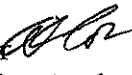


**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: October 17, 2013

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File: 13-0002-S126
Assignment No.: 13-09-0847

SUBJECT: Resolution (Bonin-Buscaino) to support or sponsor legislation or administrative action to rename the SR-90 Marina Freeway the Ballona Freeway.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Bonin-Buscaino) to include in the City's 2013-2014 State Legislative Program SUPPORT or sponsorship of any legislation or administrative action to rename the SR-90 Marina Freeway the Ballona Freeway.

SUMMARY

Resolution (Bonin-Buscaino), introduced September 3, 2013, proposes that the City of Los Angeles support or sponsor any legislation or administrative action to rename the SR-90 Marina Freeway the "Ballona Freeway." The name Marina Freeway derives from the manmade feature of the marina of Marina del Rey – a man-made feature. While the name serves as an accurate descriptor of the highway in a sense, a name that embodies the natural habitat of the surrounding area would serve as a more appropriate representation for SR 90. The Resolution therefore seeks to include in the City's 2013-2014 State Legislative Program support or sponsorship of any legislation or administrative action to rename the SR-90 Marina Freeway the Ballona Freeway.

BACKGROUND

State Route 90 (SR 90) is a state highway that runs through the southwestern portion of the City linking Marina del Rey to the greater Los Angeles Area. This highway now known as the "Marina Freeway" was once for a brief period of time formally named the "Richard M. Nixon Freeway." The highway's name was initially changed to Marina Freeway as a descriptive representation of the highway's westbound destination, being Marina del Rey. While the name Marina Freeway serves as an accurate descriptor of the highway in a sense, referencing the manmade feature of the marina of Marina del Rey – a man-made feature – a name that embodies the natural habitat of the surrounding area would serve as a more appropriate representation for SR 90.

Ballona Creek is a waterway that stretches 8.8 miles from the Santa Monica Mountains through Culver City and the Del Rey area and empties into the Santa Monica Bay, which is located between Marina del Rey and Playa del Rey. A large portion of the preserved lands surrounding the Ballona Creek have been designated as the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, one of few remaining wetlands of the Los Angeles basin. Ballona Creek is an invaluable natural resource serving the larger Los Angeles urban environment – the Ballona Creek provides a vital habitat


for various native plants and animals and is regularly used by local residents as an outdoor recreation space for walking, jogging, cycling, and other activities. Renaming the Marina Freeway the Ballona Freeway would provide appropriate and due recognition to the Ballona Creek, the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, and surrounding associated areas and serve as a symbolic reminder of the importance of the preservation of the City's natural resources.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

None

BILL STATUS

None



Jerry Barnes
Analyst

GFM:jb

Attachment: Resolution (Bonin-Buscaino)

13-0002-S126

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, State Route 90 (SR 90) is a state highway in the southwestern portion of the City linking Marina del Rey to the greater Los Angeles area; and

WHEREAS, SR 90 was for a short time known as the "Richard M. Nixon Freeway" and has since been renamed the "Marina Freeway." While the name "Marina Freeway" is descriptive of the road's westbound destination, it gives the freeway the name of the area's manmade feature – the marina of Marina Del Rey – instead of the natural habitat surrounding the area; and

WHEREAS, Ballona Creek is an 8.8-mile-long waterway that flows from the Santa Monica Mountains through Culver City and the Del Rey area before emptying into the Santa Monica Bay between Marina del Rey and Playa del Rey; and

WHEREAS, much of the surrounding preserved lands are designated as the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, which is one of the last wetlands in the Los Angeles basin; and

WHEREAS, Ballona Creek is an important natural resource in the Los Angeles urban environment that provides a vital habitat for native plants and animals, as well as an opportunity for education and recreation for walkers, joggers, and cyclists; and

WHEREAS, renaming SR 90 the "Ballona Freeway" would allow people to connect the natural beauty around them with the name "Ballona," which would serve as an excellent reminder of what Southern California was once like;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-14 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for or SPONSORSHIP of legislation and/or administrative action to rename the SR-90 Marina Freeway the "Ballona Freeway."

PRESENTED BY:


 MIKE BONIN
 Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



SEP 3 2013

