

Communication from Public

Name: Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance steering board

Date Submitted: 05/08/2020 07:00 AM

Council File No: 20-0600

Comments for Public Posting: If there is any lesson many of us in the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance have learned over the course of the coronavirus pandemic, it is that we have to be forward-thinking and prepare for what we know will come; we ignore predicted crises at our peril. In that vein, we object to the proposed budget as described in Council File 20-0600, and we support Council File 20-0482, to classify as essential emergency services any efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions. Unfortunately, the climate crisis will not wait on hold while we address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, and although we expect to see some cuts to climate mitigation programs in order to close the budget gap caused by the projected drop in revenue and unexpected costs due to the pandemic, those programs should not be eliminated; we do not want you to repeat the mistake made by the Trump administration in disbanding the Office of Global Health Security and Biodefense prior to the pandemic. Specifically, our concerns include: • the elimination of the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization, the Climate Emergency Commission, and Community Assemblies (all of which were just about to launch, and which would have engaged low-income communities, who are particularly vulnerable to the climate crisis as well as this pandemic, in a just transition to a sustainable economy) • the elimination of the Wildlife Pilot Study, which protects habitat connectivity • reductions in funding for protection and maintenance of existing mature trees throughout the city—now more than ever, we need to protect the lungs of Los Angeles We have known about and felt the effects of the escalating climate crisis for many years—each year breaking new records with more extreme weather and wildfires. Although the speed at which we are experiencing the impacts of these two crises is different, make no mistake that the climate crisis is causing increasing numbers of human deaths. To continue to react to short-term threats while postponing, or outright ignoring, whole-system issues is near-sighted and dangerous. Far better would be to treat the immediate crisis as a part of our overall strategy for dealing with the larger one that we know will be a multi-generational, global endeavor. This is a painful time, but we do not want to return to the way things were; we want to do better. And this budget is, at the end of the day, a statement of our values.



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

May 7, 2020

Re: Council Files 20-0482 (climate as essential services) and 20-0600 (proposed budget)

Dear Mayor Garcetti and the City Council:

If there is any lesson many of us in the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance have learned over the course of the coronavirus pandemic, it is that we have to be forward-thinking and prepare for what we know will come; we ignore predicted crises at our peril. In that vein, we object to the proposed budget as described in Council File 20-0600, and we support Council File 20-0482, to classify as essential emergency services any efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions.

Unfortunately, the climate crisis will not wait on hold while we address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, and although we expect to see some cuts to climate mitigation programs in order to close the budget gap caused by the projected drop in revenue and unexpected costs due to the pandemic, those programs should not be eliminated; we do not want you to repeat the mistake made by the Trump administration in disbanding the Office of Global Health Security and Biodefense prior to the pandemic.

Specifically, our concerns include:

- the elimination of the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization, the Climate Emergency Commission, and Community Assemblies (all of which were just about to launch, and which would have engaged low-income communities, who are particularly vulnerable to the climate crisis as well as this pandemic, in a just transition to a sustainable economy)
- the elimination of the Wildlife Pilot Study, which protects habitat connectivity
- reductions in funding for protection and maintenance of existing mature trees throughout the city—now more than ever, we need to protect the lungs of Los Angeles

We have known about and felt the effects of the escalating climate crisis for many years—each year breaking new records with more extreme weather and wildfires. Although the speed at which we are experiencing the impacts of these two crises is different, make no mistake that the climate crisis is causing increasing numbers of human deaths. To continue to react to short-term threats while postponing, or outright ignoring, whole-system issues is near-sighted and dangerous. Far better would be to treat the immediate crisis as a part of our overall strategy for dealing with the larger one that we know will be a multi-generational, global endeavor.

This is a painful time, but we do not want to return to the way things were; we want to do better. And this budget is, at the end of the day, a statement of our values.

Sincerely,

Steering Board Members of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelley".

Shelley Billik

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Duggins".

Don Duggins

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Hart".

Lisa Hart

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernesto Hidalgo".

Ernesto Hidalgo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorraine L. Lundquist".

