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Monday, June 2, 2014

Arts, Parks, Health, Aging, and River Committee  
c/o City Clerk  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 360  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Attn: Adam Lid, Legislative Assistant

Re: Council Motion #14-0356

Dear Honorable Members:

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, Inc. (CLAW) 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. CLAW has been receiving regular and increasing reports of deliberate destructive human behaviors and harmful activities upon wild animals and habitats in our city's "so called" protected areas (i.e. municipal parks) and in many other critically sensitive zones like the Sepulveda Basin, the Valley's Foothills, the LA River and throughout the Santa Monica Mountains.

CLAW believes that the health and well-being of our wildlife is a barometer of our society's larger environmental health. Moreover, we find many of these shocking anecdotes of abject abuse by humans in our wildlands interface morally reprehensible and must be prevented. Posted signs are not enough of a deterrent.

Meaningful laws must be implemented, promoted and enforced to protect those without a voice. Therefore, CLAW eagerly supports the council motion to request preparation of the necessary ordinance(s) by the city Attorney. In addition CLAW would ask that (1) the preparation of the necessary ordinance(s) include strong prohibition of poaching; (2) enforcement policies include increased fines from what currently exist or the introduction of other enforcement alternatives such as the Administrative Code Enforcement program (ACE); and (3) extension boundaries of prohibition and protection with clear definitions of our wildlife areas and ecologically sensitive zones to include our beaches, hillsides, rivers, parks citywide.

Sincerely,

Alison Simard  
Chairperson

*CLAW is a public benefit non-profit environmental organization that works to protect and restore the environments of wildlife of Los Angeles and California from dwindling open spaces. Our mission is to promote, educate and protect the fundamental importance of wildlife, wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors everywhere.*