

Communication from Public

Name: Debbie L Kinsinger
Date Submitted: 06/08/2020 09:02 PM
Council File No: 20-0105
Comments for Public Posting: Errata for Fred Gains' statement. Stephanie Remington did a study for Friends of Griffith Park not the Natural History Museum of LA County.

Communication from Public

Name: Jiah Miesel
Date Submitted: 06/08/2020 01:43 PM
Council File No: 20-0105
Comments for Public Posting: Executive Office of Epic World Media Public Comment

Epic World Media

June 7, 2020

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street, Room 272
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Council members,

My name is Jiah Miesel. As a former San Diego Earth Day founding director, I've made it part of my life purpose to protect our native pollinators including bats, bumblebees, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds. Since 1990 and 1991 when we initiated the very first celebration of Earth Day, we've had over 50,000 to 60,000 people in Balboa Park annually. Since that time, and now more urgently than ever when bats are under attack globally due to misplaced blame for the pandemic, we need to protect our pollinators at all costs.

Bats are important to California's fruit and nut crops, by consuming agricultural pests like certain exotic moths. Across the southern deserts of the U.S., bats provide the cross-pollination that maintains genetic diversity for important native flowering plants like yucca, agave, evening primrose, and honeysuckle. In Baja California, the native Cordon cactus (*Pachycereus pringlei*) bears a juicy sweet red fruit that is pollinated by the lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris yerbabuenae*) a fruit eating species. In a surprising outcome of a [U.C. Santa Cruz pollination study](#), researchers found that the pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) an insect eating species, outpaced the lesser long-nosed bat as a pollinator of the cordon delivering 13 times as much pollen per visit. The pallid bat is a rare species of urban Los Angeles, [documented](#) by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles California (NHMLAC) to fly over the La Brea tar pits on a regular basis.

Extinctions of species are forever. Local extirpations could have profound and unexpected impacts, as in the 2012 study cited above where at least one species of insect eating bat is now known to be a primary pollinator. We're losing more and more critical species everyday where we don't yet understand their life history and its effect on our well-being, especially in the urban environment where rare and sensitive species are less studied and more threatened. It's a grave mistake to do anything moving forward without considering the potential for impacts to bats, something that appears to be systematically overlooked in Los Angeles. I've just learned that two bat colonies were recently extirpated from warehouses in the general area of the Bay Street Mixed Use project.

I will contribute anything within my power to bring attention to this worthy issue and engage the media, as I did with San Diego Earth Day and when I created International Whale Day to protect whales and dolphins, in the San Ignacio Lagoon. Mitsubishi gave up on their plans to build a salt works in the lagoon as a result of our campaign. Senator Edward Kennedy, of Massachusetts, in 1999, said of our campaign that it was "the most successful environmental campaign in recorded history".

Sincerely,

Jiah Miesel

Jiah Miesel
Executive Director
EPIC WORLD MEDIA

1345 Encinitas Blvd #521, Encinitas, California 92024