

Communication from Public

Name: Ron Bitzer
Date Submitted: 05/14/2019 05:25 PM
Council File No: 19-0600
Comments for Public Posting: See attachment re Department of Recreation and Parks

Los Angeles City Council
Budget and Finance Committee
City Hall

May 16, 2019 Hearing
Budget Proposal 2019-2020 - Council File 19-0600

Public Comment Statement of Ron Bitzer
Resources Needed to Address Safety at Parks

As a resident of North Hollywood, I ask Councilmembers representing City parks in the San Fernando Valley to reconsider the May 7, 2019 budget memo of the Department of Recreation and Parks (attached) entitled *Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget Impact Question No. 379* ---*Resources Needed to Address Safety at Parks*.

New funding to repair and upgrade parks, protect open space and support recreational programs --- namely County Measure A approved for taxpayer funding in November 2016 --- has been notably cited as an important, but not sole, source of funding for park safety by the General Manager in this memo. He states, "The FY 2019-20 Measure A Expenditure Plan provides for lighting improvements for the parks listed in the plan funding for the remaining parks has not been identified" (Emphasis added).

Councilmember Paul Krekorian and committee members have recommended "No Action" on this park safety request in the 2019-20 budget proposed thus far for The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP).

Reconsideration of this "No Action" decision is appropriate because of several high profile factors affecting park safety in the San Fernando Valley.

1. Criminal behavior and threats of criminal behavior persist in North Hollywood city parks and environs. Since the December 17, 2018 homicide in the parking lot of Valley Plaza Recreation Center, RAP has cancelled an annual community fair and fund raising event reported to be caused by gang activity in the Vanowen Street area.
2. County Measure A funding has been projected to raise \$22.4 million annually for RAP (May 2018 RAP draft motion); the County asserts its own priorities in evaluating some governmental requests increasing on March 5, 2019, for example, the annual allocation of Measure A dollars to 30% (up from 25%) to "high" and "very high" need geographical study areas. Two-thirds of the City study areas (28 of 43) are "high" or "very high" need parks and recreational areas, including North Hollywood (Area 94 is "very high" need).

Both the May 7th RAP budget memo and the vote of the County Board of Supervisors to fund park equity issues -- of which public safety is one -- support this request.

3. City cost recovery allows the City to "charge back" millions of dollars from what otherwise would reported to be an additional \$81 million in the 2019-20 RAP budget. If full funding and termination of cost recovery -- not a new idea -- is not feasible, then priorities must be assigned in the proposed budget with park safety at the top of the list.
4. Budget Advocates of the Neighborhood Councils --- Following an October 30, 2018, meeting with the RAP General Manager, Budget Advocate Noel Williams said, "It is critical that City leaders place the budgetary needs of the Department of Recreation and Parks at the highest level of priority because the wellness of the people of our City is of the utmost importance."
5. Measure A Outreach Requirement for Linguistically-Isolated Communities --- The City of Los Angeles --- by communicating with North Hollywood residents in Spanish --- will satisfy the Tier 1 requirement of the County for Measure A grant requests in North Hollywood (see attached Language Access Requirement).

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
AND PARKS

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(213) 202-2633 FAX (213) 202-2614

May 7, 2019

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee
City Clerk, City Hall Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

ATTN: Andrew Choi, Legislative Assistant

**RE: FISCAL YEAR 2019-20 BUDGET IMPACT QUESTION NO. 379 – RESOURCES
NEEDED TO ADDRESS SAFETY AT PARKS**

Dear Councilmember Krekorian:

The Department of Recreation and Parks has been implementing various infrastructure improvements to parks where funding is available to improve safety conditions at parks. Improvements include electrical upgrades for sports field and security lighting, conversion of existing lighting to LED lighting and installation of security cameras. The Department has also installed security fencing at some City parks. Although these measures provide some solutions, it is not necessarily a City-wide solution. It has been the Department's practice to evaluate the conditions for each park, consult with Los Angeles Police Department for their input, and determine the safety needs for each park.

