Blvd - no
 3200 block Stoner Ave. – no

Additionally, 49 responses listed addresses outside of MVCC boundaries and for the purpose of the feasibility report those responses were not mapped. A copy of the entire Survey is available upon request from the MVCC Chair.

49 Non-MVCC Responses:

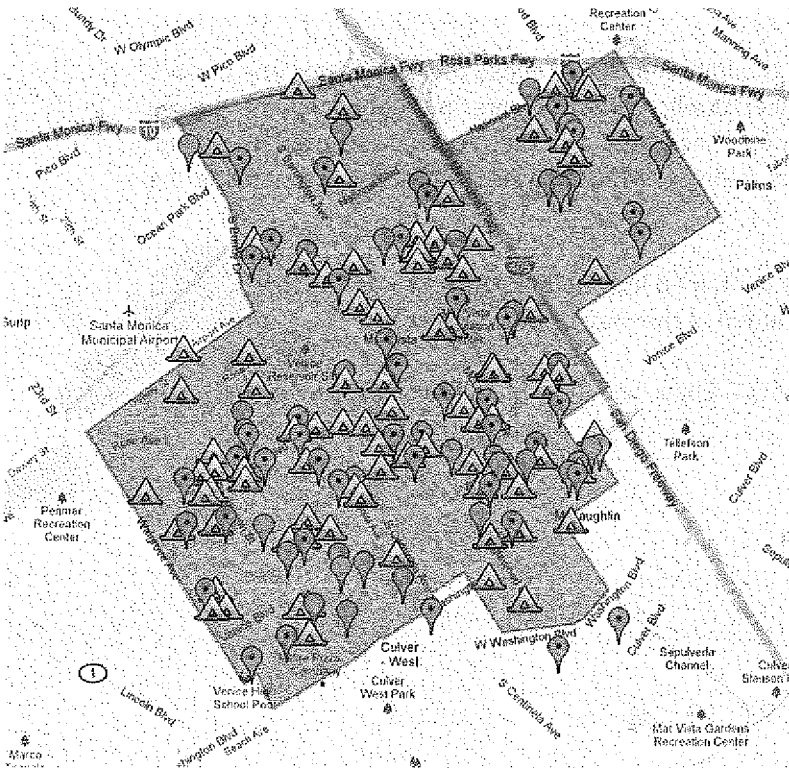
Yes =	85.7%	(42) of Non-MVCC
No =	6.1%	(3) of Non-MVCC
Not Sure =	8.2%	(4) of Non-MVCC

MAPPING OF SURVEY RESPONSES

A map was developed to show MVCC Stakeholder responses to questions 1 and 2 as responded in the positive; a second map was developed to show unsure or negative responses to both questions. The positive responses represented in green were 81.1%; the negative responses represented in red were 13.7%; and "not sure" responses represented in yellow were 5.2%. Mapping included each response combination for a total of six combinations.

MVCC Stakeholder Survey: Urban Beekeeping Pilot Program

TOTAL = 213 (MVCC Stakeholder Responses)



- = Yes / I would like to participate in other ways (volunteer, donate etc.)
- = Yes / I would like to participate in the project as a beekeeper
- = Yes / I support the project, but do not want to participate

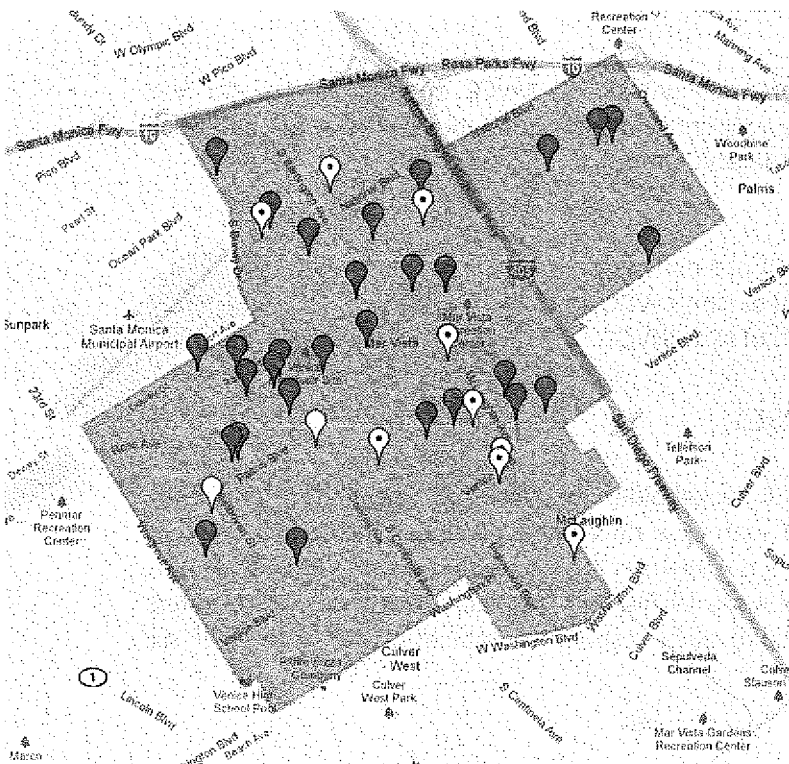
MVCC Yes = 81.2% (173)

I support the project, but do not want to participate
= 51% of Yes (89)

I would like to participate in the project as a beekeeper
= 30% of Yes (51)

I would like to participate in other ways
(volunteer, donate etc.)
= 19% of Yes (32)

I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista
= 0% of Yes (1)



- = No / I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista
- = Not Sure / I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista
- = Not Sure / I support the project but do not want to participate

MVCC No = 13.6% (29)

I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista
= 100% of No (29)

MVCC Not Sure = 5.2% (11)

I support the project, but do not want to participate
= 73% of Not Sure (8)

I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista =
= 18% of Not Sure (2)

I would like to participate in other ways
(volunteer, donate etc.)
= 9% of Not Sure (1)

MVCC Stakeholder Survey: Urban Beekeeping Pilot Program

Click here to learn more about the MVCC Urban Beekeeping Pilot Project Survey.

Mar Vista Community Council Stakeholder Survey: Urban Beekeeping Pilot Program

The Mar Vista Community Council is considering a motion to support the creation of a pilot program by the City of L.A. that allows interested Mar Vista residents (in R1 zones) to keep up to two hives on their property. The purpose of this survey is to solicit stakeholder opinion regarding this proposal.

MVCC is considering joining other urban centers, from San Francisco to New York and most recently our neighbors in Santa Monica, in developing a permit process for urban beekeeping.

For additional information regarding the feasibility study and this survey please visit www.marvista.org. Thank you for your participation.

Please Note:

- a. Survey responses are limited to one per person.
 - b. Street address of respondent must be provided to be included in the results.
- * Required

First Name *

Last Name *

Street Address/Apt. # *

City *

State *

Zip *

Email Address

1. Should Mar Vista legalize beekeeping in residential (R1) areas? *

- 1a. Yes
- 1b. No
- 1c. Not sure

2. Mar Vista is considering a beekeeping pilot project. *

- 2a. I would like to participate in the project as a beekeeper.
- 2b. I would like to participate in other ways (volunteer, donate etc.).
- 2c. I support the project, but do not want to participate.
- 2d. I do not want this pilot project in Mar Vista.

Additional comments/questions

200 characters max. You may also email longer responses to info@marvista.org

4. Please check the appropriate box. *

- 4a. I am a Mar Vista Community Council stakeholder ("individuals who live, work, or own property within the stated boundaries of the MVCC and those who declare a stake in the MVCC and affirm a factual basis for it.")
- 4b. I am a resident of the City of Los Angeles, but not an MVCC stakeholder.
- 4c. I am not a resident of the City of Los Angeles.

SELECTED YES SURVEY RESPONSES

"Thank you so much - this is an amazing project, and so important to the continued environmental leadership that Mar Vista so beautifully embraces!"

"I have kept keep bees in the past, not now, and have built and maintained my own hives using both conventional and top bar methods. I would enjoy working with the community on this pilot project including keeping a legal hive and assisting others in the construction or assembly of hives for this project. I have a half acre lot in Mar Vista with plenty of garden space and lot line clearance to adjoining properties and houses that would qualify under existing L.A. county requirements. Sign me up."

"What a great idea! I had no idea that bee-keeping was illegal. My neighbor was also signed up to participate and we would be happy to work together."

"There is a naturally occurring colony behind my house that has been there for 2 years. I would love if this colony could be maintained in its natural state and I would be happy to do what is needed. thanks you"

"I support urban beekeeping, urban agriculture, and ocean friendly gardens."

"I am very excited that our community has taken this subject seriously. Thank you!"

"Bees are very important to the environment. I am in support of Bee Keeping in Mar Vista, especially if bee keepers are willing to control hives in unwanted locations."

"This is a GREAT idea. As a gardening hobbyist, I've noticed a dramatic decline in the presence of bees in my garden. This is alarming. I also think it is important for people to maintain a pesticide-free garden in order to protect the bees."

"As an organic vegetable gardener I would be thrilled to see more bees."

SELECTED NO RESPONSES:

"Let's study things like traffic issues that will benefit all."

"We've been plagued by bees in our home for years and have spent hundreds of dollars on this problem. The stress has been extreme."

"I have raccoon, possum, squirrel in my yard now. Why would I want to be stung by bees."

"I personally do everything to attract bees to my garden but feel that bee keeping should be in more remote areas. I have treated many children as a school nurse who are allergic to bees. What is one of these children lived next door to a person who wished to be a beekeeper. Also there would need to be a professional person who would care for the extraction of honey and general care for the hives. I am a member of Ocean View farms. Many people want to participate but do not understand the responsibilities and work of farming. I am afraid that this would be the same in beekeeping."

"My family and I are extremely against beekeeping in Mar Vista. There are many people who live here that are allergic to bee-stings, some to the point where it could kill them. Other, like my grown daughter, are very afraid of being stung. Secondly, this is a residential community, not an agricultural one. While I understand the necessity of bees in agriculture, the same is not true in a residential neighborhood.

I have seen more bees in my neighborhood this year than in all my previous years living here. I have already been stung twice this year while just going for a walk."

SELECTED UNSURE RESPONSES

"As much as I would like access to local honey I need to know the drawbacks of this project so that I can make an informed decision. Thank you."

"It would be important that would be beekeepers get sign off from immediate neighbors due to allergies, backyard enjoyment, etc. Other than that I like the idea."

"I'm not sure I would want a beehive next to my property as I care for a 4 year old grandson every day. I have a son who is allergic to bee venom that lives close by. Why not encourage bee friendly plants and flowers?"

CONCLUSIONS

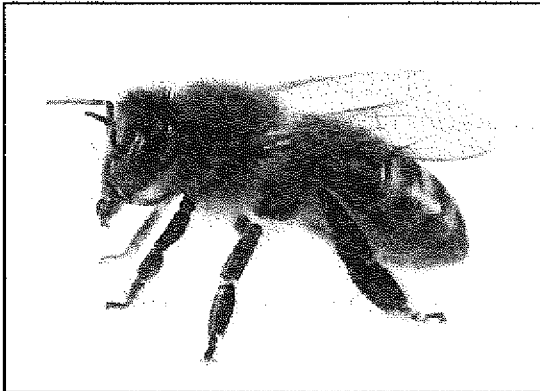
The feasibility report recommends that a notification to abutting residents is a pre-requisite for obtaining a clearance from the city to register with the county.

The feasibility report also recommends that we improve standard practices for removal of feral (wild) hives which is deficient and wasteful of natural resources.

