



Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573
friendsofgriffithpark.org

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

May 8, 2017

Re: **CF 15-0499**
Biodiversity Motion

Honorable Councilmembers:

Friends of Griffith Park is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization for all of Griffith Park. Our mission is rooted in advocacy, education and service, with priorities to better manage and sustain the park's rich biodiversity. As an urban wildness, Griffith Park will remain an oasis for experiencing nature, for education and for recreational enjoyment. Friends of Griffith Park supports the Biodiversity Motion CF 15-0499.

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity strengthens Los Angeles' distinct character and celebrates its natural heritage by supporting and bringing attention to the unique ecosystems of the California Floristic Province. Griffith Park is an excellent example of the richness of Los Angeles' natural resources. However, protecting habitat should not end with a focus on our parks alone.

As Citizen Science programming has shown, there is an existing wealth of flora and fauna within the vast residential component of the lands of Los Angeles, as well as those which are protected. And Science shows that the connectivity of habitat areas is crucial for genetic variability of species. The problem is not an immediate threat for all fauna and flora species; it's a threat looking decades ahead. Yet, some species are already on the edge and can be considered our indicator species: bobcats, western gray squirrel, mountain lions and western gray fox, and more. Of particular concern are choke points, such as Cahuenga Pass, where undeveloped parcels are critical wildlife corridors.

Because of the recognition that the Los Angeles area is one of the most biodiverse areas on Planet Earth, the City should take leadership in showing our nation that urban living means urban wildlife and rich natural resources in abundance, all part of a vibrant city. It also sets an example that there are reasonable measures which can be supported within the planning framework which can make a difference to our global warming situation.

It is our goal to develop a new generation of stewards who will behave in an environmentally responsible manner and support environmental issues. The City needs a coherent program to protect, restore and enhance the area's unique biodiversity. Friends of Griffith Park urges you to support the biodiversity motion to investigate best practices for the City.

Sincerely,

Marian Dodge

Marian Dodge, President

and



Gerry Hans
Vice President, Science & Conservation