

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Zach

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 03:48 PM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** We know you face difficult choices every day that impact the well-being of Angelenos, including how to manage a budget deficit provoked by pandemic-induced economic shutdown. We must prepare our city for inevitable crises of the future -- both other pandemics predicted to be more common and the impacts of climate change, which in the long term, unless serious mitigation efforts are undertaken immediately, will be far more severe than COVID-19. I urge you to protect funding for the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO), the Climate Emergency Commission (CEC), and Community Assemblies be fully protected in the 2020-21 budget.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Shona Ganguly

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 03:40 PM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** On behalf of the California Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wildlife Pilot Study (Council File 20-0600). The Conservancy recognizes that the City of Los Angeles is forced to make difficult financial decisions during these unprecedented times as it prepares an emergency budget. However, we believe that it would be detrimental to the health of our human and natural communities in the region to remove funding for Los Angeles' Wildlife Pilot Study, when a draft ordinance related to this study will soon be introduced as the culmination of years of investment to make Los Angeles more resilient, especially to the ongoing climate-driven crises we are experiencing. We are deeply concerned that without this Wildlife Pilot Study, the City will not be on track to adopt permanent environmental protections and investments in habitat connectivity, which better prepare our region for disasters including wildfire, flood, and sea-level rise. The Conservancy commends the City for actively evaluating options for protecting and enhancing biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and wildlife corridors in Los Angeles, which is located in a Mediterranean-climate region. Mediterranean-climate regions cover only 2.2 percent of Earth's land surface, yet they contain 20 percent of all known plant species, have high levels of endemism, and are found in only five places on Earth. Unfortunately, Mediterranean ecosystems are also among the most threatened. More than 41 percent of the Mediterranean biome has been converted to farmland and urban uses, and only 5 percent of its natural area has been protected. In Greater Los Angeles, the valleys have been developed for residential, commercial and industrial use and many natural riparian corridors have been channelized. However, the Conservancy found through our analyses that research grade occurrence data exists for over 2,281 unique plants, animals, and other living organisms within the urbanized portions of Greater Los Angeles, and even the most densely urbanized neighborhoods contain hundreds of species. We have mapped out where nature-based solutions for stormwater management could provide multiple benefits, not just for water quality and storage, but also for biodiversity and human well-being. Despite extensive development, some of the region's biological diversity and important ecological values remain, as do

opportunities for habitat enhancement and ecological restoration that will benefit nature and people. Our current work on the ground includes a nature-based stormwater capture and habitat enhancement project at the Bowtie Parcel near the Los Angeles River, where we are working with California State Parks to demonstrate how investment in major infrastructure projects can meet multiple needs and address important challenges facing our local communities. We believe that this work will become increasingly important for all urban areas as we seek new ways to address both existing and emerging crises. The Conservancy strongly supports other studies and projects that restore habitat to support biodiversity in this region, including the Wildlife Pilot Study. The Conservancy has provided input to the biodiversity working group since 2015 and has participated in the stakeholder process to raise the profile of biodiversity and wildlife connectivity in Greater Los Angeles. The Conservancy strongly supports a program to protect, restore, and enhance biodiversity in Greater Los Angeles. The Conservancy has also contributed to the City of Los Angeles Sustainable City pLAN, championing a biodiversity strategy. The Wildlife Pilot Study recognizes the need for habitat connectivity across the region, and the Conservancy strongly supports the implementation of this study in Los Angeles. To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity, it must be integrated across City departments, into strategies, and into practices and prioritized in the budget. To pull funding for the Wildlife Pilot Study would contradict the City's goals for a 'prosperous, livable, safe and well-run' city as heralded in the 2019/20 open budget for the City of Los Angeles and runs contrary to related work and investments currently supported on city, state, and federal levels. The Wildlife Pilot Study must continue to be an important priority, even in times of crisis, because it implements the City's immediate goals for the health and sustainability of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems of Los Angeles. If anything, now is the time to expand the study citywide and support an inter-departmental approach to both funding and implementation of this important work. This could not only spread budgetary concerns across multiple funding sources but also broaden and increase impact. In closing, the Conservancy opposes the termination of the Wildlife Pilot Study in the City Budget.

May 8, 2020

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

RE: Opposition to 2019/2020 Open Budget Termination of the Wildlife Pilot Study (Council File 20-0600)

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

On behalf of the California Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wildlife Pilot Study (Council File 20-0600). The Conservancy recognizes that the City of Los Angeles is forced to make difficult financial decisions during these unprecedented times as it prepares an emergency budget. However, we believe that it would be detrimental to the health of our human and natural communities in the region to remove funding for Los Angeles' Wildlife Pilot Study, when a draft ordinance related to this study will soon be introduced as the culmination of years of investment to make Los Angeles more resilient, especially to the ongoing climate-driven crises we are experiencing. We are deeply concerned that without this Wildlife Pilot Study, the City will not be on track to adopt permanent environmental protections and investments in habitat connectivity, which better prepare our region for disasters including wildfire, flood, and sea-level rise.

