

CF-15-0499

ARROYO SECO



FOUNDATION

April 25, 2017

Mayor Garcetti
City Councilmembers
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Letter of Support – Councilmember Koretz’s Biodiversity Motion

Dear Mayor Garcetti, Council President Wesson, and Councilmembers,

The Arroyo Seco Foundation extends its strong support for Councilmember Koretz’s Biodiversity Motion to be heard by the City Council on May 10th, 2017. The motion would implement biodiversity as a criterion for energy and environmental planning and in doing so would help to ensure the potential preservation, accessibility, and restoration of the City’s globally unique ecosystems. Los Angeles is a city within the California Floristic province, a designated global hotspot for biodiversity. As a Mediterranean climate city, Los Angeles is part of a climate type that accounts for little more than 2% of the Earth’s land area but almost 1/5 of its known species¹. Budding interests in environmentalism and sustainability amongst Angelenos calls for an appropriate response from the City that ensures its commitment to upholding sufficient quality of life reforms for future generations.

Renewed importance of urban parks, open space, and native habitat like the Los Angeles River watershed at large stems from the understanding of their value to our communities. Los Angeles has a tremendous diversity of native globally-rare and endangered species, flora and fauna that cannot be found nearly anywhere else in the world. Our City’s plants, animals, and habitat have ineffable cultural, biological, and recreational value, although their livelihoods are likely at stake without appropriate planning considerations enacted by the City. Implementing biodiversity as a criterion for environmental and energy planning would be a pioneering action, and help to guide more-informed infill (re)development as has been successful in cities like Singapore.

We urge you to support Councilmember Koretz’s Biodiversity Motion.

Sincerely,

Tim Brick
Managing Director
Arroyo Seco Foundation

¹ Cowling, Richard M., et al. "Plant diversity in Mediterranean-climate regions." *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 11.9 (1996): 362-366.

UCLA Grand Challenges

Sustainable LA

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April 21, 2017

Los Angeles City Council

Re: UCLA Letter of Support for City of Los Angeles Biodiversity Motion

Dear Los Angeles City Council,

As UCLA's Associate Vice Chancellor for Environment and Sustainability, I strongly support the Biodiversity Motion introduced by Councilman Koretz. The motion's action items are an appropriate first step toward protecting and enhancing the unique and globally significant biodiversity of our region. It also aligns with the vision and research agenda for biodiversity and ecosystem health in our UCLA Sustainable LA Grand Challenge.

The leading journal *BioScience* this month featured a global survey of biodiversity policies and plans across 40 major cities demonstrating the widespread adoption of these types of policies. Members of our University community have first-hand experience in several of these cities, and can attest to the value these programs provide citizens and the environment. In Los Angeles, we are fortunate to combine an exceptional global city with exceptional biodiversity. This motion can set us on the path toward leadership on the topic, and can provide an important contribution toward reshaping our City for sustainability.

Thank you for your attention and we look forward to lending our continued support to biodiversity efforts here in Los Angeles.

Sincerely,



Mark Gold, D.Env.
Associate Vice Chancellor for Environment & Sustainability