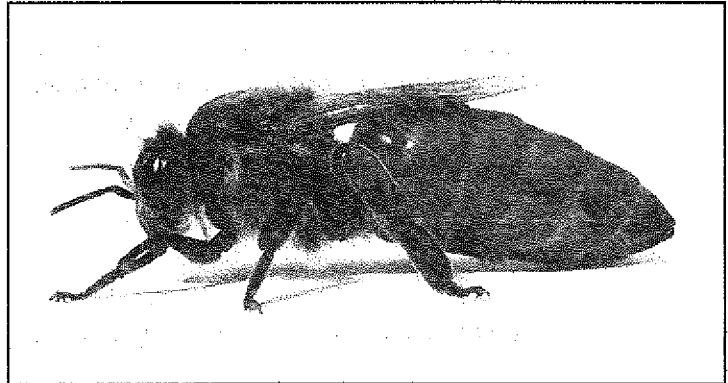
It was not known at the end of the study exact figures of any cost benefits to the city as part of the adoption of the pilot program. However, the study recommends a nominal fee not to exceed \$150 to cover inspection costs as part of any future abatement order. The amount is similar to other inspection amounts charged by the city to recover inspection costs associated with similar pilot programs in the city.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

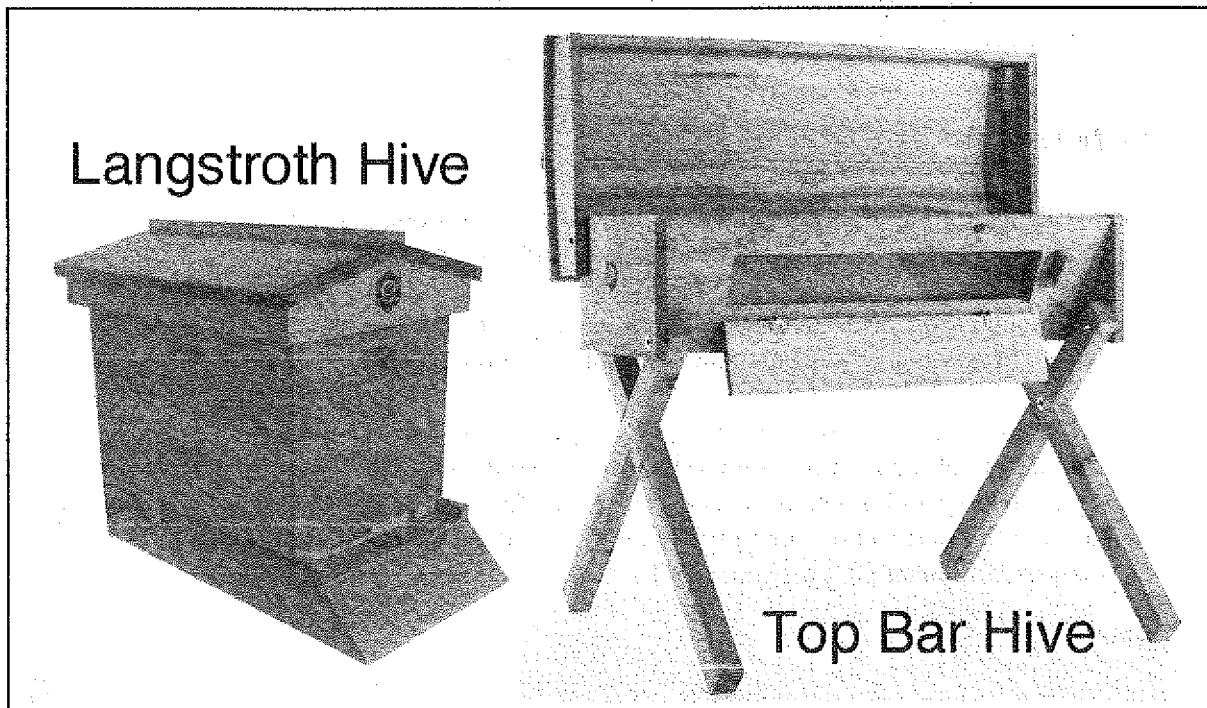
1. "Bee" shall mean any stage of the common domestic honey bee, *Apis Mellifera* species.



2. "Requeen" means to replace a queen bee in a colony with a new queen.



3. "Hive" shall mean a structure for the housing of a bee colony.



Urban Beekeeping - City Comparison Matrix

City	Type of property	Number of Hives	Registration / Permit Agency	Placement	Barrier	Prevent Swarming	Re queening	Water Source	Maintenance Materials	Definition of Nuisance	Penalties
Chicago	Single-Family Residential	5	Register with Illinois Department of Agriculture								
Denver	Single-Family Residential	2		rear portion of lot with 5' clearance from property line	6' barrier (vegetative barriers OK)				No storage of any beekeeping equipment or materials not in use		
New York	Single-Family Residential		File notice with Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and complete State Survey	locating hives where movement of bees does not become an animal nuisance.	(see placement)	(see nuisance)		Provide constant and adequate water source		aggressive or objectionable bee behaviors; hive placement or bee movement that interferes with pedestrian traffic or persons residing on or adjacent to the hive premises; overcrowded, deceased or abandoned hives.	
Salt Lake City	Residential	5 (10 if property is larger than 1/2 acre)	Register with Department of Agriculture and Food	Side yard or rear yard - Hive placed 5 feet from any property line and 6 inches above the ground	6' barrier if within 15 feet of property line			Provide water between March 1st and October 31st	Stored in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure		Civil notice of violation to such violator in lieu of a misdemeanor citation
San Francisco	Single-Family Residential	40	\$10 Registration required each year								
Santa Monica	Single-Family Residential	2	City's Animal Control Office	5 feet from property lines or 8 feet above adjacent ground level - hive entrance facing away from or parallel to the nearest property line(s)	six-foot barrier (vegetative ok)	Provide adequate living-space to prevent swarming	Every 2 years	provided at all times on the property where the bees are kept	Stored in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure	Exhibit defensive or objectionable behavior, interfere with the normal use of neighboring properties, swarming, do not conform to code, abandoned hives.	Guilty of an infraction= fined no more than \$250, guilty of a misdemeanor= \$1,000, no more than 6 months in county jail...
Seattle	Residential, Multi-Family	4+	Register with the State Department of Agriculture each year	25 feet from any property line except when situated 8 feet high or when situated less than 8 feet above the adjacent existing lot grade and behind a solid fence or hedge 6 feet high parallel to any property line within 25 feet of a hive and extending at least 20 feet beyond the hive in both directions.	(see placement)	Adequate living-space required to prevent overcrowding or swarming	Following any swarming or aggressive behavior			Bees living in trees, buildings, or any other space except in movable-frame hives; abandoned colonies; or diseased bees	Not to exceed \$100.00

JUSTIFICATION/FINDINGS

1. There is a greater ratio of open space in single-family residentially zoned lots than in multi-family residentially zoned lots within the boundaries of the Mar Vista Feasibility Study area. Therefore, in order to create the best possible conditions for beekeeping to thrive in the Mar Vista area, beekeeping for the Mar Vista pilot program is recommended to be limited to R1 zones.
2. Other municipalities such as Chicago, Denver, New York, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Santa Monica, and Seattle have overwhelmingly chosen the same regulations. Therefore, condition A1 maintains the same regulations as used in the seven model ordinances.
3. In conversations with Mar Vista Farmer's Market vendor Harry Stein owner of "Harry's Honey" regarding the local gardening practices and available conditions in Mar Vista for bees, he recommended that allowing at least two hives per lot would result in healthier beekeeping practices than limiting to just one.

According to Ariel Verayo's presentation to the Mar Vista Community Council Green Committee on August 18, 2011, the County of Los Angeles requires access to beehives in order to conduct regular inspections. Therefore, condition A3, A4 are intended to facilitate county's inspection process.

4. Of the seven municipalities chosen for comparison for Mar Vista's Beekeeping Pilot Program, approximately half require registration with the State Department of Agriculture and the other half with County or Local Municipalities. Therefore, condition A5 recommends all new beekeepers to register with the County of Los Angeles Department of Agricultural Commissioner / Weights and Measures with a City of Los Angeles Planning Department Land Use sign off for their accessory use.
5. The city of Los Angeles Municipal Code establishes 5-foot side-yards for single-family dwellings. The proposed location of the hives shall be consistent with the same regulations as accessory structures. Similarly, the city of Santa Monica, and the city of Salt Lake City have placed the same requirements. Therefore, condition B1 is intended to be consistent with existing lot area regulations for R1 area districts.
6. The city of Santa Monica has established minimum requirements for location, orientation and screening of hives in order to minimize impact to adjoining properties. Adopting similar regulations in locating beehives with respect to adjoining properties seems appropriate to minimize impacts to neighbors. Therefore condition B1, B2, and B3 are intended to be compatible with existing lot area regulations for R1 area districts within Mar Vista Community Council boundaries.

7. An extensive outreach program was completed at a variety of events designed to raise awareness and solicit stakeholder's opinions regarding urban beekeeping in Mar Vista. As part of the feasibility study outreach component completed by HoneyLove.org during a 6 month period, 511 petitions were signed during the Mar Vista Farmer's Market on July 3, 2011 in supporting the legalization of urban beekeeping in Mar Vista; additionally, 1,762 online petitions from local, national, and international areas were received through change.org in support of legalizing urban beekeeping in Mar Vista; 347 additional signatures were obtained in support of legalization of urban beekeeping in Mar Vista from stakeholders at various events; finally, 212 people responded to the MVCC Stakeholder's Beekeeping Survey distributed online and to every household within the Mar Vista Community Council boundaries for a combined total of 2,886 signatures.
8. Several health concerns were expressed as part of the Mar Vista Beekeeping Survey in several areas of Mar Vista. 29 of the survey respondents and 3 of community stakeholders expressed their opposition to the implementation of the pilot program based on disinterest in the pilot program, risk associated with allergic reactions to beestings, or potential for beekeepers not adhering to regulations. Of the 212 stakeholders, 29 of the 212 survey respondents represent approximately 13.7% of the overall outreach.
9. Dr. Roberta Kato, MD, Pediatric Pulmonologist made a presentation to the MVCC Community Outreach Committee on August 24, 2011 and responded to stakeholder concerns associated with beestings and risks to small children.
10. The city of Seattle Municipal Code, Section 10.36.010 Maintenance and registration of colonies, Item 3 states: "Colonies shall be re-queened following any swarming or aggressive behavior." The city of Santa Monica's regulations require a re-queening every two years, which is based rather on a commercial application than a residential scale. Therefore, the city of Seattle's ordinance is more compatible with residential application as it follows a natural progression of the colony's cycle instead of imposing commercial practices for productivity. Thus, condition C2 reflects the city of Seattle's ordinance contrary to the adopted regulations by the city of Santa Monica.
11. During Inspector Ariel Verayo's presentation he noted that it was critical to place a water source prior to the establishment of the beehives. Therefore condition C3 addresses that recommendation. (Ariel Verayo, Inspector III – Apiary/AHB/HazMat Program, County of Los Angeles, Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures)

REQUIREMENTS

A) General Requirements

1. Hives may only be maintained on single-family residential property.
2. No more than two hives may be maintained on any single-family residential property.
3. All bee colonies shall be kept in inspectable hives consisting of moveable frames and combs.
4. Hives must be kept in sound and usable condition at all times.
5. Any person intending to maintain any bee hive on any single-family residential property within the City must first register with the County of Los Angeles.

B) Hive Placement Requirements

1. Hives shall be located at least five feet from all property lines.
2. Hive entrances shall face away from or parallel to the nearest property line(s).
3. Hives must either be screened so that the bees must fly over a six-foot barrier, which may be vegetative, before leaving the property, or be placed at least eight-feet above the adjacent ground level.
4. Hives must be limited to single-family residential areas

C) Hive Management Requirements

1. Hives shall be continually managed to provide adequate living-space for their resident bees to prevent swarming.
2. Colonies shall be re-queened following any swarming or aggressive behavior.
3. A water source for bees shall be provided before establishing a new hive and at all times on the property where the bees are kept to discourage bee visitation at swimming pools, hose bibs and other water sources on adjacent public or private property.
4. Hive maintenance materials or equipment must be stored in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.

D) Nuisance – bees or hives shall be considered a public nuisance when any of the following occurs:

1. Colonies of bees exhibit defensive or objectionable behavior, or interfere with the normal use of neighboring properties.
2. Colonies of bees swarm.
3. Bees or hives do not conform to this code.
4. Hives become abandoned by resident bees or by the owner.

Motion to Support Urban Beekeeping in Los Angeles

The Mar Vista Community Council at its regular meeting on June 14, 2011 voted to approve the preparation of a Feasibility Study to evaluate the applicability of a recently adopted beekeeping ordinance by the City of Santa Monica to Mar Vista; and if the adoption of this policy supported the Green Committee's goal of creating a more sustainable community.

During the four month process –

- Presentations were made to three standing MVCC committees (Green Committee, Community Outreach and PLUM) with a combined attendance of approximately 62 stake holders.
- Outreach was conducted at the Mar Vista Farmer's Market resulting in 511 signatures in support of legalizing beekeeping in Mar Vista in one day.
- An on-line survey was made available at the MVCC website. 275 responses were tabulated from July 24, 2011 to October 2011 with 81% in favor of urban beekeeping.
- Information was published in the MVCC Quarterly Newsletter and hand delivered to 15,000 households inviting participation in the survey which added 22 mail in responses
- An online petition was set up in Change.org which also drew 1,767 responses in support of urban beekeeping
- Monthly community outreach events included a free-screening of the film "the Vanishing of the Bees", two green tent demonstrations at the Mar Vista Farmer's Market in July and September, a Honey Tasting event at a local coffee shop in South Mar Vista in August, and a booth at the Fall Festival an MVCC sponsored event at Mar Vista Park which resulted on the direct interaction with stakeholders and 600 additional signatures.
- Outreach was also done in numerous Mar Vista schools.