Potential funding for these improvements are grants funds that allow for these scopes of work, Measure A, and available Quimby/Park Fees in the area. The FY 2019-20 Measure A Expenditure Plan provides for lighting improvements for the parks listed in the plan. Although funding for the remaining parks has not been identified, the Department continues to seek possible grant opportunities.

Lighting our parks is a major priority as we press to increase participation in our recreational programs. Prop 68, measures A, Quimby/Park Fees and partnerships with the Department of Water and Power all offer positive steps toward this effort.



Budget Impact No. 379
May 7, 2019
Page 2

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 202-2633.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL A. SHULL
General Manager

MAS:ndw

cc: Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
Zachia Nazarzai, Office of the Mayor
Terry Sauer, Office of the City Administrative Officer
Jay Shin, Office of the City Administrative Officer
Anthony-Paul (AP) Diaz, Esq., Executive Officer & Chief of Staff, RAP
Ramon Barajas, Assistant General Manager, RAP
Vicki Israel, Assistant General Manager, RAP
Sophia Pina-Cortez, Assistant General Manager, RAP
Noel Williams, Chief Financial Officer, RAP




Language Access Requirements

When conducting community outreach and engagements, cultural and language sensitivities must be considered to encourage participation from groups that typically face barriers and are less likely to participate in public process collaborations.

To ensure truly inclusive practices, all outreach and engagement conducted for Measure A-funded projects must adhere to the language access requirements described in the table below.

The table below identifies the required levels of translation and interpretation services required based on the percentage of linguistically isolated populations speaking a given language within a given Study Area.

Tier	Definition	Requirement
 Tier 1	15% or more of the population is linguistically isolated for any given language	Workshops and any in-person meetings must provide consecutive or simultaneous interpretation services. In addition, all written materials must be translated, including outreach materials, signage, agendas, and all other printed meeting materials.
Tier 2	5–14.9% of the population is linguistically isolated for any given language	Key written materials must be translated, including all printed meeting materials and at least one form of outreach. Workshops and any in-person meetings must provide consecutive or simultaneous interpretation services only if a specific request is received.
Tier 3	1–4.9% of the population is linguistically isolated for any given language	It is recommended (but not required) that outreach materials and printed meeting materials be translated.

Linguistically isolated populations are those that speak English "less than very well," as reported in the U.S. Census 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) Table B16001 "Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over."

Refer to the table on the following pages to determine which languages are spoken by linguistically isolated populations in your Study Area(s), and which requirements apply.

**Measure A Language Access Requirements:
Isolated Languages by Study Area and Tier**

ID	Study Area Name	TIER 1: Language(s) with Isolation of 15% or greater	TIER 2: Language(s) with Isolation of 5 to 14.99%	TIER 3: Language(s) with Isolation of 1 - 4.99%
130	City of LA Mission Hills - Panorama City - North Hills	Spanish		Armenian; Tagalog
94	City of LA North Hollywood - Valley Village	Spanish		Russian; Armenian
183	City of LA Northeast Los Angeles - North	Spanish		Chinese; Tagalog
177	City of LA Northeast Los Angeles - South	Spanish	Chinese	
60	City of LA Northridge		Spanish	Chinese; Korean
105	City of LA Palms - Mar Vista - Del Rey		Spanish	Chinese
27	City of La Puente	Spanish		Chinese; Tagalog
95	City of LA Reseda - West Van Nuys	Spanish		Armenian; Persian; Vietnamese; Tagalog
185	City of LA San Pedro / City of LA Port of Los Angeles / Unincorporated La Rambla		Spanish	
84	City of LA Sherman Oaks - Studio City - Toluca Lake - Cahuenga Pass / Unin. Universal City			Spanish; Russian
138	City of LA Silver Lake - Echo Park - Elysian Valley	Spanish		Chinese; Tagalog
119	City of LA South Los Angeles	Spanish		
163	City of LA Southeast Los Angeles	Spanish		
169	City of LA Southeast Los Angeles - North	Spanish		
120	City of LA Sun Valley - La Tuna Canyon	Spanish		Armenian; Tagalog
139	City of LA Sunland - Tujunga - Lake View Terrace - Shadow Hills		Spanish; Armenian	Korean
96	City of LA Sylmar	Spanish		
61	City of LA Valley Glen - North Sherman Oaks	Spanish		Russian; Armenian
44	City of LA Van Nuys - North Sherman Oaks	Spanish		Armenian
106	City of LA Venice			Spanish
159	City of La Verne / Unincorporated La Verne/ Unincorporated Claremont			Spanish; Chinese
107	City of LA West Adams	Spanish		Korean
146	City of LA West Hills - Woodland Hills / Unin.Canoga Park - West Hills			Spanish; Persian
85	City of LA West Los Angeles			Spanish; Persian; Chinese
67	City of LA Westchester - Playa del Rey / City of LA Los Angeles International Airport			Spanish
147	City of LA Westlake	Spanish	Korean	Tagalog
45	City of LA Westwood / Unincorporated Sawtelle VA Center			Persian; Chinese; Korean
121	City of LA Wilmington - Harbor City / City of LA Port of Los Angeles	Spanish		Korean
68	City of LA Wilshire - Koreatown	Spanish; Korean		Tagalog