The Nature Conservancy is an international non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Our on-the-ground work is carried out in all 50 states and in more than 79 countries and is supported by one million members. To date, we have helped conserve more than 120 million acres (including 1.2 million acres in California) and 5,000 river miles around the world. We have been engaged in the protection and management of natural resources across the U.S. for many years. The foundation of the Conservancy's work is our commitment to using the most up-to-date conservation science information and methodologies to guide decision-making. Our tools and methods have been widely adopted by other organizations and agencies that engage in natural resource conservation and ecosystem restoration.

The Conservancy commends the City for actively evaluating options for protecting and enhancing biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and wildlife corridors in Los Angeles, which is located in a Mediterranean-climate region. Mediterranean-climate regions cover only 2.2 percent of Earth's land surface, yet they contain 20 percent of all known plant species, have high levels of endemism, and are found in only five places on Earth. Unfortunately, Mediterranean ecosystems are also among the most threatened. More than 41 percent of the Mediterranean biome has been converted to farmland and urban uses, and only 5 percent of its natural area has been protected. In Greater Los Angeles, the valleys have been developed for residential, commercial and industrial use and many natural riparian corridors have been channelized. However, the Conservancy found through our analyses that research grade occurrence data exists for over 2,281 unique plants, animals, and other living organisms within the urbanized portions of Greater Los Angeles, and even the most densely urbanized neighborhoods contain hundreds of species. We have mapped out where nature-based solutions for stormwater management could provide multiple benefits, not just for water quality and storage, but also for

biodiversity and human well-being. Despite extensive development, some of the region's biological diversity and important ecological values remain, as do opportunities for habitat enhancement and ecological restoration that will benefit nature and people. Our current work on the ground includes a nature-based stormwater capture and habitat enhancement project at the Bowtie Parcel near the Los Angeles River, where we are working with California State Parks to demonstrate how investment in major infrastructure projects can meet multiple needs and address important challenges facing our local communities. We believe that this work will become increasingly important for all urban areas as we seek new ways to address both existing and emerging crises. The Conservancy strongly supports other studies and projects that restore habitat to support biodiversity in this region, including the Wildlife Pilot Study.

The Conservancy has provided input to the biodiversity working group since 2015 and has participated in the stakeholder process to raise the profile of biodiversity and wildlife connectivity in Greater Los Angeles. The Conservancy strongly supports a program to protect, restore, and enhance biodiversity in Greater Los Angeles. The Conservancy has also contributed to the City of Los Angeles Sustainable City pLAN, championing a biodiversity strategy. The Wildlife Pilot Study recognizes the need for habitat connectivity across the region, and the Conservancy strongly supports the implementation of this study in Los Angeles. To protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity, it must be integrated across City departments, into strategies, and into practices and prioritized in the budget.

To support the goals of the Wildlife Pilot Study, the Conservancy and our partners in the conservation community have developed a vision and plan for incorporating nature-based solutions into infrastructure projects and avoiding status quo gray infrastructure design, which includes our joint effort with the Natural History Museum called Biodiversity Analysis in Los Angeles (BAILA). BAILA is a spatially explicit science analysis that is flexible enough to allow for its application in a variety of urban planning efforts (i.e. stormwater, transportation, energy, or land-use planning, public health, or environmental justice planning). The Conservancy has engaged a range of stakeholders in the production of the BAILA methodology and products, and has shared these with other stakeholders to build consensus for the vision with the support of a National Park Service RTCA Technical Assistance Grant.

The Conservancy has been working closely with local, state, and federal government for many years to protect our natural resources, particularly by supporting Los Angeles County Measures A (Parks and Open Space) and W (Safe Clean Water Program), California Propositions 1 and 68, the Water Resources Development Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund, San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act, and Rim of the Valley. When the City Council unanimously voted for the Wildlife Pilot Study ordinance in 2012, Los Angeles was lauded nationally for its leadership in urban wilderness conservation. The Los Angeles Times editorial board has praised the move, and there has been zero opposition. Last year, for the first time, the City hired an ecologist to lend scientific analysis to the Planning Department and to work across departments to permanently protect our fragile land. In April 2020, our regional mountain lions gained candidacy for protection under the California Endangered Species Act. Scientists, California State officials, and the public have reached a consensus that our iconic mountain lions deserve candidacy as they are facing extirpation from the Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains. With input from residents, staff, and the scientific community, the Wildlife Pilot Study is near the finish line of becoming frontline protection for these cougars and their habitat in the heart of Los Angeles. While the Green New Deal is a great step towards curbing future human impact on our environment, the City is currently underequipped to conserve the dwindling habitat and threatened environment of today. One valuable benefit of an implemented Wildlife Pilot Study is that the protected wildlife corridors serve to broaden and mitigate with buffer zones to help

protect hillside homes from wildfires, while also protecting connective habitat for our local fauna. This protection of environment, life, and property is but one example of the urgency and imminent need to continue to fund the Wildlife Pilot Study.

To pull funding for the Wildlife Pilot Study would contradict the City's goals for a 'prosperous, livable, safe and well-run' city as heralded in the 2019/20 open budget for the City of Los Angeles and runs contrary to related work and investments currently supported on city, state, and federal levels. The Wildlife Pilot Study must continue to be an important priority, even in times of crisis, because it implements the City's immediate goals for the health and sustainability of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems of Los Angeles. If anything, now is the time to expand the study citywide and support an inter-departmental approach to both funding and implementation of this important work. This could not only spread budgetary concerns across multiple funding sources but also broaden and increase impact.