The committee reviewed over 150 articles on beekeeping, best practices, planning articles on Urban Agriculture, State, County and city beekeeping regulations to help in the evaluation of the recommendations and conclusions of the Beekeeping Feasibility Study. The committee also spoke to program directors in numerous cities where programs are in place.

The Feasibility Study concludes that there is a strong community interest in supporting beekeeping efforts and that doing so would result in positive changes that permit the healthy growth of honey bee colonies and increase the production and quality of fruits, vegetables and flowers in Mar Vista's organic home gardens while providing a community service as a resource for the removal of feral (wild) hives. Research indicates that such a program would be cost neutral to the city of LA.

The MVCC Board therefore recommends the implementation of a Beekeeping Pilot Program in to test safety and develop best practices for future expansion. We urge the City of LA to adopt a policy that includes conditions relating to maintenance, location, registration and notification to assure for the safety of all residents which may result in the continued preservation of quality of life and preservation of single-family residential districts.



Kurt E. Floren
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

*Department of
Agricultural Commissioner/
Weights and Measures*

12300 Lower Azusa Road
Arcadia, California 91006-5872
<http://ucwm.lacounty.gov>



Richard K. Iizuka
Chief Deputy

APIARY REGISTRATION - 2011

NAME _____ DATE _____
ADDRESS _____ PHONE (____) _____
CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____ BRAND# _____

Dear Beekeeper: In accordance with Section 29040 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, please register your apiary with us when it is in Los Angeles County. Migratory beekeepers should list the months active in the county.

I NO LONGER HAVE BEES IN THE COUNTY
Please Explain:

I SOLD MY BEES TO:

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

List the number of hives and location of each apiary on this form. Attach check or money order for required registration fee and return to the above address. Checks should be payable to:
L.A. CO. AG. COMM.

**** THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR 2011 IS \$10.00 ****

Number of Colonies	LOCATION OF APIARIES IN THIS COUNTY	Months Active
	Describe location so it can be plotted on county map using roads, canals, intersections, landmarks, and ranch names, giving directions, distance, and side of road; or show Quarter Section, Section, Township and Range.	

*** CROP REPORTING STATISTICS ***

Please report the honey, wax, and pollination figures for 2010 from L.A. County only.

	Quantity (Lbs.)	Price per Lb.	Comment
HONEY			
	Number of Colonies	Price per Colony	Comment
Pollination for Hire			

I Remove Bees in the County of Los Angeles and Would Like My Contact Information Shared With the Public:

I Am Licensed To Do *Structural Bee Removal*: License Number: _____

Geographic Area Serviced: _____

I Currently Perform Only *Live Removal of Bees*: YES _____

What Do You Do With the Captured Swarms? _____

Geographic Area Serviced: _____

REQUEST FOR PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION

I hereby request to be notified before pesticide applications as provided for in Section 29101 of the California Food and Agriculture Code and Title 3 California Administrative Code Section 6654.

I am available for notification during the two-hour time period from _____ to

_____ Monday through Friday by collect call to the following phone number(s):

() _____ or () _____

I understand that if I fail to submit my request for pesticide notification to the Agricultural Commissioner IN WRITING within the 72-hour period before relocating, I may not be entitled to recover damages for any injury from pest control operations. I also will not recover damages if I fail to properly post an identification sign at my apiaries or am not available for notification at the hours I have designated above. I understand that this "REQUEST FOR NOTIFICATION" will not expire until December 31, 2011.

DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

_____ Beekeeper

DATE RECEIVED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

_____ Agricultural Commissioner/Representative



Community Planning Referral Form

This form, completed and signed by appropriate Community Planning staff, must accompany any *Master Land Use Application* submitted at the Department of City Planning Public Counters regarding proposed projects located in Specific Plan areas, Historic Preservation Overlay Zones (HPOZs), Design Review Board (DRB) areas, Community Design Overlay (CDO) districts, Pedestrian Oriented Districts (PODs), Neighborhood Oriented Districts (NODs), or Sign Districts (SN).

1. Name of Specific Plan, HPOZ, DRB, CDO, POD, NOD, or SN

If this is a Density Bonus case, please write "Density Bonus" and the name of the Community Plan area

1a. Sub-Area (if applicable)

2. Address of Proposed Project:

3. Description of Proposed Project:

Project Type: New construction Addition Renovation Sign Change of use Grading

If change of use, what is existing use? _____ Proposed use? _____

4. Note to Applicant: Other Approvals

Applicant is advised to obtain a pre-plan check consultation with the Department of Building & Safety to determine any other necessary approvals from other City departments, including City Planning. Potential City Planning approvals in addition to Director's Determination are listed below. This list includes the most common approvals and is not exhaustive.

Zoning Administration

- Adjustment or Variance
- Conditional Use Permit (e.g. sale of alcohol)
- Coastal Development Permit Determination

CPC/APC/Director

- Site Plan Review
- Zone Change/General Plan Amendment
- Conditional Use Permit (e.g. educational institutions)
- Density Bonus

Advisory Agency

- Tract Map/Parcel Map
- Small Lot Subdivision

City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning WEBSITE: www.cityplanning.lacity.org

DOWNTOWN OFFICE	VALLEY OFFICE
City Hall - 200 N Spring St. Rooms 621 & 667	Marvin Braude Construction Center - 6262 Van Nuys Bl. Rooms 351 & 430

Questions 5 & 6 below to be filled out by Community Planner

5. Approved Filing (check all that apply):

Specific Plan/SN

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Adjustment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minor (3 signs or less OR change of use) | <input type="checkbox"/> Exception |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standard (Remodel or renovation in which additions are no greater than 200sf., more than 3 signs, and/or wireless equipment) | <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Major (All other projects, e.g. new buildings, remodels that include an addition of more than 200sf.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Modification | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Not a project per Specific Plan or SN |

DRB

- Final Review Preliminary Review

CDO/POD/NOD

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign-off only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minor (3 signs or less OR change of use) | <input type="checkbox"/> Not a project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standard (Remodel or renovation in which additions are no greater than 200sf., more than 3 signs, and/or wireless equipment) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Major (All other projects, e.g. new buildings, remodels that include an addition of more than 200sf.) | |

HPOZ

- COA CCMP Amendment Demolition Other

Is the project located in a Federal District/ National Register Historic District or a California Register Historic District? Yes! No

Does the project involve demolition of a Contributing building or structure? Yes! No

1 Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) on properties located in Federal Districts/ Nation Register Historic Districts or in California Register Historic Districts do not qualify for Categorical Exemptions. Projects involving the demolition of Contributing buildings or Structures do not qualify for Categorical Exemptions. Check "Environmental Assessment Form," below and direct applicant to apply for an EAF.

Density Bonus

- Density Bonus and/or parking reduction only
- Density Bonus Referral Form attached
- On-menu incentives requested Off-menu incentives requested

GPA and/or ZC

- Consultation completed

6. Environmental Clearance (check one):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption
(Not for Specific Plan Exception cases, unless the project is a sign) | <input type="checkbox"/> Existing ENV Case Number: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Counter to determine environmental clearance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reconsideration of: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other entitlements needed |

Community Planning Staff Signature:	Phone Number:
Print Name:	Date:
Base Fee (List each entitlement base fee separately):	

MOTION

The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) currently disallows "beekeeping" in Single Family residential (R1) zones. The definition of "beekeeping" is to allow for the care and maintenance of bee hives; the managed production of honey bee by-products such as honey and wax; the enhanced pollination of local gardens; the enhanced quality of fruits, vegetables and flowers; and to allow honey bee by-products for on-site consumption in conjunction with existing Truck Gardening practices that already permit the growing of fruits and vegetables in R1 districts.

It is in the interest of the City's residents to promote the growth of healthier honey bee colonies, to harvest honey bee by-products such as honey and wax, to increase pollination of local trees, vines and plants, and to decrease the inhumane removal of honey bees in the City.

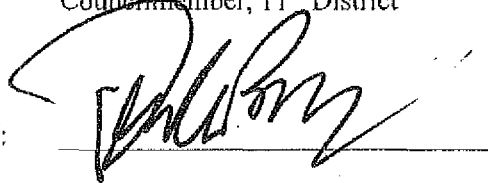
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Planning Department to prepare a report, in consultation with the Department of Animal Services, relative to the feasibility of allowing beekeeping in R1 zones as a practice to foster a healthier bee population.

PRESENTED BY:



BILL ROSENDAHL
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



MAY 25 2012

Urban Beekeeping in Los Angeles

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



OVERVIEW:

511 signatures collected on the first day of outreach at Mar Vista Farmers' Market
(see photo above)

6,000+ Signatures via Change.org

Urban Beekeeping **Feasibility Study** conducted via Mar Vista Community Council

16 Neighborhood Councils passed motions in support of urban beekeeping in LA

Alliance of River Communities submitted a letter supporting Council File 12-0785

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mar Vista Community Council at its regular meeting on June 14, 2011 voted to approve the preparation of a Feasibility Study for beekeeping in Mar Vista. The Feasibility Study was intended to evaluate the applicability of a recently adopted beekeeping ordinance by the City of Santa Monica to Mar Vista; and if the adoption of this policy supported the Green Committee's goal of creating a more sustainable community. The Feasibility Study included a wide outreach program to facilitate the exchange of information about discovering levels of interest by stakeholders, facilitate presentations from experts to address stakeholders concerns and provide education for the various beekeeping practices in an urbanized setting.

During the four-month process, presentations were made to update on the progress of the Feasibility Study, and receive feedback at three standing MVCC committees (Green Committee, Community Outreach and PLUM) with a combined attendance of approximately 62 stakeholders. Additionally, an initial one-day event was scheduled at the Mar Vista Farmer's Market to test interest in the community-at-large which resulted on the signatures of 511 participants in support of legalizing beekeeping in Mar Vista. Since it was difficult to ascertain true stakeholder's status or find levels or interest and more in-depth reporting of nature of concerns an on-line survey was made available at the MVCC website. 213 responses were tabulated from Aug. 20, 2011 to Oct. 24, 2011.

The committee agreed to include a copy of the Survey in the MVCC Quarterly Newsletter to be hand delivered to 10,000 households within the boundaries of MVCC resulting in 20 responses received by MVCC Chair as a result of the newsletter survey by mid October 2011. An online petition was set up in Change.org, which drew 1,854 additional positive responses. A monthly community event was held each month which included a free-screening of the film "the Vanishing of the Bees" at the local library, two green tent demonstrations showing beekeeping equipment at the Mar Vista Farmer's Market, a Honey Tasting event at a local coffee shop in South Mar Vista, and a booth at the Fall Festival an MVCC sponsored event at Mar Vista Park which resulted on the direct interaction with stakeholders and additional signatures for a combined total of 3,040.

The committee also reviewed over 75 articles on beekeeping; best practices, planning articles on Urban Agriculture, Law articles as it relates to bees, health articles associated with bee stings, articles about Africanized bees, state, county and city beekeeping regulations to help in the evaluation of the recommendations and conclusions of the Beekeeping Feasibility Study.

The Feasibility Study concludes that: 1) Supporting beekeeping efforts may result in positive changes that permit the healthy growth of honey bee colonies, increase the production and quality of fruits, vegetables and flowers in Mar Vista's organic home gardens, consistent with the objectives of the Green Committee; 2.) Urban Beekeeping may provide nutritional and affordable options for local grown honey bee by-products such as honey and wax that could result on training and development of a new local industry; 3.) Improve standard practices for removal of feral (wild) hives which is deficient and wasteful of natural resources that may have a positive result in our local environment; 4.) Assure that the adoption of future policies must also include conditions relating to maintenance, location, registration and notification to assure for the safety of all Mar Vista Stakeholders which may result in the continued preservation of quality of life and preservation of single-family residential districts.