Lorraine Lundquist

Communication from Public

Name: Fent

Date Submitted: 05/07/2020 02:30 PM

Council File No: 20-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Mayor Eric Garcetti City of Los Angeles 200 NH. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 RE: Opposition to 2019/20 Open Budget Termination of the Wildlife Pilot Study (CF 20- 0600) Dear Mayor Garcetti, I urge you to continue funding The Wildlife Pilot Study (HWSP). It is the only city program seeking to provide a scientific basis for planning for the future of the connectivity of flora and fauna in the Santa Monica mountains and Griffith Park. The Wildlife Pilot Study is a crucial lifeline for the city's future as a healthy, wonderful, and beautiful place to live. As the pandemic is showing the world, life is all interconnected. Scientific understanding of our natural world, and our very survival, is under grave threat from our federal government slashing science programs. I urge you to protect this small yet crucial, natural science program. Maryvonne P. Fent

Maryvonne P. Fent
6050 Rodgerton Drive
Hollywood, CA 90068

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City of Los Angeles
200 NH. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Opposition to 2019/20 Open Budget Termination of the Wildlife Pilot Study
(CF 20-
0600)

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

I urge you to continue funding The Wildlife Pilot Study (HWSP). It is the only city program seeking to provide a scientific basis for planning for the future of the connectivity of flora and fauna in the Santa Monica mountains and Griffith Park.

Los Angeles, with the Santa Monica Mountains and Griffith Park, is unique to any city in the United States. However, it's under grave threat from climate change and development.

The Wildlife Pilot Study is a crucial lifeline for the city's future as a healthy, wonderful, and beautiful place to live. As the pandemic is showing the world, life is all interconnected. Scientific understanding of our natural world, and our very survival, is under grave threat from our federal government slashing science programs.

I urge you to protect this small yet crucial, natural science program.

Pandemics, climate change, sustainability, prosperity, and quality of life are all connected. The city can best plan and protect our future by promoting scientific understanding of our fragile flora and fauna. Please, support the Wildlife Pilot Study.

All the best,
Maryvonne P. Fent

Communication from Public

Name: Center for Biological Diversity

Date Submitted: 05/08/2020 01:58 PM

Council File No: 20-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers, Please see the attached letter from the Center for Biological Diversity in opposition to the removal of the Wildlife Pilot Study from the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget Proposal. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter. -J.P. J.P. Rose Urban Wildlands Staff Attorney
CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 660 S. Figueroa Street
#1000 Los Angeles, CA 90017 Cell: (408) 497-7675 Office: (213) 785-5406 Twitter: @JPRose5 jrose@biologicaldiversity.org



May 8, 2020

Sent via email

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
City Hall - Room 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012
CityClerk@lacity.org

Re: Opposition to 2019/20 Open Budget Termination of the Wildlife Pilot Study (CF 20-0600)

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers:

As the authors of the [Petition](#) to List the Southern California/Central Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) of Mountain Lions as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), we strongly oppose the removal of the Wildlife Pilot Study from the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget Proposal. Eliminating the Wildlife Pilot Study would undermine the City's efforts to protect local mountain lions and other wildlife and contradict Mayor Garcetti's commitment to a Green New Deal.

Background on the Center

The Center for Biological Diversity ("Center") is a non-profit, public interest environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has over 1.7 million members and online activists throughout California and the United States. The Center and its members have worked for many years to protect imperiled plants and wildlife, open space, air and water quality, and overall quality of life for people in Los Angeles.

Local mountain lions are at risk of extinction due to lack of connectivity.

As you may know, local mountain lions are at risk of extinction, and extensive research indicates that existing highway and development networks have separated the state's mountain lion population into multiple isolated populations, which has led to high levels of inbreeding and poor genetic health (Ernest et al. 2014; Riley et al. 2014; Vickers et al. 2015; Gustafson et al. 2018; Benson et al. 2019). Low genetic diversity combined with high human-caused mortalities (e.g., from car strikes, depredation kills, rodenticide poisoning, and poaching) threaten the long-term survival of several populations, particularly smaller populations in Southern California and along the Central Coast.