In closing, the Conservancy opposes the termination of the Wildlife Pilot Study in the City Budget. We look forward to supporting the City of Los Angeles as planning and implementation hopefully continues. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments. Please direct questions to Shona Ganguly, External Affairs Advisor, at [sganguly@tnc.org](mailto:sganguly@tnc.org) or please call 213-787-9415.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Sourial".

Jill Sourial  
Urban Conservation Program Director  
The Nature Conservancy

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Eric Romann

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 04:52 PM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I know you face difficult choices every day that impact the well-being of Angelenos, including how to manage a budget deficit provoked by pandemic-induced economic shutdown. We must prepare our city for inevitable crises of the future -- both other pandemics predicted to be more common and the impacts of climate change, which in the long term could be more severe than COVID-19. I urge the City Council and the Mayor to fully protect funding for the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO), the Climate Emergency Commission (CEC), and Community Assemblies in the 2020-21 budget. Our Leap LA coalition partners have worked with Council on this issue over the last two years and we are eager to see it move forward. Eric Romann Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles STAND-LA

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Linda Parks

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 12:22 PM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** RE: Opposition to 2019/20 Open Budget Termination of the Wildlife Pilot Study (Council File 20-0600) Dear Mayor Garcetti and City of Los Angeles Councilmembers, You are doing an excellent job leading Los Angeles out of the pandemic. I doubt you hear that enough, but it is true! Recognizing that the COVID 19 pandemic has been a tremendous blow to all of our finances, I know the City of Los Angeles must now make major budget adjustments, and cutting is hard. I am writing to ask that in those cuts, you spare the relatively small amount allocated to Los Angeles' Wildlife Pilot Study. It is no doubt a challenge to balance the very immediate need for economic relief with longer-term environmental protections, but actions today can make all the difference to the survivability of wildlife in our shared and treasured Santa Monica Mountains. I am concerned that the decision to cut the City's Wildlife Pilot Study will set our region back on efforts to ensure wildlife connectivity and result in further preventable loss of wildlife, including to the threatened Santa Monica Mountain mountain lions. The City has come so far in wildlife connectivity efforts, with a draft ordinance just months away! Please reconsider your decision and continue the effort for an ordinance that will support long-term sustainability goals for the City, and regional safeguards to wildlife. Our County recently adopted its own Wildlife Corridor Zone that would be enhanced at our shared border because as we know, wildlife don't recognize jurisdictional boundaries. New research published in 2019 in the journal Ecological Society of America warns that due to inbreeding, the Santa Monica Mountains population of mountain lions could be extinct in 15 years. Pro-active protections that preserve existing natural corridors and improve habitat connectivity for these far-ranging cougars is vital for their survival. Threats such as toxic rodenticides, vehicle strikes, depredations, wildfires, inbreeding and increasing isolation due to freeways and urban encroachment are all contributing to the untimely deaths, genetic bottlenecking, and habitat loss of these apex predators and other native wildlife. Ventura County through adoption of its award-winning habitat connectivity and wildlife corridor ordinance, its reduction in use of anticoagulant rodenticides, and its unanimous support of the wildlife bridge at Liberty Canyon on the 101 freeway and other initiatives, has



prioritized protection of mountain lions and other native flora and fauna. Continuing funding for the Wildlife Pilot Study will give this species the prioritization that it requires, as just last month the Fish and Game Commission approved a full status review and advanced Southern California and Central Coast mountain lions to candidacy under the California Endangered Species Act. I urge you to continue funding the Wildlife Pilot Study and include it in next year's budget, to support and ensure the sustainability and climate change resiliency of wildlife in the greater Los Angeles area. Sincerely, Linda Parks County of Ventura Supervisor, District 2



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(805) 214-2510  
FAX: (805) 480-0585  
E-mail: [Linda.Parks@ventura.org](mailto:Linda.Parks@ventura.org)

May 11, 2020

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

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

Dear Mayor Garcetti and City of Los Angeles Councilmembers,

You are doing an excellent job leading Los Angeles out of the pandemic. I doubt you hear that enough, but it is true!

Recognizing that the COVID 19 pandemic has been a tremendous blow to all of our finances, I know the City of Los Angeles must now make major budget adjustments, and cutting is hard. I am writing to ask that in those cuts, you spare the relatively small amount allocated to Los Angeles' Wildlife Pilot Study. It is no doubt a challenge to balance the very immediate need for economic relief with longer-term environmental protections, but actions today can make all the difference to the survivability of wildlife in our shared and treasured Santa Monica Mountains.

I am concerned that the decision to cut the City's Wildlife Pilot Study will set our region back on efforts to ensure wildlife connectivity and result in further preventable loss of wildlife, including to the threatened Santa Monica Mountain mountain lions.

The City has come so far in wildlife connectivity efforts, with a draft ordinance just months away! Please reconsider your decision and continue the effort for an ordinance that will support long-term sustainability goals for the City, and regional safeguards to wildlife. Our County recently adopted its own Wildlife Corridor Zone that would be enhanced at our shared border because as we know, wildlife don't recognize jurisdictional boundaries.