OUTREACH

Mar Vista Honeybee Feasibility Study Calendar

5/19/2011	Presentation to Mar Vista Green Committee to propose beekeeping feasibility study for a pilot program - Passed Unanimously
6/14/2011	Presentation to the Mar Vista Community Council - Passed Unanimously
6/16/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting
6/22/2011	Launched online petition through Change.org
6/23/2011	Mar Vista Feasibility Study Meeting @ Venice Grind
7/3/2011	Mar Vista Farmers Market outreach event (green booth) - 511 signatures
7/12/2011	Mar Vista Community Council Meeting
7/21/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting
7/23/2011	Hosted a public screening of Vanishing of the bees at W.B. Fontenot Gallery
7/27/2011	Mar Vista Outreach Committee Meeting
7/31/2011	Mar Vista Farmers Market - outreach (MVCC Green Booth)
8/9/2011	Mar Vista Community Council Meeting
9/7/2011	YMCA Outreach & Education Lecture: Culver City / Palms
9/10/2011	Honey Tasting Outreach Event: Rumor Mill Café - 1st Place = Harry's Honey
9/12/2011	KPCC Interview about Mar Vista Honey Bee Initiative
9/13/2011	Mar Vista Community Council Meeting
9/15/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting
9/17/2011	Interviewed by USC Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism
8/13/2011	Wax Symposium Community Outreach Event
8/18/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting: Presentation from County Inspector
8/20/2011	National Honeybee Awareness Day - Yellow Carpet Event / Film Screening Over 100 people (including 70 who stayed through the film screening)
8/24/2011	Mar Vista Outreach Committee Meeting: Medical Presentation
9/18/2011	Mar Vista Farmer's Market Outreach
9/20/2011	Mar Vista PLUM Committee Meeting
9/27/2011	Windward School Outreach: Garden Club
9/28/2011	Mar Vista Outreach Committee Meeting
10/2/2011	Mar Vista Farmer's Market Outreach
10/2/2011	Public Example: Bledsoe Water Meter Rescue & Santa Monica Adoption
10/8/2011	Pollination Party at the Learning Garden with David King
10/11/2011	Mar Vista Community Council Meeting
10/15/2011	Mar Vista Fall Festival Outreach
10/18/2011	Mar Vista PLUM Committee Meeting
10/22/2011	Vanishing of the Bees Screening: Park La Brea
10/23/2011	Mar Vista Green Committee Meeting - Presentation of Feasibility Study
10/25/2011	Wildwood School Outreach
10/26/2011	Cal Poly Pomona Interview
10/29/2011	Girl Scouts 100 Year Anniversary: LA convention center
10/30/2011	LA Green Festival - LA Convention Center - Presentation at 4pm
11/5/2011	LMU Outreach: Vanishing of the Bees Screening

The histories of the human species and that of the honeybee are inseparable. Neither species could have evolved to present conditions without the symbiotic relationship that we harbor. Albert Einstein is thought to have said, "if the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man." The reason for his grim prognosis is the fact that bees pollinate 80% of the world's plants including 90 different food crops, which means that 1 out of every 3 bites of food is thanks to a bee.

Unfortunately, we have real reason to fear the specter raised by Mr. Einstein. Since 2006, more than one third of honeybee colonies collapsed nationwide, a global phenomenon now called Colony Collapse Disorder or CCD. And while there is no one smoking gun causing CCD, scientists now widely agree that it is a result of a combination of factors, made manifest by industrial beekeeping. The practice of trucking hives great distances to pollinate crops, exposing bees to countless pesticides, interfering with the species' natural defenses by treating them with miticides and antibiotics, and feeding them high fructose corn syrup – junk food – has made bees incredibly vulnerable and on the brink of collapse. If present trends continue, scientists estimate there will be no more bees by 2035. That is, only if we fail to act, if we fail to recognize this disaster in the making and don't take strong action to counter the slow march to extinction.

So what do we do? According to Simon Buxton as quoted in the new documentary *Vanishing of the Bees*, "the future of beekeeping is not in 1 beekeeper with 60,000 hives, but rather 60,000 people with 1 hive."

The best science tells us that the future of the honeybee is within the urban environment; cities actually provide safer habitat than the farms and rural areas traditionally associated with beekeeping.

Monocultures, or the planting of a single crop, are problematic for bees because outside of the brief window when the crop is in bloom, these vast plots become devoid of the pollen and nectar that hives require for survival. Cities, however, provide greater biodiversity for foraging bees throughout the year, which drastically reduces if not eliminates the need to feed bees or disturb them by moving their hives. And due to most people not wanting pesticides on their property or near their family, bees are granted a 'get out of jail free' card, thus eliminating one more reason for their decline. The city environment is truly the last refuge of the honeybee.

Atlanta, New York, Seattle, Portland, Denver, Spokane, Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto, Vancouver and most recently Santa Monica and Redondo Beach have all taken decisive action and legalized beekeeping. 16 communities within the city of Los Angeles have passed motions in support of urban beekeeping in Los Angeles. We believe it to be a necessary and just measure requiring immediate action. We humbly request that you consider our motion in the spirit of preserving the future of the honeybee.


MOTION

The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) currently disallows "beekeeping" in Single Family residential (R1) zones. The definition of "beekeeping" is to allow for the care and maintenance of bee hives; the managed production of honey bee by-products such as honey and wax; the enhanced pollination of local gardens; the enhanced quality of fruits, vegetables and flowers; and to allow honey bee by-products for on-site consumption in conjunction with existing Truck Gardening practices that already permit the growing of fruits and vegetables in R1 districts.

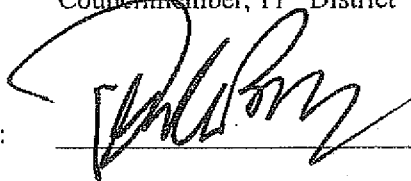
It is in the interest of the City's residents to promote the growth of healthier honey bee colonies, to harvest honey bee by-products such as honey and wax, to increase pollination of local trees, vines and plants, and to decrease the inhumane removal of honey bees in the City.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Planning Department to prepare a report, in consultation with the Department of Animal Services, relative to the feasibility of allowing beekeeping in R1 zones as a practice to foster a healthier bee population.

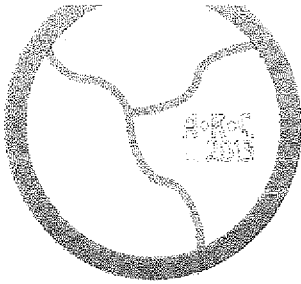
PRESENTED BY:


BILL ROSENDAHL
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



MAY 25 2012



Alliance of River Communities

Arroyo Seco NC | Atwater Village NC | Boyle Heights NC
Eagle Rock NC | Elysian Valley Riverside NC | Glassell Park NC
Greater Cypress Park NC | Greater Echo Park Elysian NC
Historic Highland Park NC | LA 32 NC | Lincoln Heights NC
Los Feliz NC | Rampart Village NC | Silver Lake NC

October 25, 2013: Press Contact: Hector Huevo, H.L.Huevo@gmail.com

RE: Council File Number 12-0785, Bee Keeping in R1 Zones

Dear Los Angeles City Council

At a regular meeting of the Neighborhood Council Alliance of River Communities, the member representatives of the alliance consented on submitting the following resolution regarding Council File Number 12-0785:

WHEREAS, a rapidly increasing number of residents are participating in growing food, raising livestock and beekeeping within the City of Los Angeles in the form of community gardens, urban farming enterprises, aquaponics facilities, and home and school gardens; and

WHEREAS, bees are absolutely necessary for the production of a third of the food produced in North America, including the production of almonds, California's biggest export; and

WHEREAS, in the past few years, "colony collapse disorder" (CCD) has led to a massive bee population decrease in which U.S. beekeepers lost an average of 45 percent of their colonies from 2012-2013, threatening the existence of one of the world's most vital pollinators and, by extension, the long-term security of our food supply; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) currently disallows "beekeeping" in Single Family residential (R 1) zones and the City of Los Angeles does not have the capacity to rescue feral bees, instead expending resources for the extermination of bees on public land; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 9 to 11 bee colonies per square mile in the City of Los Angeles, and the practices of feral bee rescue and urban beekeeping offer the opportunity to control and manage these bee colonies without resorting to extermination and placing this burden on bodies such as the Department of Water and Power and Los Angeles County Vector Control; and

WHEREAS, residents of all communities across Los Angeles deserve access to nutritious, affordable and culturally relevant food and also to open, green space and urban agriculture and community gardens can provide both;

WHEREAS, the Atwater Village, Silver Lake, Boyle Heights, Historic Highland Park, Los Feliz Neighborhood Councils have all submitted support for Council File 12-0785

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Los Angeles celebrated its support of urban agriculture and its commitment to ensuring a strong and sustainable local food system by declaring October 23, 2013 as National Food Day in Los Angeles; and;

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles City Council resolved to include in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program SPONSORSHIP/SUPPORT for the "Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013" (H.R. 2692);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alliance of River Communities supports Council File 12-0785, which provides Los Angeles residents an opportunity to support the modification to Los Angeles Municipal Code, resulting in a mechanism to allow urban beekeeping in Single Family R-1 Zones.

Sincerely,

The Neighborhood Council Alliance of River Communities, ARC





LA

Davis, DianeC <DianeC.Davis@seattle.gov>
To: Chelsea McFarland <chelsea@honeylove.org>

Mon, Aug 22, 2011 at 2:01 PM

Hi Chelsea:

Here are the code provisions concerning beekeeping in Seattle.

We receive very very few complaints about bees or beekeeping in this department. I personally cannot recall any, over the ten years or so that I've been associated with Code Compliance. My colleague, who is a supervisor and before that was an inspector, could remember only one case, 6 or 7 years ago, involving the location of the bee hives up against the neighbor's fence. Once the hives were moved, that case was closed.

In other words, from the point of view of code enforcement, beekeeping has been a non-issue.

Good luck with your efforts in LA.

Sincerely,

Diane C. Davis

Code Compliance Manager

City of Seattle

Dept of Planning & Development

700 5th Av. Ste 2000

P O Box 34019

Seattle, WA 98124-4019

[206-233-7873](tel:206-233-7873) (direct line)

[206-615-1812](tel:206-615-1812) (fax)

dianec.davis@seattle.gov

12-0785

The Plight of the Honeybee

Mass deaths in bee colonies may mean disaster for farmers--and your favorite foods

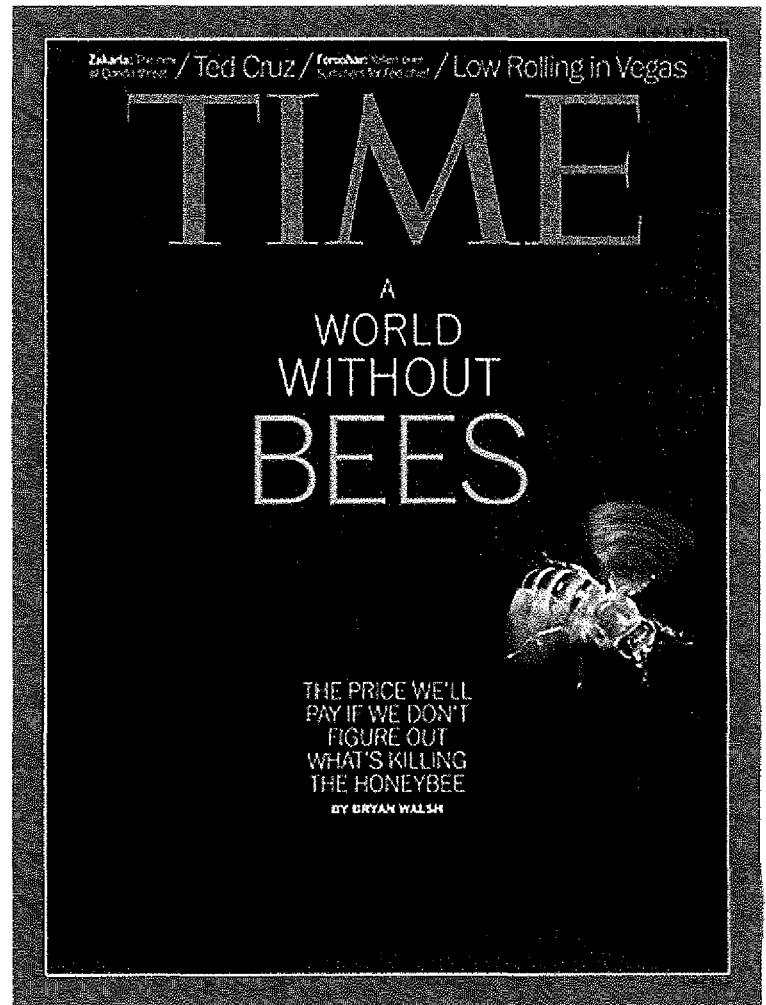
By Bryan Walsh | Monday, Aug. 19, 2013

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You can thank the *Apis mellifera*, better known as the Western honeybee, for 1 in every 3 mouthfuls you'll eat today. Honeybees — which pollinate crops like apples, blueberries and cucumbers — are the "glue that holds our agricultural system together," as the journalist Hannah Nordhaus put it in her 2011 book *The Beekeeper's Lament*. But that glue is failing. Bee hives are dying off or disappearing thanks to a still-unsolved malady called colony collapse disorder (CCD), so much so that commercial beekeepers are being pushed out of the business.