According to Gustafson et al. (2018), mountain lions in the Santa Ana and Santa Monica mountains have the lowest genetic diversity of any mountain lion populations in the U.S., aside from endangered Florida panthers. Lack of connectivity is the primary driver of these

populations' demise. If nothing is done to improve connectivity and reduce human-caused mortalities, these populations could become extinct within 50 years (Benson et al. 2019). Mountain lions in the Santa Cruz Mountains are showing similar trends of genetic isolation and inbreeding (Gustafson et al. 2018; Saremi et al. 2019).

There is broad public support for wildlife connectivity and local mountain lions.

Given the perilous situation of local mountain lions, the California Fish and Game Commission voted on April 16, 2020 to grant Southern California and Central Coast mountain lions candidate species status under the California Endangered Species Act. The unanimous vote came after nearly [one hundred organizations](#) signed a letter supporting the vote, thousands of community members wrote to the commission, and the editorial board of the *Los Angeles Times* [wrote in favor](#) of the listing, as did former State Senator and chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, [Fran Pavley](#). City Councilmembers Paul Koretz, David Ryu, and Bob Blumenfield also introduced a resolution supporting the listing of mountain lions and acknowledging that functioning and healthy ecosystems are essential to the continued health and well-being of Angelenos and human beings around the world.

Safeguarding wildlife connectivity and mountain lions requires immediate city action.

Ensuring wildlife connectivity for mountain lions and other species will take sustained action at the local level. This is particularly true because local government generally has land use authority. Neighboring Ventura County recently adopted a first-of-its-kind wildlife connectivity ordinance to help ensure that local land use decisions do not impair connectivity for local wildlife. The City of L.A. can and should be a leader on this issue and continue to fund the Wildlife Pilot Study. Ending the Wildlife Pilot Study now would undermine the City's role as a leader in promoting healthy ecosystems and communities.

We understand the City must make difficult financial decisions during these challenging times. However, shortchanging local wildlife – which are critical to the health of both our communities and ecosystems – is foolish and counterproductive. We urge you to include the Wildlife Pilot Study in next year's budget.

Sincerely,



Dr. Tiffany Yap, D.Env/PhD
Senior Scientist, Wildlife Corridor Advocate
Center for Biological Diversity
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Oakland, California 94612
Telephone: (510) 847-5838
tyap@biologicaldiversity.org



J.P. Rose
Staff Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity
660 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 1000
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 785-5406
jrose@biologicaldiversity.org

References

- Benson, J. F., Mahoney, P. J., Vickers, T. W., Sikich, J. A., Beier, P., Riley, S. P. D., ... Boyce, W. M. (2019). Extinction vortex dynamics of top predators isolated by urbanization. *Ecological Applications*, 0(0), e01868.
- Ernest, H. B., Vickers, T. W., Morrison, S. A., Buchalski, M. R., & Boyce, W. M. (2014). Fractured genetic connectivity threatens a Southern California puma (*Puma concolor*) population. *PLoS ONE*, 9(10).
- Gustafson, K. D., Gagne, R. B., Vickers, T. W., Riley, S. P. D., Wilmers, C. C., Bleich, V. C., ... Ernest, H. B. (2018). Genetic source–sink dynamics among naturally structured and anthropogenically fragmented puma populations. *Conservation Genetics*, 20(2), 215–227.
- Riley, S. P. D., Serieys, L. E. K., Pollinger, J. P., Sikich, J. A., Dalbeck, L., Wayne, R. K., & Ernest, H. B. (2014). Individual behaviors dominate the dynamics of an urban mountain lion population isolated by roads. *Current Biology*, 24(17), 1989–1994.
- Vickers, T. W., Sanchez, J. N., Johnson, C. K., Morrison, S. A., Botta, R., Smith, T., ... Boyce, W. M. (2015). Survival and mortality of pumas (*Puma concolor*) in a fragmented, urbanizing landscape. *PLoS ONE*, 10(7), 1–18.

