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July 18, 2014

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 N. Spring Street, 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of Los Angeles City Council,

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 believes that the health of our wildlife is a barometer of our entire environmental health. There is ample global evidence that rising temperatures have already caused permanent destruction of a wide variety of species from land to sea to air and each new increase threatens countless others. One does not need to look as far as the polar bears drowning on the ever shrinking icebergs as the North Pole. Our own state is showing ample evidence. For the first time in June 2014, California wildlife officials are evacuating two hatcheries for rainbow trout, salmon and steelhead near Sacramento to save the fish from rising water temperatures brought on by prolonged drought.

Not only are the water sources limited here in Los Angeles but the Oak trees are barely dropping enough food sources for bears, chipmunks, and squirrels. The Oak trees play a critical role in the quality of our air, as well. In addition, the severe drought has brought increased Los Angeles urban encounters with coyotes, bears and mountain lions wandering into neighborhoods rarely or never before sighted – they are leaving their ancient habitats seeking water in urban environments. We believe that this is just the beginning. Long-term catastrophic affects that changing weather and rising temperatures will have on our ecosystems may not be reversible and will be a critical measure of our interdependent environments. This is why we urge you to support Councilman Koretz's motion to implement a Citywide greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 and a Department of Water & Power greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 80% below 1990 levels by 2030.

It is time the City of LA join San Francisco, Boston, New York, Toronto, and Chicago in making this commitment to protect the health and safety of communities, local and regional ecosystems, and the long-term stability of the global climate. In addition to significant health and safety benefits, this move will push our region toward the transition to a clean energy economy based on efficiency, conservation, and renewable energy sources.

We only hope it is not too late.

Sincerely,

Alison Simard
Chair

CC: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti,
LA City Councilmember Felipe Fuentes,
LA City Councilmember Tom LaBonge,
LA City Councilmember Mike Bonin,
LA City Councilmember Joe Buscaino,
LA City Councilmember Jose Huizar,
LA City Councilmember Paul Koretz

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, Inc. (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.