So what's killing the honeybees? Pesticides — including a new class called neonicotinoids — seem to be harming bees even at what should be safe levels. Biological threats like the Varroa mite are killing off colonies directly and spreading deadly diseases. As our farms become monocultures of commodity crops like wheat and corn — plants that provide little pollen for foraging bees — honeybees are literally starving to death. If we don't do something, there may not be enough honeybees to meet the pollination demands for valuable crops. But more than that, in a world where up to 100,000 species go extinct each year, the vanishing honeybee could be the herald of a permanently diminished planet.



Photograph by Hannah Whitaker for TIME

Mystery Malady Kills More Bees, Heightening Worry on Farms



It's a Disastrous Year for Bees! For America's beekeepers, who have struggled for nearly a decade with a mysterious malady called colony collapse disorder that kills honeybees en masse, the last year was particularly bad.

By MICHAEL WINES
Published: March 28, 2013 | 238 Comments

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — A mysterious malady that has been killing honeybees en masse for several years appears to have expanded drastically in the last year, commercial beekeepers say, wiping out 40 percent or even 50 percent of the hives needed to pollinate many of the nation's fruits and vegetables.

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A conclusive explanation so far has escaped scientists studying the ailment, colony collapse disorder, since it first surfaced around 2005. But beekeepers and some researchers say there is growing evidence that a powerful new class of pesticides known as neonicotinoids, incorporated into the plants themselves, could be an important factor.



Beekeepers with Big Sky Honey worked with hives used to pollinate almond groves in Bakersfield, Calif.

Readers' Comments
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The pesticide industry disputes that. But its representatives also say they are open to further studies to clarify what, if anything, is happening.

"They looked so healthy last spring," said Bill Dahle, 50, who owns Big Sky Honey in Fairview, Mont. "We were so proud of them. Then, about the first of September, they started to fall on their face, to die like crazy. We've been doing this 30 years, and we've never experienced this kind of loss before."

In a show of concern, the Environmental Protection Agency recently sent its acting assistant administrator for chemical safety and two top chemical experts here, to the San Joaquin Valley of California, for discussions.

In the valley, where 1.6 million hives of bees just finished pollinating an endless expanse of almond groves, commercial beekeepers who only recently were losing a third of their bees to the disorder say the past year has brought far greater losses.

The federal Agriculture Department is to issue its own assessment in May. But in an interview, the research leader at its Beltsville, Md., bee research laboratory, Jeff Pettis, said he was confident that the death rate would be "much higher than it's ever been."

Following a now-familiar pattern, bee deaths rose swiftly last autumn and dwindled as operators moved colonies to faraway farms for the pollination season. Beekeepers say the latest string of deaths has dealt them a heavy blow.

Bret Adee, who is an owner, with his father and brother, of Adee Honey Farms of South Dakota, the nation's largest beekeeper, described mounting losses.

"We lost 42 percent over the winter. But by the time we came around to pollinate almonds,

"They looked beautiful in October," Mr. Adee said, "and in December, they started falling apart, when it got cold."

Mr. Dahle said he had planned to bring 13,000 beehives from Montana — 31 tractor-trailers full — to work the California almond groves. But by the start of pollination last month, only 3,000 healthy hives remained.

Annual bee losses of 5 percent to 10 percent once were the norm for beekeepers. But after colony collapse disorder surfaced around 2005, the losses approached one-third of all bees, despite beekeepers' best efforts to ensure their health.

Nor is the impact limited to beekeepers. The Agriculture Department says a quarter of the American diet, from apples to cherries to watermelons to onions, depends on pollination by honeybees. Fewer bees means smaller harvests and higher food prices.

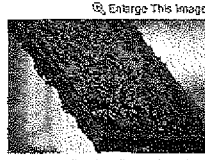
Almonds are a bellwether. Eighty percent of the nation's almonds grow here, and 80 percent of those are exported, a multibillion-dollar crop crucial to California agriculture. Pollinating up to 800,000 acres, with at least two hives per acre, takes as many as two-thirds of all commercial hives.

This past winter's die-off sent growers scrambling for enough hives to guarantee a harvest. Chris Moore, a beekeeper in Kountze, Tex., said he had planned to skip the groves after sickness killed 40 percent of his bees and left survivors weakened.

"But California was short, and I got a call in the middle of February that they were desperate for just about anything," he said. So he sent two truckloads of hives that he normally would not have put to work.

Bee shortages pushed the cost to farmers of renting bees to \$200 per hive at times, 20 percent above normal. That, too, may translate into higher prices for food.

Precisely why last year's deaths were so great is unclear. Some blame drought in the Midwest, though Mr. Dahle lost nearly 80 percent of his bees despite excellent summer conditions. Others cite bee mites that have become increasingly resistant to pesticides. Still others blame viruses.



Bees on a honeycomb pulled from a hive at Big Sky Honey.

But many beekeepers suspect the biggest culprit is the growing soup of pesticides, fungicides and herbicides that are used to control pests.

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While each substance has been certified, there has been less study of their combined effects. Nor, many critics say, have scientists sufficiently studied the impact of neonicotinoids, the nicotine-derived pesticide that European regulators implicate in bee deaths.



Bill Dahle, the owner, described a startling loss of honeybees last year.

Readers' Comments
Readers shared their thoughts on this article.
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The explosive growth of neonicotinoids since 2005 has roughly tracked rising bee deaths.

Neonics, as farmers call them, are applied in smaller doses than older pesticides. They are systemic pesticides, often embedded in seeds so that the plant itself carries the chemical that kills insects that feed on it.

Older pesticides could kill bees and other beneficial insects. But while they quickly degraded — often in a matter of days — neonicotinoids persist for weeks and even months. Beekeepers worry that bees carry a summer's worth of contaminated pollen to hives, where ensuing generations dine on a steady dose of pesticide that, eaten once or twice, might not be dangerous.

"Soybean fields or canola fields or sunflower fields, they all have this systemic insecticide," Mr. Adee said. "If you have one shot of whiskey on Thanksgiving and one on the Fourth of July, it's not going to make any difference. But if you have whiskey every night, 365 days a year, your liver's gone. It's the same thing."

Research to date on neonicotinoids "supports the notion that the products are safe and are not contributing in any measurable way to pollinator health concerns," the president of CropLife America, Jay

Bee fans try to get Los Angeles to allow hives in residential areas

Rob and Chelsea McFarland are on a PR mission for bees. So far, they've gotten the support of 8 L.A. neighborhood councils and city Councilman Bill Rosendahl. Sweet.



Rob and Chelsea McFarland are leading an effort to make beekeeping legal in Los Angeles. They have won the support of Councilman Bill Rosendahl and eight neighborhood councils so far. (Gary Friedman / Los Angeles Times / April 21, 2012)

Bee fans try to get Los Angeles to allow hives in residential areas

Rob and Chelsea McFarland are on a PR mission for bees. So far, they've gotten the support of 8 L.A. neighborhood councils and city Councilman Bill Rosendahl. Sweet.

July 14, 2012 | By John Hoeffel, Los Angeles Times

Rob McFarland was in his florally vivacious backyard, tending his vegetable plot, when he noticed some honeybees buzzing around a tree. A few minutes later some bees had become tens of thousands.

"The sky was sort of darkened out," he recalled. "It was kind of a presence that I couldn't ignore." McFarland, a social media entrepreneur and avid gardener, was intrigued by honeybees and aware that hives have been dying from a mysterious cause labeled colony collapse disorder.

"I knew enough about honeybees to know they were in real trouble," he said. "So the last thing that I wanted to go down in my own backyard, literally, was for these bees to be exterminated."

He left frantic messages on a hotline operated by Backwards Beekeepers, a Los Angeles club that sent a member to his house. The beekeeper cut a clump of bees about the size of two footballs out of the tree without wearing a protective suit, showing an enthralled McFarland that the swarm was docile. "It totally captured my attention, and I began to obsess over it a little bit," he said.

McFarland and his wife, Chelsea, became interested in beekeeping but discovered that Los Angeles does not allow hives in residential zones. So, the McFarlands decided to launch an unusual grass-roots drive to change the city's law by first winning support from at least 10 of L.A.'s 95 neighborhood councils.

Now, almost a year and a half later, their devotion has won support from eight councils. And an enthusiastic city councilman has initiated a formal study, a first step that could bring L.A. on board with other bee-friendly cities, such as New York, Seattle, San Francisco and Santa Monica.

"We have to be clear that this environment that we live in is threatened, that bees are an essential part," said Councilman Bill Rosendahl, who boasts that he has two wild hives in his yard.

The McFarlands, with their own money and what they raised at a "yellow-tie" fundraiser, started a nonprofit organization called HoneyLove. ("Chelsea's always referred to me as 'honeylove,'" Rob explained.) With friends, family and allies, they host regular educational events across the city, such as honey-tastings and mead-making. Rob, 39, who is lanky and a little boogie, and Chelsea, 39, radiant and

"They're just unhindered enthusiasm and love for what they're doing, and how can you not love that?" said Kirk Anderson, a mentor to many L.A.-area beekeepers.

McFarland learned from beekeepers how to capture swarms and remove unwanted hives. He has been stung more times than he can count but recalls one time with wry humor: "I'd opened my veil to itch my nose real quick and the zipper snagged as I was closing it back up and right at that moment it was like Jedi bee shoots the gap right into my face and stings me right between the eyes," he said.

The McFarlands have set up a sanctuary for rescued bees on a hilltop in the Simi Valley. One weekend, they installed a new hive among a dozen brilliantly hued ones surrounded by blooming mustard. Rob, sheathed in a beekeeper's suit, watched the bees stream out to explore, hovering and circling tentatively.

"You figuring it out?" he asked gently.

Saving bees led the McFarlands to want to do more. Chelsea is a video editor who studied documentary filmmaking. Rob was working on a documentary on orangutans when they met. "Chelsea and I realized that we could utilize the skill set that we've acquired over the years in marketing and media," Rob said.

They have created a sprawling social media presence to promote bees. Besides a dot-org website, HoneyLove is on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Change.org, Tumbler, Pinterest, MeetUp, you name it.

They have devised an ingenious campaign that blends zany fun and clever bee shtick, slyly anthropomorphizing the fuzzy yellow-and-black insects into huggable cartoons. At events, Rob sometimes wears a bee suit or a yellow T-shirt, and Chelsea typically appears more flamboyantly attired, often in a bee-striped tutu. "It's pretty hard to ignore people when they are walking around in bee suits," Rob said.

Rob has drawn some of the distinctive images they use, including a stylized queen bee with a crown, while Chelsea is the source of much of their playful creativity. "I mean this in the most positive way. She's a drama queen," Rob said. "A drama queen bee?" Chelsea shot back.

The McFarlands first sought approval for residential beekeeping from their neighborhood council in Mar Vista, devising an approach that included a four-month feasibility study and extensive community outreach.

"Their energy, their happiness with which they have approached this is so amazing," said Maritza Przekop, a Mar Vista Community Council member who has worked with them. "They have just jumped over every obstacle."

Endless meetings, it turned out, are Chelsea's forte, although Rob joins her for some. "She has the sort of endurance and toughness," Rob said. "I'd rather get stung by a hive of bees."

Neighborhood council members, used to dealing with irritated constituents, tend to be startled and pleased by the McFarlands. At a committee meeting of the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council, the two, finishing each other's sentences, answered questions about wasps, feral hives, stings, allergies, industrial agriculture, swarms, why bees are disappearing, laws in other cities and tainted honey.

Besides Mar Vista, the McFarlands have won support from the neighborhood councils of Del Ray, Greater Griffith Park, South Robertson, Silver Lake, Hollywood United, Atwater Village and West L.A.

And they won Rosendahl's admiration. "They're both very positive spirits. They both take this seriously, and I enjoy that," said the councilman, who can extemporize eloquently about the role the endangered honeybee plays in pollinating flowers, fruits and vegetables, and in making honey and beeswax.

The trouble with honeybees, of course, is that they can sting and some people are extremely allergic.

"That is a huge issue," Rosendahl said, adding that any ordinance will have to deal with the issue of neighbors. "Education is part of the process. A bee doesn't come after you unless you somehow disturb them."

Nearly every weekend, the McFarlands can be found somewhere talking up honeybees.

On one sunny-warm, breezy-cool, everything-blooming day, Rob stood behind a table with a display case filled with bees scurrying around a honeycomb, explaining their highly complex habits.