New research published in 2019 in the journal *Ecological Society of America* warns that due to inbreeding, the Santa Monica Mountains population of mountain lions could be extinct in 15 years. Proactive protections that preserve existing natural corridors and improve habitat connectivity for these far-ranging cougars is vital for their survival. Threats such as toxic rodenticides, vehicle strikes, depredations, wildfires, inbreeding and increasing isolation due to freeways and urban encroachment

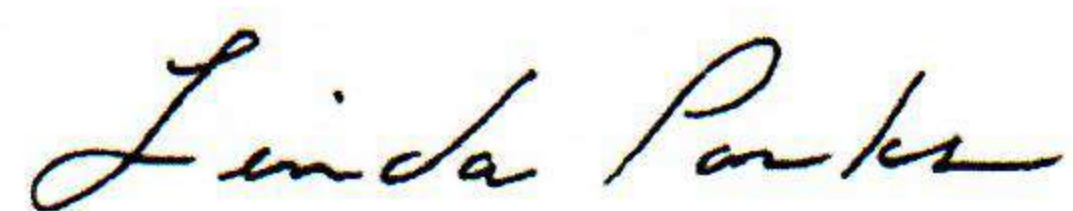
Page 2 of 2  
City of Los Angeles  
May 8, 2020

are all contributing to the untimely deaths, genetic bottlenecks, and habitat loss of these apex predators and other native wildlife.

Ventura County through adoption of its award-winning habitat connectivity and wildlife corridor ordinance, its reduction in use of anticoagulant rodenticides, and its unanimous support of the wildlife bridge at Liberty Canyon on the 101 freeway and other initiatives, has prioritized protection of mountain lions and other native flora and fauna. Continuing funding for the Wildlife Pilot Study will give this species the prioritization that it requires, as just last month the Fish and Game Commission approved a full status review and advanced Southern California and Central Coast mountain lions to candidacy under the California Endangered Species Act.

I urge you to continue funding the Wildlife Pilot Study and include it in next year's budget, to support and ensure the sustainability and climate change resiliency of wildlife in the greater Los Angeles area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Parks".

Linda Parks, Supervisor District 2  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Member

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ethan Senser

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 10:52 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Councilmembers, As an organizer with Food & Water Action, and as an ally to the LEAP coalition, I would like to strongly urge the Council protect funding for the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO), the Climate Emergency Commission (CEC), and Community Assemblies be fully protected in the 2020-21 budget. Our response to COVID-19 must go beyond a simple economic recovery, it must work to reform the injustices and systematic inequalities that have put so many residents of LA County at disproportionate risk during this crisis, and to ensure that we are supporting those same communities in preparing for future crises. A just economic recovery to COVID-19 should act as a the first step towards a just response to the climate crisis – mobilizing our efforts to expand public services that support climate resilience, implement renewable energy technologies, and put our county to work to ensuring our communities are prepared not only for this crisis – but the next one as well. COVID-19 has made clear the ramifications that come when we fail to mobilize in the face of a crisis. It has also made clear where the impact of those failures fall. Now is not the time to waver on putting these communities in control of their own futures. I urge you to restore funding for the CEMO, CEC and community assemblies as a first step towards showing that we will be bringing the lessons from this crisis forward as we prepare for those still on the horizon. Sincerely,  
Ethan Senser Organizer, Food & Water Action

## Communication from Public

**Name:** David Ferrandiz  
**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 11:00 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** It is imperative that Day Labor Program funds be restored to current fiscal year levels. The day labor centers across the City of Los Angeles provide essential support to the day labor community and the hiring entities that employ them. Day labor centers provide a safe and humane way of looking for and attaining work. Workers learn about their labor rights, and employers are informed of their responsibilities. A high standard is upheld to ensure that labor law is being followed and that day laborers are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve as human beings. In particular, day laborers give back to their communities in myriad ways - whether at community clean ups, as volunteers at health clinics, distributing food to other day laborers, and sharing other crucial resources with day laborers. An investment in the day labor centers is an investment in our communities. Particularly in light of COVID-19, the multiple and overlapping needs of day laborers have magnified. As essential workers, day laborers are ready and equipped to continue providing essential services in warehouses, the construction industry, and more. However, as many work places have necessarily closed down due to public health measures, day laborers have been thrust into an even more precarious and unstable position. More and more day laborers have contacted the day labor centers requesting economic, health, and other types of support. Our organization (IDEPSCA) has responded as well as possible, providing disaster relief services and resources to our most vulnerable community members and their families. However, IDESPCA and the day labor centers cannot continue to operate heroically. To address the needs of workers, the day labor centers need the same commitment reflected by the City of Los Angeles, and particularly reflected through the next fiscal year budget. Restoring the budget to current fiscal year levels would be the strongest statement of support for the day labor centers and the day labor community who time and time again respond unselfishly and in service to our Angeleno community.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Daniel Chavez