Communication from Public

Name: Stephanie Baio

Date Submitted: 05/14/2019 07:19 PM

Council File No: 19-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember Krekorian and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee, As a resident of the wild Studio City hills, home for many creatures, I urge you to to fund wildlife corridors before it is too late! As you know, a large percentage of our natural wildlife habitat was lost in last year's fires, along with a great number of wild animals. In order for wildlife to survive in Los Angeles, habitat connectivity must be a top priority for our city. These animals are irreplaceable. We need to fund the wildlife corridor ordinance and hire a biodiversity expert now. The United Nations warned this week that 1 million species will become extinct if we, the most reckless of all species, refuse to act. This is an unfathomable and stunning proposition. YOU can do something now. Begin at home and provide the means for these wild animals to survive. Protect wildlife diversity by supplying the necessary funding for wildlife corridors and experts who can help to ensure survival for these precious, native Angelenos. It is a miracle to have wildlife and wilderness in the middle of the City of Los Angeles. We must not lose it forever. Please make this a top priority. Sincerely, Stephanie Baio 3636 Goodland Drive Studio City, CA 91604

Communication from Public

Name: Robin Barris

Date Submitted: 05/14/2019 08:27 PM

Council File No: 19-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember Krekorian and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee, As a voter and a resident of the wild Sherman Oaks/Studio City hills, home for many creatures, I urge you to fund our wildlife corridors before it is too late! As you know, a large percentage of our natural wildlife habitat was lost in last year's fires, along with a great number of wild animals. In order for wildlife to survive in Los Angeles, habitat connectivity must be a top priority for our city. These animals are irreplaceable. We need to fund the wildlife corridor ordinance and hire a biodiversity expert now. The United Nations warned this week that 1 million species will become extinct if we, the most reckless of all species, refuse to act. This is an unfathomable and stunning proposition. YOU can do something now. Begin at home and provide the means for these wild animals to survive. Protect wildlife diversity by supplying the necessary funding for wildlife corridors and experts who can help to ensure survival for these precious, native Angelenos. It is a miracle to have wildlife and wilderness in the middle of the City of Los Angeles. We must not lose it forever. Please make this a top priority. Sincerely, Robin Barris Robin Barris

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/14/2019 01:49 PM

Council File No: 19-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember Krekorian and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee, As a resident of the Santa Monica Mountain area in Sherman Oaks, I urge you to to fund wildlife corridors before it is too late! We must protect the natural wildlife habitat of the flora and fauna against the onslaught of airplanes from Burbank airport; from hazardous wildfires, and possible encroachment of other structures and developments into these areas. These trees provide vital oxygen in a world where carbon dioxide continues to increase at an ever alarming rate and climate change adversely affect us all. These animals are a vital part of the ecosystem and must be protected to continue to thrive. All types of birds nesting in our trees and chirping in the morning sunlight; owls hooting at night; wild rabbits who eat my jalapenos; ground squirrels my dog can chase but never catch; deer that walk along my swale; monarch butterflies migrating; lizards sunning themselves on the pavement...even the chipmunks, rats, skunks, racoons and coyotes have a home and role in this wildlife corridor. Many endangered species live in this corridor, including a number of frogs. Say YES to preserving, maintaining and improving this very important habitat, and the ability for all Los Angeles residents to experience as well. We need your support to fund our wildlife and natural habitat today, to ensure it will be there for the future...a future where we need clean air to survive and a safe haven for our wildlife. No-one wants to see animals caged in a zoo...not these animals, when we don't have to. You can help make a difference and let these animals continue to live, breed, flourish and save the planet from losing even more endangered species. Please fund our futures but supporting and funding the wildlife corridors. We need to act today! Thank You