"I'm sorry," interrupted Donna Salvini, who lives in Venice and has an organic garden she said is frequented by honeybees that just calmly hang out. "I just find that insanely exciting."


"It is, it is," Rob said.

"Because there's really nothing more magical," Salvini said. "I mean they just do so much."

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L.A. WEEKLY

JUNE 14/21, 2013
VOL. 25 / NO. 24
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LOVE OF THE HIVE,
THE BACKWARDS
BEEKEEPERS WANT
TO TURN LOS ANGELES
INTO A HONEYBEE
MECCA

BEE FEVER

BY GENDY ALIMURUNG

The Backwards Beekeepers Are on It

By Gendy Alimurung Thursday, Jun 13 2013

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Chelsea and Rob McFarland tend their bees organically.



PHOTO BY KATHY FORTNEY

With a frenzied smile, Rob gripped the severed branch with massive honeycombs dangling off it — a 60-pound lollipop of bees. Chelsea snapped a picture.

Then the dawning realization: "Where the hell do we put them?" It is a recurring question that will consume their next few days, then months, then years.

The tangerine tree hive sat on their roof for a spell. The McFarlands live in a modest house in the Del Rey neighborhood, a narrow, two-mile strip that cleaves Culver City from Mar Vista. They don't exactly have a lot of space. And what kind of neighbor welcomes a swarm?

By some miracle, after weeks of schlepping hives across the city — after the crazy logistics of matching up people who had bees but didn't want them with people who want bees but didn't have them — Chelsea secured a spot: a small, scrubby hilltop in agrarian Moorpark, overlooking an organic farm owned by a friend of a friend. The McFarlands christened the hilltop the HoneyLove Sanctuary.

Today it hosts 16 hives in colorful wood boxes, each from somewhere around L.A., rescued from water meters and birdhouses and compost bins, places Rob can't recall anymore.

"Each one of these is a family," Chelsea says. "We're usually rushing to beat the external nator out there."

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buildings.

In Los Angeles, however, bees exist in a legal gray area. The county allows them. But the city has no laws specifically pertaining to urban beekeeping. Currently, if bees are found on public property, the city's only option is to exterminate them. As a result, the past few years have seen the emergence of groups like the Backwards Beekeepers, which are devoted to rescuing and keeping these wild swarms of so-called "feral" hives within city limits.

The Backwards Beekeepers represent a whole new kind of thinking about bees. While older, established groups focus on feral hives, the Backwards Beekeepers see them as the way of the future. Where traditional bee clubs use pesticides and antibiotics to help struggling bee populations, the Backwards Beekeepers favor organic, "natural" methods. The city, in a Backwards Beekeeper's eyes, is a bee's ideal stomping ground.

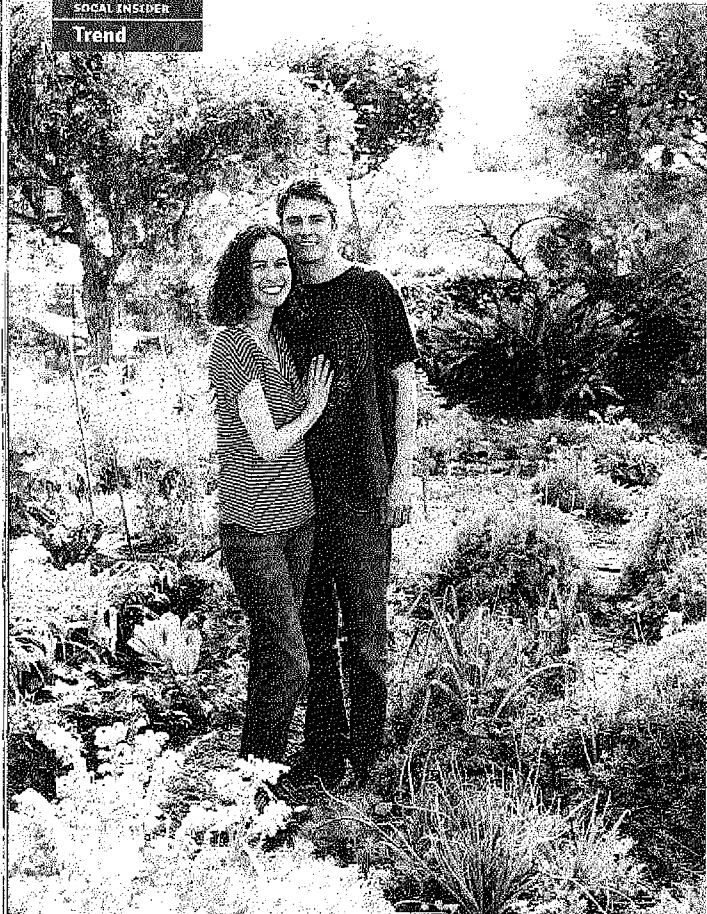
Yet as long as the rules about keeping hives on private property are anyone's guess, beekeepers live in fear. No one has been prosecuted, but that doesn't seem like security enough. And so Rob and Chelsea McFarland have been working to change the city's codes one neighborhood group at a time.

When the McFarlands consulted beekeepers in Seattle, they were advised to build support from the ground up. So the McFarlands formed a nonprofit foundation, HoneyLove, and they do endless events and outreach: sex symposiums, honey tastings, mead workshops, pollen parties, art shows, festivals, concerts, garden tours, grocery consortiums, school visits, equipment demonstrations, film screenings, radio shows, television appearances, guest lectures and video blogging. They organized a four-month feasibility study with the Mar Vista Neighborhood Council, which includes surveys with residents, testimony from a pediatric pulmonologist on the effects of

Look inside a plain wood box, in a truck, in the driveway of Rob and Chelsea McFarland's house on certain spring nights, and you will see them. Bees.

How did they get there? Turn back the clock two years, to another season, another swarm. This one arrived in the afternoon while Rob was working in the backyard — one bee at first, then thousands, clustered into a ball the size of two footballs. It landed in a tree.

Instead of killing the bees, Rob called a group he'd read about online, which "rescues" them: the Backwards Beekeepers. That evening, wearing only a T-shirt and jeans and no protective suit, a volunteer from the group clipped the branch of bees, dropped it into a cardboard box and sealed it up. Rob, now 42, and wife Chelsea, 31, were astounded. "It revealed to me the gentle nature of



The bee couple

Chelsea and Rob McFarland are adding buzz to L.A.'s urban residential beekeeping movement

BY ROBIN JONES | PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREA GÓMEZ ROMERO

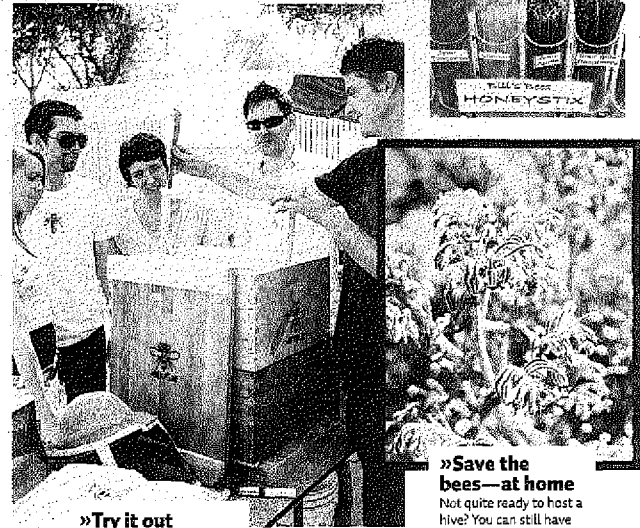
IT'S JUST A REGULAR old Sunday at the Mar Vista farmers' market. Or is it? A woman buzzes around in yellow tights, a black tutu, bee antennae, and a pair of wings. A swarm of suited-up beekeepers holding 1 SUPPORT URBAN BEEKEEPING! signs mingle with shoppers. A little girl in full bee costume twirls around, making a bee-shaped balloon fly. The beekeeper flash mob has descended.

The tutu-clad queen bee is Chelsea McFarland, who with her husband, Rob, has organized the group as part of their pro-bee crusade. The McFarlands, who run the bee conservation nonprofit HoneyLove from their home in Los Angeles, became urban beekeepers after watching a swarm alight on their organic garden. They became activists after learning that urban residential beekeeping has never been legal in Los Angeles. But now that uneasiness about bees is waning, the law may change. Why should we care about bringing bees back to the city? Rob McFarland explains. »36N

Q: Why isn't beekeeping legal in L.A.'s residential areas?

There's never been a real push to make it legal until now. It's legal in many large cities across the world, and we're hoping to add L.A. to that list very soon. So far, six neighborhood councils have signed on with their support. Why are honeybees so important? Bees pollinate 80 percent of the world's plants, including 90 different food crops. One out of every three or four bites you eat is thanks to bees. Take, for example, the multibillion-dollar almond crop in California. It's almost entirely pollinated by honeybees and wouldn't exist without them. Why should we encourage bees in cities, rather than agricultural areas? Cities are less stressful for bees. In mid areas with flowers, there's food for them almost year-round, which isn't the case in agricultural zones. Plus cities are a safe refuge because many home gardeners don't use chemicals on their plants anymore. But what do you say to the neighbors? New beekeepers should talk to their neighbors before bringing home a hive and explain that bees aren't aggressive unless the hive is disturbed. But if you don't have a good relationship, adding bees to the mix probably won't help.

Let's get to the sweet stuff. Who makes the best honey? We had a recent blind taste test with honey from all over the world, and the two top vote-getters were from L.A.-area producers: Harry's Honey (Harry Stein) and Kirk's Urban Bees (Kirk Anderson). We take it as a sign that we have good things going on here.



»Try it out

HoneyLove (honeylove.org) holds beginner-friendly workshops (pictured) the second Saturday of each month around L.A., where you can learn about the best plants for pollinators and help make honey from fresh honeycombs. Or take a class from Guerilla Beekeepers owner Bill Walter at Dragonfly Shops & Gardens in Orange (260 N. Glassell St.; 714/289-6889). He'll help you build your own hive box (Jun 9; \$35, plus \$50 materials fee) or make beeswax-based lip balm (Jul 14; \$50, plus \$20 materials fee).

»Taste it

Urban beekeepers usually produce raw honey, which isn't heated and filtered to look pretty and pour easily. Feral Honey, of Silver Lake, is one of the best local raw honeys; try it over a fresh berry crostata at the Village Bakery and Cafe in Atwater Village (21319 Los Feliz Blvd.; 323/662-8600). Down the coast at Sapphire Laguna (344; 1200 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach; 949/715-5588), chefs drizzle Backyard Bees honey, made in Laguna Beach, over pecorino cheese. You'll find Bill's Bees (localharvest.org) selling raw honey and flavored honey sticks at multiple farmers' markets in L.A. County.

»Save the bees—at home

Not quite ready to host a hive? You can still have a bee-friendly garden.