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 11:05 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** This comment is regard to the decrease in funding to the day labor programs throughout Los Angeles. I have worked at a Day Labor center for the last 4 years, but for my first 2 years the program had a lower budget and could only afford one coordinator per center. Looking back now this was an unreasonable amount of work to ask one person to do. There was endless paperwork, documenting and inputting, plus promoting the center to both workers and employers, mediating disputes, and democratic facilitating for center decisions making. We're also asked to organizing events, work with allies, assist workers find job training and ESL classes, and advocate for workers with representatives, as I'm doing now. If our budget is lowered to those amounts of 2 years ago this vital community resource, that will be needed and used much more after the pandemic, will be severely stressed and unmanageable for the demand in the coming months. The way these centers have assisted the most vulnerable in getting back on their feet, or helping them find a career later in life, or just having a bit of work while transitioning to a new life, I feel these programs should receive an increasing is funding. We have only recently began having a real structure and staff to deal with the work these recent years, we can not regress in these times when we absolutely should lead in maintaining strong day labor centers that provide low income communities good options, and an alternative to crime or despair.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Rabeya Sen

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 10:31 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Honorable Members of the Budget & Finance Committee: My name is Rabeya Sen with Esperanza Community Housing Corporation. As a founding member of the Leap LA Coalition and one of the 43 organizations and individuals who are signatories on the attached letter to you, we request that funding for the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO), the Climate Emergency Commission (CEC), and Community Assemblies be fully protected in the 2020-21 budget. We know you face difficult choices every day that impact the well-being of Angelenos, including how to manage a budget deficit provoked by pandemic-induced economic shutdown. We also appreciate your aspiration to be forward-thinking in your response, and your recognition that we will create a “new normal” when we finally get past this crisis rather than going back to the “old normal” we left behind six weeks ago. That “new normal” must include preparing our city for inevitable crises of the future -- both other pandemics predicted to be more common and the impacts of climate change, which in the long term could be more severe than COVID-19. With a genuine crisis of leadership at the federal level, LA has the opportunity to continue leading on climate by offering a model of deep democracy and bold vision for the rest of the country and the world. We support Councilmember Koretz’s motion (#20-0482) to classify as essential emergency services any efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions. Consistent with that, we look forward to working with the Mayor, the City Council President, and the Budget and Finance Committee to secure these funds. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Please see our attached letter for further details. Thank you! Rabeya

May 8, 2020

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

Dear Mayor Garcetti and members of the Los Angeles City Council:

We, the undersigned 43 organizations, are sending this letter to urge you to protect funds for the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, the Climate Emergency Commission, and a process of deep engagement with frontline communities to shape our environmental and climate policies. We applaud the bold leadership our City's elected officials have shown in the midst of this unprecedented public health and economic crisis, especially your efforts to protect workers, tenants, immigrants, and other especially vulnerable populations. We know you face difficult choices every day that impact the well-being of Angelenos, including how to manage a budget deficit provoked by pandemic-induced economic shutdown.

We also appreciate your aspiration to be forward-thinking in your response, and your recognition that we will create a "new normal" when we finally get past this crisis rather than going back to the "old normal" we left behind six weeks ago. That "new normal" must include preparing our city for inevitable crises of the future -- both other pandemics predicted to be more common<sup>1</sup> and the impacts of climate change, which in the long term could be more severe than COVID-19.

**It's precisely for this reason that we request that funding for the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO), the Climate Emergency Commission (CEC), and Community Assemblies be fully protected in the 2020-21 budget.**

As the name implies, the Office and Commission aim to guide a city-wide mobilization to reduce greenhouse gases at a pace and scale consistent with the latest scientific assessment of climate change -- an urgency unchanged by COVID-19. Such a mobilization will consciously engage our city's low income communities of color, where higher rates of toxic exposure and less access to healthcare and good-paying jobs make them especially vulnerable to both pandemics and climate change. It will help ensure that policies to transition LA to a sustainable energy economy serve rather than harm these communities -- while also protecting workers displaced from the current, dirty, fossil fuel-based economy. **In response to this unprecedented crisis, the CEMO, CEC and Community Assemblies can and should play a critical role in the design and implementation of structural rebuild of our economy with health, equity and sustainability**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wsj.com/articles/viral-outbreaks-once-rare-become-part-of-the-global-landscape-11583455309>



**at the core -- including coordinating efforts to advocate and deploy federal and state stimulus funds to that end.**

**COVID-safe community engagement must shape a just and sustainable recovery.** Funding originally intended for Community Assemblies should be used instead for a broad community engagement process conducted under COVID-safe public health protocols to shape this just and sustainable recovery plan. This process should partner with community organizations capable of reaching disadvantaged communities in the midst of this crisis. Even under these challenging conditions, community assemblies can build community investment, ownership and connection to our resilience plans - which can serve us in any type of emergency.

With a genuine crisis of leadership at the federal level, LA has the opportunity to continue leading on climate by offering a model of deep democracy and bold vision for the rest of the country and the world. We support Councilmember Koretz's motion (#20-0482) to classify as essential emergency services any efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions. Consistent with that, we look forward to working with the Mayor, the City Council President, and the Budget and Finance Committee to secure these funds. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Darryl Molina Sarmiento  
Executive Director, Communities for a Better Environment

Nancy Halpern Ibrahim  
Executive Director, Esperanza Community Housing Corporation

Martha Dina Arguello,  
Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles

Laura Muraida  
Director of Research and Communications, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE)

Rabeya Sen  
Steering Committee Member, United Neighbors In Defense Against Displacement (UNIDAD)

Lydia Ponce  
American Indian Movement

Eric Romann

Coalition Coordinator, Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling (STAND-L.A.)

