

# THE URBAN WILDLANDS GROUP, INC.

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November 17, 2015

Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee  
Councilmember Paul Koretz, Chair  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: November 18, 2015, Item 10. Council File 15-0843 – Organizations Representing Tenants and Landlords / Solicit Input / Rights to Animal Ownership / Residential Rental Properties (OPPOSE)**

Dear Chair Koretz and Committee Members:

The Urban Wildlands Group is a Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of species, habitats, and ecological processes in urban and urbanizing areas. We have an established and well-known interest in the number of cats that roam at large in the City of Los Angeles.

The changes envisioned in the motion would increase the number of owned pets in the City of Los Angeles. Because the City of Los Angeles does not have a prohibition on roaming for cats, the contemplated changes would increase the number of cats with access to the outdoors in the City, which could have an impact on the environment. Any changes that require landlords to accept cats therefore will require analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to identify, avoid, and mitigate impacts. In addition, please note that the City Attorney has recently been instructed to draft and evaluate under CEQA an ordinance to increase in the number of permitted cats at a premises and the two items should be considered with reference to each other relative to cumulative impacts because they will both increase the number of cats in the City.

Sincerely,



Travis Longcore, Ph.D.  
Science Director