1. Create an open water source for bees to drink from.
2. Pick pollinator-friendly plants like borage and lavender, and don't use pesticides or chemicals.
3. If you do find a swarm on your property, seek out your local bee club and ask for urban beekeeper recommendations. Many have swarm rescue hotlines, and "someone will probably jump at the chance" to relocate your bees, Rob McFarland says. "Hives are a hot commodity." ■

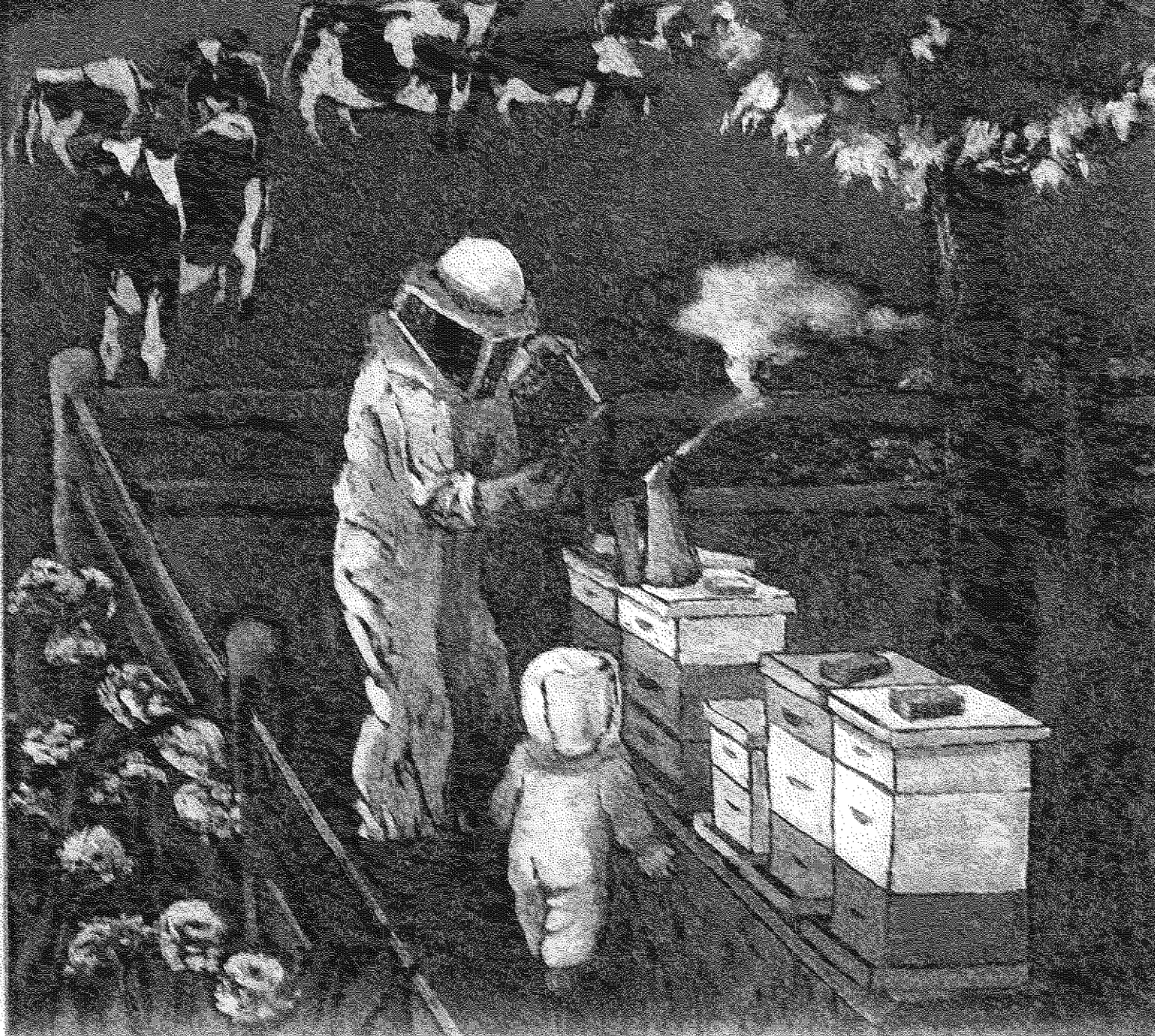


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WEST VIRGINIA PASSES IMMUNITY LAW

Dan O'Hanlon

In April of this year, West Virginia became the first state in the nation to pass a law giving beekeepers immunity from civil liability for ordinary negligence. This law came about as a result of strong support by the leadership of both the House and Senate. We are fortunate to have a State Senate President, Earl Ray Tomblin, whose father is a beekeeper. Additionally, House Speaker Richard Thompson was raised by a grandfather who was a beekeeper. The bill passed the House 94-2 and the Senate 34-0. Finally, it helped that the honey bee is our state insect!

The law requires that beekeepers register their hives. It also mandated the WV Department of Agriculture to promulgate Best Management Practices [BMP] for beekeepers. After extensive review of the BMPs of many other states, the Department promulgated 14 rules that beekeepers must agree to comply with to receive immunity from civil suits. All beekeepers who abide by these provisions will have absolute civil immunity from ordinary negligence.

The rules themselves relate mainly to urban beekeeping and being a good neighbor. They require beekeepers to post a warning sign in every apiary and to limit the number of hives in any one location based on the size of the lot. This varies from no more than four hives on a half-acre lot, to no more than eight hives on a lot of more than an acre. If all the hives are at least 200 feet from all property lines, there is no limit on the number of hives at the apiary site.

Hive entrances must face away from neighboring property and the beekeeper must have a six foot barrier if the hives are within 50 feet of the property line.

An interesting rule requires the beekeeper to maintain a water source near the colonies at a distance less than the nearest unnatural water supply. This should help keep the bees out of the neighbor's bird baths and swimming pools. The rules also prohibit locating a hive within 50 feet of where any animal is tethered or kenneled so they could not escape from stings. The last of the 'good neighbor rules' prohibits opening a hive when neighbors are present in the immediate vicinity.

WV beekeepers are strongly encouraged to avoid purchasing queens and bees from areas known to have Africanized honey bees [AHB]. They are also required to replace all queens which head colonies which exhibit such defensive behavior as may be injurious to the general public or domesticated animals.

Finally, beekeepers are urged to manage all their hives to prevent swarming.

The remaining rules all deal with special conditions such as requiring that bees used for public demonstrations, entertainment or educational purposes be enclosed


so as to prevent release in public. Similarly, bees being transported need to be screened to prevent escape, and a caution sign posted at sights where bees are collected prior to shipping. All bees being transported must be secured and netted.

The last requirement is that all pesticides and control agents must be discarded properly following label directions.

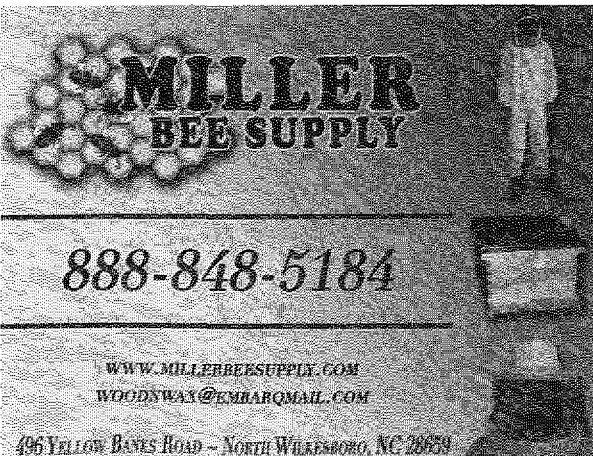
The Department reserved the right to promulgate additional rules in the future if AHB became established in West Virginia, but these rules are something beekeepers can live with for now.

Because the legislation allowed the Department to issue emergency rules, they will remain in effect until the end of the next legislative session. During that session, the legislators can add or amend these rules. As you might expect, every beekeepers sees something in the rules that they would have written differently so the danger is that beekeepers will descend on the state capitol demanding their representatives to change this rule or that one to suit their operation. Fortunately, wiser heads are urging all beekeepers not to open Pandora's Box and allow non-beekeeping delegates and senators to begin adding rules that they feel would better regulate bees in West Virginia. After all, the rules are completely voluntary so you can simply run your operation as you see fit, the same as you did before the law was passed. You will still be subject to civil suits, but the choice is yours.

The beneficial effects of the law have already been felt by some beekeepers. At our last club meeting, several beekeepers told me they contacted their insurance companies and received significant reductions in the insurance premiums on their beekeeping policies. Beekeepers have written to several other insurance companies as well as to our Insurance Commissioner asking them to give us rate reductions similar to what doctors received on malpractice policies when tort reform lowered their civil liability.

West Virginia beekeepers are pleased and proud to be in the first state in the nation to help shield beekeepers from lawsuits. They hope that many other states will follow our lead and protect their beekeepers. A copy of the law and the rules can be found at www.BeeCulture.com/contents/links.cfm. 

Judge Dan O'Hanlon is an active member of the West Virginia Beekeepers Association and the Heartland Apicultural Society.



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WVDA BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The WVDA works to protect the public as well as the general beekeeper. In doing so we have produced The West Virginia Honeybee Best Management Practices guidelines. This is a voluntary program in which WV registered beekeepers can receive limits on liability by signing a written agreement. Beekeepers must agree to follow §61-2-4 as describe under Limits of Liability.

§61-2-4. Limits on Liability.

4.1. A beekeeper may obtain limits on liability who:

4.1.a. Signs a Honeybee Best Management Practices compliance agreement to be kept on file at the West Virginia Department of Agriculture headquarters; and

4.1.b. Voluntarily conforms with Honeybee Best Management Practices contained in subsection 4.2. of this rule.

4.2. West Virginia Honeybee Best Management Practices (HBBMP):

4.2.a. West Virginia Beekeepers shall post a honeybee caution sign in or near the apiary.

4.2.b. West Virginia Beekeepers shall limit the number of hives in relation to property lot size in accordance with the following:

4.2.b.(1) Less than 1/2 acre - 4 colonies (1/2 acre = 21,780 sq. ft., roughly 100 ft. x 218 ft.)

4.2.b.(2) More than 1/2 acre, less than 1 acre - 6 colonies (1 acre = 43,560 sq. ft., roughly 150 ft. x 290 ft.); and

4.2.b.(3) 1 acre or more - 8 colonies (1 acre = 43,560 sq. ft., roughly 150 ft. x 290 ft.)

4.2.c. Regardless of lot size: If all hives are situated at least 200 feet in any direction from all property lines of the lot on which the apiary is situated, or as long as all adjoining property that falls within a 200-foot radius of any hive is undeveloped property, there are no limit on the number of hives.

4.2.d. West Virginia beekeepers:

4.2.d.(1) Shall have hive entrances face away from neighboring property and in such a direction that bees fly across the beekeeper's property a sufficient distance to gain a height of six feet. If bordering property is within a distance of 50 feet, the beekeeper shall use barriers (hedges, shrubs or fencing six feet high) to redirect the bees' flight pathway and establish bee flight pathways above head height;

4.2.d.(2) Shall maintain a water source near the colonies at a distance less than the nearest unnatural water supply;

4.2.d.(3) Shall not keep an apiary within 50 feet of an established animal that is tethered, kennelled or otherwise prevented from escaping a stinging incident;

4.2.d.(4) Should avoid opening colonies for inspection or manipulation when neighbors are present or in the immediate vicinity;

4.2.d.(5) Should avoid purchasing queens and honeybees from areas that are documented as having been designated as an established Africanized Honeybee (AHB) zone;

4.2.d.(6) Shall manage all colonies to minimize swarming;

4.2.d.(7) Shall replace queens in colonies exhibiting defensive behaviour that may be injurious to the general public or domesticated animals as determined by Department's apiary staff.

4.2.e. A collection site for holding colonies prior to shipment, or a staging area, shall have undeveloped property surrounded by a natural barrier and shall be marked with a honeybee caution sign.

4.2.f. Anyone transporting colonies shall secure the load and screen entrances or place a net over the colonies to prevent bees from escaping.

4.2.g. West Virginia Beekeepers shall properly discard all pesticides and other control agents after use according to label directions.

4.2.h. Honeybees used for public demonstrations, entertainment or educational purposes shall be enclosed so as to avoid the release of honeybees to the public.

4.2.i. In the event that Africanized Honeybee (AHB) infestation is determined to be established in West Virginia by the Department, additional rules promulgated by the Commissioner of Agriculture will be followed.

THE WEST VIRGINIA APIARY ACT

ARTICLE 13. INSPECTION AND PROTECTION OF APICULTURE.

§19-13-1. Short title.

This article may be cited as "The West Virginia Apiary Act."

§19-13-2. Definitions.

For the purpose of this article, the term:

- (1) "Abandoned apiary" means any apiary in which twenty-five percent or more of the colonies are dead or diseased, or the death or disarray of the colonies exposes them to robbing, or diseased or potentially diseased abandoned bee equipment which may jeopardize the welfare of neighboring colonies.
- (2) "Apiary" means any place where one or more colonies or nuclei of bees are kept or where bee equipment is stored.
- (3) "Appliances" means any apparatus, tool, machine or other device, used in the handling and manipulating of bees, honey, wax and hives. It also means any container of honey and wax that may be used in any apiary or in transporting bees and their products and apiary supplies.
- (4) "Bees" means any stage of the common hive or honeybee (*Apis mellifera*), or other species of the genus *Apis*.
- (5) "Bee equipment" means hives, supers, frames, veils, gloves or any other appliances.
- (6) "Bee products" means honey, bees wax, pollen, propolis and royal jelly.
- (7) "Colony" means the hive and includes bees, comb, honey and bee equipment.
- (8) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture of the State of West Virginia or a duly authorized employee.
- (9) "Control agents or control mechanisms" means any method of chemical or mechanical control to suppress or eradicate an apiary disease, pest, or parasitic infestation in an apiary or the colonies contained therein.
- (10) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture of the State of West Virginia.
- (11) "Hive" means a frame hive, box hive, box, barrel, log, gum, skep or any other receptacle or container, natural or artificial, or any part thereof, which may be used or employed as a domicile for bees.
- (12) "Honeybee pest" means American foulbrood (*Bacillus larvae*), European foulbrood (*Melissococcus pluton*), Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*), honeybee tracheal mite (*Acarapis woodi*), or any other virus or infectious or parasitic organism determined by the commissioner to be transmissible to other bee colonies and that represents a threat to beekeeping in West Virginia.
- (13) "Nuclei" means the removal of a split portion or division of any colony of honeybees for the express purpose of creating a numerical increase in colonies for honey production, pollination service or monetary gain through sale of honeybees.
- (14) "Packaged bees" means bees shipped in combless packages accompanied by a valid certificate of health from an authorized state or federal agency verifying

the absence or presence of any infectious or communicable diseases or parasitic infestations, and further providing that no honey has been used for food while in transit or that any honey used as food in transit was properly sterilized.