Cynthia Strathmann

Executive Director, SAJE (Strategic Actions for a Just Economy)

Edgar Campos

Executive Director, TRUST South L.A.

Rudy Espinoza

Executive Director, Inclusive Action for the City

Alexandra Suh

Executive Director, KIWA (Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance)

Tori Kjer

Executive Director, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Laura Raymond

Director, Alliance For Community Transit - Los Angeles

Agustin Cabrera

RePower LA Director, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy

Anna Cummins

Co-Founder and Deputy Director, The 5 Gyres Institute

Joel Simonds

Executive Director, Jewish Center for Justice

Bill Przulucki

Executive Director, People Organized for Westside Renewal

David Levitus

Executive Director, LA Forward

Jim Mangia

President & CEO, St. John's Well Child and Family Center

Benjamin Torres

President/CEO, CDTEch

Michael Doshi

Director of Partnerships, Algalita Marine Research & Education

Byron Cortez

Lead Organizer, March And Rally Los Angeles

David Monkawa

Member, Progressive Asian Network for Action

Jack Eidt

Co-Founder, SoCal 350 Climate Action

Jim Stewart

Coordinator, Earth Day Los Angeles

Martha Camacho Rodriguez

Educator/Director, Social Eco Education (SEE-LA)

Nicole Levin

Hub Facilitation Coordinator, Sunrise Movement Los Angeles

Ozzy Simpson

Hub Coordinator, Sunrise Movement Sequoyah

Cedric Nelms

CEO/Chairman of the Board, Helping Hands Community Resource Center

Jasmin Vargas

Senior Organizer, Food and Water Action

Molly Basler

President, Green Dream Campaign

Rosa Romero

Director, Urban & Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College

Kaya Allan Sugerman

Illegal Toxic Threats Program Director, Center for Environmental Health

Andrea Leon-Grossmann  
Director of Climate Action, Azul

Barbara Lott-Holland  
The Labor Community Strategy Center

Ben Goloff  
Climate Campaigner, Center for Biological Diversity

Erica Barrios  
Southern California Regional VP, SEIU CIR

Greg Spiegel  
Director of Strategic Initiatives, Inner City Law Center

Sherry Lear  
Co-Organizer, 350 South Bay Los Angeles

Sarah Erlich  
Staff Attorney, Public Counsel

Oliver Buie  
Angeles Mesa Presbyterian Church

Julia Shannon  
Steering Committee Member, Democratic Socialists of America - Los Angeles

Caroline Henderson  
Greenpeace USA

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Nataly

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 11:22 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am commenting to urge the City Council to restore IDEPSCA's Day Labor Program budget to current fiscal year levels. Each of the five centers are currently working to provide day laborers with the essential resources and support they need. The current health crisis has only exacerbated the disparities the day laborer community face. In light of this, we can expect an increase in day laborers coming to our centers even after the pandemic and shelter at home orders begin to lift. It is for this reason that the Day Labor Program budget must be restored to current fiscal year levels, as employment support and services will be necessary for more people.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alyson Schill

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 09:44 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** May 10, 2020 Mayor Eric Garcetti Los Angeles City Council President Nury Martinez Los Angeles City Council 200 N Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 Dear Mayor Garcetti, President Martinez and Members of the Los Angeles City Council: Many of us stood with you in February on a downtown parking garage roof united to move ahead with the Green New Deal and a “decade of action.” Unfortunately, COVID-19 stalled our momentum quickly. Our City is doing a great job protecting residents and keeping essential infrastructure running during this unprecedented time. Nonetheless, the dire predictions of larger pandemics, as well as global and local catastrophes due to climate change continue. Future disruptions to food, water and electricity await our attention. It is only through a climate emergency mobilization strategy coordinated with the City, nonprofits and communities that Los Angeles will be resilient enough to face these future calamities. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the absolute importance of the Green New Deal initiatives. Business resiliency, food access, distribution, and technology systems are all being tested at this time. We were unprepared for the major disruption in the food supply chain, the unprecedented increase in demand for emergency food services among our residents, and the ability to provide for their needs. Massive wildfires, droughts, rising temperatures, farmland destruction and land degradation have and will cause food shortages, likely to an even greater degree than we are experiencing with COVID-19. Implementation of a citywide climate emergency framework will ensure the sufficiency of our efforts for food security, equity and sustainability that allows us to avoid even more costly economic and social crises. This is why the members of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council working groups urge that \$500,000 in funding for the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization (CEMO), \$200,000 for the Climate Emergency Commission (CEC) and \$300,000 for Community Assemblies and pilot projects, for a total of \$1 million reinstated funding in the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget. The CEMO, working in partnership with City departments and stakeholders, has an opportunity to make Los Angeles an example for cities globally. As advocates for food security, we applaud the City’s ongoing efforts and urge that momentum not be lost. The City must be proactive and