Communication from Public

Name: Snowdy Dodson, Co-President CNPS LA/SMM Chapter
Date Submitted: 05/08/2020 04:02 PM
Council File No: 20-0600
Comments for Public Posting: CNPS Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mntns Chapter input to the Wildlife Pilot Study funding (CF-20-600)

**Calif. Native Plant Society
Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter
15811 Leadwell St., Van Nuys, CA 91406
May 8, 2020**

**Mayor Eric Garcetti
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

RE: Opposition to 2019/20 Open Budget Termination of the Wildlife Pilot Study (CF 20-0600)

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

On behalf of the California Native Plant Society, Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter, I am writing to express our dismay regarding the elimination of funding for LA's Wildlife Pilot Study when a draft ordinance is only a few months away. Although we understand the difficult financial decisions necessitated by the current virus pandemic, we feel that it would be unwise to lose the momentum we have gained in reaching the City's sustainability and environmental protection goals. The Wildlife Pilot Study would be a key step in furthering those goals.

I would like to state upfront that it is our Chapter's position to advocate for preserving all possible open space within the City. Such spaces and their resident native flora provide the necessary habitat and food to sustain the native animals we are so lucky to have in our midst. They are also prime centers of carbon sequestration and are part of the wildlife corridors that are key to the safe travel/migration of our urban fauna. The Wildlife Pilot Study would be a start to creating frontline protection for creatures such as P-22 and their habitat in the very heart of the Santa Monica Mountains within our City limits.

The California Native Plant Society is a state-wide organization of over 10,000 members dedicated to the preservation, conservation and enjoyment of California native plants and their habitats. The Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter is one of 35 regional chapters located in the state. For many years, we have worked tirelessly to protect the native flora and preserve open natural spaces in our area and oppose any efforts to enable unsustainable development in the region.

Sincerely

**Snowdy Dodson, Chapter Co-President
818-782-9346 snowdy.dodson@csun.edu
Cc: City Council Members; CLAW (Tucci)**

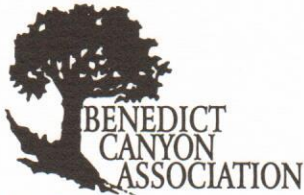
Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/08/2020 04:18 PM

Council File No: 20-0600

Comments for Public Posting: See attached from Benedict Canyon Association.



P.O. Box 1265
Beverly Hills, California 90213-1265

May 8, 2020

VIA EMAIL mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles CA 90012

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

I am writing to urge you not to defund the Wildlife Pilot Study. The Wildlife Pilot Study, which was originally funded in 2018 had the strong support of our Association from its inception. It is close to becoming a drafted ordinance and we urge you not to allow all the time and effort that has been spent on this landmark project to go to waste.

Los Angeles is an extraordinary mix of urban and wild, humans and wildlife. We are the only major U.S. city with a mountain range running through its center. People from throughout the city come to enjoy its treasures; they come to visit the Getty Center, they come to the Greek Theater, they visit the Zoo, and they come to enjoy the views, but most of all, they come to get away from the concrete city. They come to enjoy the fresh air, the trees, the natural environment, and to hike on the many trails that are found throughout the Santa Monica Mountains. The challenge is to find a way for us to meet all these demands while still allowing the wildlife to flourish.

L.A.'s Green New Deal is supposed to address climate change and we cannot address climate change in this city in a serious way without addressing the overall health of our ecosystem – its trees, plants and wildlife. The pilot study seeks to develop a set of regulations for hillside neighborhoods in the Santa Monica Mountains that could inform future citywide policies. These regulations would enhance connectivity and preserve biological and biodiversity value while balancing urban development.

You were correct when you said that "There is literally no time to waste – because what we do in the next ten years will determine the health of our planet..." This is not the time to cut the Wildlife Pilot Study from the Budget. More than ever, the people of this City deserve to have a place where people and wildlife can coexist.

Sincerely,

Nicole Miner
President,
Benedict Canyon Association

cc: Members of the Los Angeles City Council
Mike Feur, Los Angeles City Attorney

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/08/2020 04:33 PM

Council File No: 20-0600

Comments for Public Posting: See attached

California Native Plant Society

Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter
15811 Leadwell St., Van Nuys, CA 91406
May 8, 2020

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Sincerely


Snowy Dodson, Chapter Co-President
818-782-9346 snowdy.dodson@csun.edu
Cc: City Council Members; CLAW (Tucci)



Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

