


**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: May 14, 2015

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

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 15-0002-S34
Assignment No: 15-04-0303

SUBJECT: Resolution (Wesson – Price) to support AB 446 (Ridley-Thomas) to repeal the Baldwin Hills Conservancy expiration date.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution (Wesson - Price) to include in the City's 2015-2016 State Legislative Program, SUPPORT of AB 446 (Ridley-Thomas) which would amend the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Act by eliminating the January 1, 2018 repeal date of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, thereby extending the operation of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Act indefinitely.

SUMMARY

In September 2000, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (Conservancy) was established by the enactment of SB 1625: Baldwin Hills Conservancy Act (Act). The Act established the Conservancy in the Natural Resources Agency to benefit the Baldwin Hills area, which encompasses unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County, the City of Culver City, and the City of Los Angeles. Existing law in Section 32580 of the Public Resources Code establishes a repeal date of January 1, 2018 for the Conservancy. AB 446 would eliminate the repeal date and extend the operation of the Act indefinitely.

The Conservancy's mission is to acquire open space and manage public lands within the Baldwin Hills area and to provide recreation, restoration and protection of wildlife habitat within the territory for the public's enjoyment and educational experience. In a predominately park-poor community, the Baldwin Hills area is one of the last remaining open urban spaces in the City.

According to existing law, this unique, urban habitat will continue to be protected with the Conservancy's support through January 1, 2018. To protect this land and enhance the quality of life for the neighboring residents, AB 446 would allow for the Conservancy to continue its work without a repeal date.

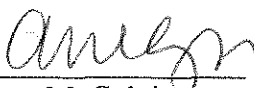
The City has historically shown support for the Conservancy. In 2005, the City opposed RES 12 of the California Performance Review which recommended elimination of the Conservancy. In 2007, the City supported AB 3 which would have extended the Conservancy's repeal date indefinitely. The bill, amended to extend the Conservancy through 2018, was never enacted. However, in 2007, SB 85 was chaptered and the Conservancy's sunset clause was extended from 2008 to 2018.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Department of Recreation and Parks

STATUS OF LEGISLATION

| | |
|---------|---|
| 5/11/15 | Pending in Committee on Appropriations |
| 4/28/15 | Approved in Committee on Natural Resources and Re-Referred to Committee on Appropriations |
| 3/05/15 | Referred to Committee on Natural Resources |
| 2/23/15 | Introduced |



Andrea M. Galvin
Analyst

Attachment: Resolution

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, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Act, enacted in September 2000, established the Baldwin Hills Conservancy in the Natural Resources Agency to benefit the Baldwin Hills area, which encompasses unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County, the City of Culver City, and the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy is to acquire open space and manage public lands within the Baldwin Hills area and to provide recreation, restoration and protection of wildlife habitat within the territory for the public's enjoyment and educational experience; and

WHEREAS, existing law in Section 32580 of the Public Resources Code provides that the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Act remain in effect until January 1, 2018, unless a later statute, enacted before January 1, 2018, deletes or extends that date; and

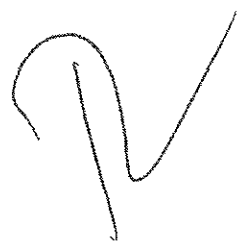
WHEREAS, AB 446 (Ridley-Thomas) would amend the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Act by repealing Section 32580 of the Public Resources Code, to eliminate the January 1, 2018 repeal date and extend the operation of the act indefinitely; and

WHEREAS, the Baldwin Hills area is one of the last remaining open urban areas in the City and it should be preserved as recreation open space for future generations, and the Baldwin Hills Conservancy should remain in effect to enhance the area's natural resources and provide support for its recreational development; and

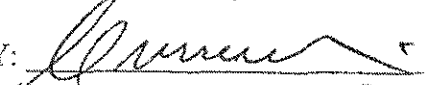
WHEREAS, AB 446 would ensure that the Baldwin Hills Conservancy will remain in effect beyond the existing January 1, 2018 repeal date;

WHEREAS, the Baldwin Hills area residents and visitors would benefit from AB 446 which would allow the Baldwin Hills Conservancy to continue to protect the area for an indefinite amount of time.

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 2015-2016 State Legislative Program to SUPPORT AB 446 (Ridley-Thomas) which would amend the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Act by eliminating the January 1, 2018 repeal date of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, thereby extending the operation of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Act indefinitely.



PRESENTED BY: 
HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY: 

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