protect and support its residents in the face of future challenges by continuing to fund CEC and CEMO. Plans are not enough. Climate or pandemic crisis staff need to be ready and trained to implement the plans in order to have an effective, timely response. Therefore, we support Council File, CF#20-0482, (Koretz, Climate as Essential Services) which names efforts such as the reduction of greenhouse gases and other toxic emissions, the protection of wildlife habitat connectivity, recycling and reduction of food waste, among other critical initiatives included in the CEMO mission, as essential emergency services. We simultaneously comment on the Annual Budget Council File, CF#20-0600, (Krekorian). In the midst of a pandemic and the present budget crisis, we cannot lose sight of the fact that cities also live for and in the future. You have been a leader at the forefront of protecting Los Angeles from the impacts of climate change; we urge you to continue to do so by recognizing the essential nature of funding the CEMO and the CEC. We, and all of Los Angeles' businesses, citizens, and our environment are dependent on our leaders to ensure that we are ready. We look forward to working with all of you, and in collaboration with the Budget and Finance Committee, to secure the funds necessary to pursue these vital efforts. Sincerely, Alyson Schill, Refeed Inc. Frank Tamborello, Hunger Action LA Terence Latimer, Food Tribe Jasmine Zozaya-Jouvet Deirdre Marlowe, Steering Committee, LAFPC Food Waste Prevention & Rescue Working Group Micki Curtis, Lemon Frog Shop, Independent food rescuer for homeless Amy Powell, Founder, ATTAINABLE, Sustainable + Environmental Impact Consulting Samantha Salmon, Program Assistant, Local Initiatives Support Corporation Michael Martinez, Executive Director, LA Compost

May 10, 2020

Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Los Angeles City Council President Nury Martinez  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 N Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Sincerely,

Alyson Schill, Refeed Inc.

Frank Tamborello, Hunger Action LA

Terence Latimer, Food Tribe



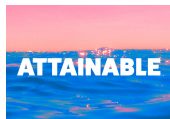
Jasmine Zozaya-Jouvet



Deirdre Marlowe, Steering Committee, LAFPC Food Waste Prevention & Rescue Working Group

Micki Curtis, Lemon Frog Shop, Independent food rescuer for homeless

Amy Powell, Founder, ATTAINABLE, Sustainable + Environmental Impact Consulting



Samantha Salmon, Program Assistant, Local Initiatives Support Corporation



Michael Martinez, Executive Director, LA Compost



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Edward G. Garren

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 09:40 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Covid-19 crisis has had a radical effect on our city. While I acknowledge the need to reduce the city budget due to revenue shortfall, I would ask the city to consider all things related to mitigating the Climate Crisis as "essential services" and NOT reduce or eliminate any budget item relating to moving away from the consumption of carbon based fuels. In addition to returning clean air to the Los Angeles basin, this pandemic has demonstrated that any economic system that is not built on sustainability will collapse easily if one feature is pulled out. I would propose that instead of eliminating the Climate Emergency Commission and the departments that support it's mission, the city should consider adding a tax to all carbon in the city. This would include natural gas, gasoline and diesel fuel, new gas appliances sold for domestic and commercial use, etc. The tax could be introduced as a very small addition to devices that use petroleum, such as cooking ranges, water heaters and heating devices. Water heaters specifically are often the principle device in most homes that generate Carbon Dioxide. The tax could be very small in the beginning, that would serve to specifically be used to fund the Climate Emergency Commission and related departments and their work mitigating the Climate Crisis, and increase the education of the community as to why we must change our thinking on very small items like petroleum powered appliances and transit. Later, as the economy regains strength it could be increased as a direct incentive to think twice about continuing the use of petroleum based appliances and automobiles. I believe this approach will both provide needed revenue to directly mitigate the climate crisis, and it will also enhance efforts to move the city away from carbon based energy. As an Angeleno who has moved my entire life away from carbon (all electric home in South Los Angeles and TWO electric cars, as well as a 5 Kilowatt solar system) it is essential to push daily life away from all appliances, home heating and air conditioning and our transit (personal and public) away from carbon usage, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE !! We have less than 9 years to transform our energy usage away from carbon. This is a planetary imperative. Mary Nichols, Chair of the CA Air Resources Board is an associate of mine, and we have had conversation about how using carbon is literally killing babies in other parts of the planet.

We have several billion “climate refugees” already on the planet (including the massive numbers fleeing Honduras where a 7 + year drought has reduced food production to 20% of “normal”). We know the city is facing a shortfall of revenues, but this is NOT the place to save money. If anything, there is a probably connection between the Climate Crisis and increasing pandemics around the planet. If less than two months on “lockdown” can devastate the economy of our city, state and country, imagine what ocean rise is going to do? Imagine what worsening droughts are going to do? We MUST stop thinking of the Climate Crisis as a small, marginal issue, something that is a plaything for the wealthy. I am a moderate income, 70 year old who makes less than “six figures” annually. But I was able to transition my home and personal transit mostly by educating myself, and looking at the big picture, and imagining life 20 years from now (I plan on still being alive that long). Regards, Edward G. Garren, M.A., L.M.F.T.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Morgan Goodwin  
**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 12:52 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** See attached letter from the chair of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter



Angeles Chapter  
3250 Wilshire Blvd. #1106  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1513