Communication from Public

Name: Kimberly L. Turner

Date Submitted: 05/14/2019 08:59 AM

Council File No: 19-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember Krekorian and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee, As a 31 year resident of the wild Studio City hills, home for many creatures, I urge you to to fund wildlife corridors before it is too late! As you know, a large percentage of our natural wildlife habitat was lost in last year's fires, along with a great number of wild animals. In order for wildlife to survive in Los Angeles, habitat connectivity must be a top priority for our city. These animals are irreplaceable. We need to fund the wildlife corridor ordinance and hire a biodiversity expert now. The United Nations warned this week that 1 million species will become extinct if we, the most reckless of all species, refuse to act. This is an unfathomable and stunning proposition. YOU can do something now. Begin at home, and provide the means for these wild animals to survive. Protect wildlife diversity by supplying the necessary funding for wildlife corridors and experts who can help to ensure survival for these precious, native Angelenos. It is a miracle to have wildlife and wilderness in the middle of the City of Los Angeles. We must not lose it forever. Please make this a top priority. Sincerely, Kimberly Turner 3637 Goodland Ave. Studio City, CA 91604

Communication from Public

Name: J Rothman
Date Submitted: 05/14/2019 11:00 AM
Council File No: 19-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember Krekorian and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee, As a constituent in your district I urge you to fund wildlife corridors before it is too late. As you know, a large percentage of our natural wildlife habitat was lost in last year's fires, along with a great number of wild animals. In order for wildlife to survive in Los Angeles, habitat connectivity must be a top priority for our city. These animals are irreplaceable. We need to fund the wildlife corridor ordinance and hire a biodiversity expert now. Los Angeles is a rare city in which we have such habitats amidst us, and it is your duty both as our representative and as a steward for the community and the planet on which we live to take action to protect this most precious habitat and wildlife. The United Nations recently warned that 1 million species will become extinct if we fail to take action. You have an opportunity to be a leader on this issue locally. Please stand up and allocate funds to protect wildlife diversity here in Los Angeles, by supplying the necessary funding for wildlife corridors and experts who can help to ensure survival for these precious, native species that live here in Los Angeles with us. Your choice today will have a far-reaching impact on what L.A. and the Earth look like in the future, and frankly the survival of entire species may rest in your hands. Please act to protect funding for these important habitats and wildlife corridors. Sincerely,
Jennifer Rothman CD2 Constituent

Communication from Public

Name: S Boyd

Date Submitted: 05/14/2019 08:36 AM

Council File No: 19-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember Krekorian and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee, I am a 12 year resident of the Studio City foothills, home for so much wildlife, not only run of the mill coyotes and deer, but also many threatened and declining species. I urge you to fund wildlife corridors before it is too late for these delicate creatures that we share Los Angeles with. In order for wildlife (in particular the non-flying kind) to survive in Los Angeles, habitat connectivity is essential. Wildlife corridors must be a top priority for our city. These animals are irreplaceable. Many of them need as large a connected habitat as possible for maximum health, breeding options, and genetic diversity - all of which ensures their survival. We need YOU to fund the wildlife corridor ordinance and hire a biodiversity expert now. Our City, with your help, can do something now. Protect wildlife diversity by supplying the necessary funding for wildlife corridors and experts who can help to ensure survival for these precious, native Angelenos. It is a blessing to have so much wildlife and wilderness in the middle of the City of Los Angeles. It is what makes our City great. Please do not lose sight of this when you make your budget decisions. Thank you, Sarah Boyd 12 yr Studio City resident, 19 yr CD2 constituent.