(15) "Person" means corporations, partnerships, associations, societies, individuals or group of individuals or any employee, servant or agent acting for or employed by any person.

(16) "Premises" means any parcel of real estate and structures in which bee equipment, bees, bee products and bee appliances are or may be utilized for storage purposes.

(17) "Quarantine" means a declaration by the Commissioner which specifies a period of enforced isolation to contain and prevent the spread of honeybee pests.

(18) "Sterilized or sterilization" means to treat and neutralize honeybee pests by means of steam autoclave, pit incineration, or by any other acceptable method which the commissioner determines effective for control of honeybee pests.

§19-13-3. Commissioner's powers and duties; rule-making authority; apiary education; cooperation with governmental agencies; seizure of infected bees and bee equipment.

(a) The Commissioner may propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code: (1) To effectively eradicate, suppress or control honeybee pests as far as may be practical; (2) to regulate the keeping and maintaining of bees, bee equipment, queen breeding equipment, apiaries and appliances; (3) to regulate treatments, re-treatments, and fees for the services; and (4) any other rules necessary to effectuate the enforcement of this article.

(b) The Commissioner is authorized to conduct apiary education in a manner which advances and promotes bee culture in West Virginia.

(c) The Commissioner is authorized to cooperate with the federal government and its agencies, departments and instrumentalities; other West Virginia agencies, departments, divisions, or political subdivisions; and any other state or commonwealth and its agencies, departments or political subdivisions, in order to carry out the effective administration of this article.

(d) The Commissioner is authorized to stop the delivery of, to seize, to destroy, to treat or to order returned to point of origin, at the owner's expense, all appliances, bees, bee equipment, bee products or hives transported into or within this state, found to be infected with honeybee pests regardless of whether a valid certificate of inspection is attached.

§19-13-4. Registration of bees; identification of apiaries.

(a) All persons keeping bees in this state shall apply for a certificate of registration for bee keeping from the Commissioner, within ten days of the date that bees are acquired, by notifying the Commissioner, in writing, of the number and location of colonies they own or rent, or which they keep for someone else, whether the bees are located on their own property or someone else's property. All apiary certificates of registration expire on the thirty-first day of December of each year and must be renewed annually.

(b) All persons owning or operating an apiary which is not located on their own property must post the name and address of the owner or operator in a conspicuous place in the apiary.

§19-13-5. Right of entry; apiary inspections; quarantines.

(a) During reasonable working hours, the Commissioner may enter upon any premises to access any apiary for the purpose of inspecting or sampling. No person shall obstruct or hinder the commissioner in the discharge of his or her duties.

(b) The Commissioner shall inspect, as practicable, all colonies of honeybees domiciled within the State of West Virginia. If any honeybee pest is found in the apiary, the Commissioner shall immediately notify, in writing, the owner or operator stating the type of honeybee pest and whether it may be successfully treated or not.

In cases where the honeybee pest is subject to treatment, the Commissioner shall specify and direct the necessary treatment, which will be administered by the owner or operator, within fourteen days of the date of notice. If not treated, the colonies contained in the apiary in which the honeybee pests are found shall be depopulated without remuneration to the owner. All bee hives and related bee equipment found in any diseased apiary shall be destroyed, sterilized or treated in a manner approved by and under the direction of the commissioner.

(c) All apiaries producing queens, packaged bees or nuclei colonies for distribution shall be inspected each year. If honeybee pests are found in the apiary, the Commissioner shall immediately notify, in writing, the owner or operator, and thereafter it shall be unlawful for the owner or operator to ship, sell or give away any queen bees, appliances, packaged bees, full colonies or nuclei colonies from the apiary until the honeybee pests have been controlled to the satisfaction of the commissioner.

(d) The Commissioner shall quarantine all apiaries, bees, bee equipment, bee products, appliances and premises infected by honeybee pests. The notice of quarantine shall specify the name of the honeybee pest, the premises or apiary quarantined, bee equipment, bee products and appliances regulated and all conditions governing movement. The Commissioner may adopt other orders to prevent the introduction of or to contain the spread of honeybee pests that are capable of being transported by bees, appliances or bee equipment.

The order shall set forth the conditions governing the movement of the regulated items.

The Commissioner shall rescind, in writing, quarantines and other orders when he or she determines the need no longer exists.

§19-13-6. Abandoned apiaries and equipment; notice.

It shall be unlawful for a person to knowingly maintain an abandoned apiary or bee equipment. When the Commissioner determines that an apiary or bee equipment has been abandoned, he or she shall notify, in writing, the owner or operator that the apiary or bee equipment has been declared abandoned. The owner or operator has thirty days from the date of notice to enclose, dispose of

or destroy the abandoned apiary or bee equipment in a manner approved by the commissioner. If the owner or operator of the abandoned apiary or bee equipment cannot be located after reasonable inquiry, notice shall be provided to the owner of the real property on which the apiary or bee equipment is located. If the apiary or bee equipment continues to be abandoned for a period of thirty days thereafter, the commissioner may seize the apiary or bee equipment and take such action as is necessary to dispose of or to destroy the apiary or bee equipment as conditions warrant.

§19-13-7. Bees brought into state to carry inspection certificate; Commissioner to be notified; interstate movement of bees.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to transport bees, used bee equipment or used appliances into West Virginia, unless accompanied by a certificate of inspection signed by an authorized state or federal inspection official verifying the actual inspection of the bees, used bee equipment or used appliances within thirty days preceding the date of shipment and certifying the absence of honey-bee pests.

(b) Prior to the movement of any bees, used bee equipment or used appliances into West Virginia, and as a prerequisite to the issuance of a permit of entry, the commissioner shall be furnished by the owner, transporter, or operator the following:

(1) The exact location or destination of the bees, used bee equipment or used appliances.

(2) Name and address of the owner of the property where the bees, used bee equipment or used appliances will be located.

(3) The exact number of colonies or amount of used bee equipment or used appliances in the shipment.

(4) A copy of the inspection certificate issued by the state or federal inspector.

The Commissioner shall issue a temporary or permanent permit of entry. A temporary permit may not exceed sixty days.

If the Commissioner denies the request for an entry permit, he or she shall notify the owner, operator or transporter of the denial and the reasons there for.

§19-13-8. Repealed. Acts, 2003 Reg. Sess., Ch. 8.

(304)-558-2210 Fax (304)-558-2270

Committee Substitute

OTHER VERSIONS - Introduced Version |

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

for

H. B. 4527

(By Delegates Morgan, C. Miller, Canterbury, Williams and Campbell)

(Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary.)

[February 26, 2010]

A BILL to amend and reenact §19-13-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to limiting the liability of apiary owners and operators.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §19-13-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 13. INSPECTION AND PROTECTION OF AGRICULTURE.**§19-13-4. Registration of bees; identification of apiaries.**

(a) All persons keeping bees in this state shall apply for a certificate of registration for bee keeping from the commissioner, within ten days of the date that bees are acquired, by notifying the commissioner, in writing, of the number and location of colonies they own or rent, or which they keep for someone else, whether the bees are located on their own property or someone else's property. All apiary certificates of registration expire on December 31, of each year and must be renewed annually.

(b) All persons owning or operating an apiary which is not located on their own property must post the name and address of the owner or operator in a conspicuous place in the apiary.

(c) A person who:

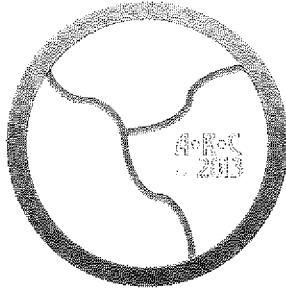
(1) owns and operates an apiary;

(2) is registered with the Commissioner; and

(3) operates the apiary in good faith, in a reasonable manner and in conformance with best management practices,

is not liable for any personal injury or property damage that occurs in connection with the keeping and maintaining of bees, bee equipment, queen breeding equipment, apiaries and appliances.

12-0785



Alliance of River Communities

Arroyo Seco NC | Atwater Village NC | Boyle Heights NC
Eagle Rock NC | Elysian Valley Riverside NC | Glassell Park NC
Greater Cypress Park NC | Greater Echo Park Elysian NC
Historic Highland Park NC | LA 32 NC | Lincoln Heights NC
Los Feliz NC | Rampart Village NC | Silver Lake NC

October 25, 2013: Press Contact: Hector Huevo, H.L.Huevo@gmail.com

RE: Council File Number 12-0785, Bee Keeping in R1 Zones

Dear Los Angeles City Council

At a regular meeting of the Neighborhood Council Alliance of River Communities, the member representatives of the alliance consented on submitting the following resolution regarding Council File Number 12-0785:

WHEREAS, a rapidly increasing number of residents are participating in growing food, raising livestock and beekeeping within the City of Los Angeles in the form of community gardens, urban farming enterprises, aquaponics facilities, and home and school gardens; and

WHEREAS, bees are absolutely necessary for the production of a third of the food produced in North America, including the production of almonds, California's biggest export; and

WHEREAS, in the past few years, "colony collapse disorder" (CCD) has led to a massive bee population decrease in which U.S. beekeepers lost an average of 45 percent of their colonies from 2012-2013, threatening the existence of one of the world's most vital pollinators and, by extension, the long-term security of our food supply; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) currently disallows "beekeeping" in Single Family residential (R 1) zones and the City of Los Angeles does not have the capacity to rescue feral bees, instead expending resources for the extermination of bees on public land; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 9 to 11 bee colonies per square mile in the City of Los Angeles, and the practices of feral bee rescue and urban beekeeping offer the opportunity to control and manage these bee colonies without resorting to extermination and placing this burden on bodies such as the Department of Water and Power and Los Angeles County Vector Control; and

WHEREAS, residents of all communities across Los Angeles deserve access to nutritious, affordable and culturally relevant food and also to open, green space and urban agriculture and community gardens can provide both;

WHEREAS, the Atwater Village, Silver Lake, Boyle Heights, Historic Highland Park, Los Feliz Neighborhood Councils have all submitted support for Council File 12-0785

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Los Angeles celebrated its support of urban agriculture and its commitment to ensuring a strong and sustainable local food system by declaring October 23, 2013 as National Food Day in Los Angeles; and;

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles City Council resolved to include in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program SPONSORSHIP/SUPPORT for the "Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013" (H.R. 2692);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alliance of River Communities supports Council File 12-0785, which provides Los Angeles residents an opportunity to support the modification to Los Angeles Municipal Code, resulting in a mechanism to allow urban beekeeping in Single Family R-1 Zones.

Sincerely,
The Neighborhood Council Alliance of River Communities, ARC

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December 5, 2013

Councilmember Huizar
Councilmember Cedillo
Councilmember Englander
LA City Council PLUM Committee
200 S. Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90012
VIA Email

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Re: Urban Bee Keeping (Council File 12-0785)

To Honorable Chair Huizar and fellow PLUM Committee,

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, Inc. is a non-profit advocacy group whose mission is to promote educate and protect the fundamental importance of wildlife, wildlife corridors and wildlife habitats everywhere. That is why we are writing to urge you to initiate an ordinance that allows residents to raise their own honeybees, a practice that helps boost struggling honeybee populations and benefits the environment.

Bees are essential building blocks of our food system and maintain ecological balance in the landscape. Helping bees is essential to our continued survival, health and well-being. These insects benefit us all because of the invaluable ecosystem services they provide to the environment and to our wildlife, forests and gardens. Not only do they pollinate most of our flowering plants, but they are also eaten by other wildlife and some of their ground-nesting behaviors aerate and enrich soils. In turn they enrich and sustain our lives.

By initiating such an ordinance, our City can demonstrate and implement the philosophy that bees are not pests but rather they are integral in the symbiotic relationship of Los Angeles wildlife interface and necessary to maintain our environmental heritage as well as our health and well-being.

Sincerely,

Alison Simard
Chairman of the Board

CC: Chelsea McFarland, (Chelsea@HoneyLove.org):

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) is a non-profit public benefit corporation. The purpose of CLAW is to act as an advocacy group to protect and restore the dwindling natural environments and open spaces of Los Angeles wildlife. CLAW's mission is to promote, educate and protect the fundamental importance of wildlife, wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors everywhere.