To: Mayor Eric Garcetti, Council President Nury Martinez, and the Los Angeles City Council:

Regarding: CF#20-0482 (Motion) & CF#20-0600 (Budget file)

The Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club appreciates the efforts made by the Mayor and the City of Los Angeles to establish an Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization. We strongly support the action proposed by Councilmember Paul Koretz in Council File, CF#[20-0482](#), (Koretz, Climate as Essential Services). The motion states that “the City Council direct the Emergency Management Department to include in its list of essential emergency City services which shall continue during the COVID-19 crisis all efforts consistent with City policy to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions, including but not limited to, building renewable energy projects, electrifying our buildings and transportation network, enforcing the reduction of plastic pollution, planting trees, protecting wildlife habitat connectivity, recycling and reducing food and other waste, expanding clean mobility alternatives, and other such efforts.”

COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on the residents of the City of Los Angeles, but we will recover from its hardships. While the City is moving to protect its residents, other forces have been working to reduce environmental regulations. The federal government is making concessions offered to fossil fuel providers, rollbacks in the protections afforded by the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and reductions to motor vehicle fuel standards all under the guise of Covid-19 response. These actions are setbacks in our efforts for a more sustainable society for all residents. Failure to act now in the Climate Emergency will result in more long-lasting misery for the people of Los Angeles, particularly those in traditionally underserved communities.

Although we recognize that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have had an unforeseen effect on the City’s budget planning, we oppose cuts to climate change programs. The City of Los Angeles can provide leadership in the near-term health crisis as well as the longer-term climate crisis. **We should restore funding for the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization (\$500k), including the Climate Emergency Commission (\$200k), and the Community Assemblies and pilot projects (\$300k) for a total of \$1 million to the proposed budget.** The Climate Emergency Department is critical to engaging our City’s frontline communities to shape a just and sustainable recovery that builds a healthier and more resilient future for Angelenos. **In addition, please reinstate the four staffers working on the Planning Department’s Wildlife Connectivity project.** These portions of the overall budget can bring enormous short and long-term benefits to the people of Los Angeles, particularly to low income communities of color that are being disproportionately impacted by climate change and the COVID-18 pandemic.

Failure to address the Climate Emergency as part of plans to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic is not an option. The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter strongly supports the motion by Councilmember Koretz to

include climate issues as essential services. We urge the restoration of funding for these initiatives to the 2020-2021 proposed budget.

Thank you for putting the people's health and security in the forefront of your planning for today and the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lee Koch

Chair, Executive Committee

Angeles Chapter

Sierra Club

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Hillside Federation  
**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 01:37 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Objection to deleting funding for the Wildlife Pilot Study.

P.O. Box 27404  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)



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Charley Mims  
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City Council Members  
City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Argyle Civic Assn.  
Beachwood Canyon NA  
Bel-Air Assn.  
Bel-Air Hills Assn.  
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners  
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners  
Benedict Canyon Association  
Brentwood Hills Homeowners  
Brentwood Residents Coalition  
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners  
Canyon Back Alliance  
Crests Neighborhood Assn.  
Dixie Canyon Assn.  
Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA  
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West  
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.  
Highlands Owners Assn.  
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.  
Hollywood Heights Assn.  
Hollywoodland HOA  
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.  
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.  
Lake Hollywood HOA  
Laurel Canyon Assn.  
LFIA (Los Feliz)  
Mt. Olympus Property Owners  
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.  
Nichols Canyon NA  
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon  
Oak Forest Canyon HOA  
Oaks Homeowners Assn.  
Outpost Estates HOA  
Residents of Beverly Glen  
Save Coldwater Canyon!  
Shadow Hills POA  
Sherman Oaks HOA  
Silver Lake Heritage Trust  
Studio City Residents Assn.  
Sunset Hills HOA  
Tarzana POA  
Torreyson Flynn Assn.  
Upper Mandeville Canyon Assn.  
Upper Nichols Canyon NA

May 11, 2020

Re: **Opposition to Budget Scale-back of Wildlife Pilot Study (CF 20-0600)**

Dear Councilmembers:

The Hillside Federation, founded in 1952 and representing 44 resident and homeowner associations with 250,000 constituents spanning the Santa Monica Mountains strongly supports the Wildlife Pilot Study. The Wildlife Pilot Study exemplifies the Federation's mission to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.

The Federation was thrilled when the City adopted the forward-thinking Wildlife Pilot Study. Now we are aghast that the City is considering dropping funding for this program. We recognize the need to revise the city's budget due to the impact of the loss of revenue due to the coronavirus; however preserving wildlife connectivity is a quality of life issue for all Angelenos. As the City builds higher and higher and increases density to accommodate more housing, it is more important than ever to preserve invaluable open spaces. These urban wildlands provide much-needed aesthetic, psychological and recreational balance in our increasingly unbalanced urban lives. Furthermore, it is our responsibility as stewards of the planet to care about and for the animals whose home it also is. But the bottom line is that the future—all of our futures—hangs on preserving biodiversity.

The funding for the Wildlife Pilot Study is relatively minimal in the City's budget yet it provides maximal bang for the buck. The City will be reaping the economic benefits of this vital program for years to come – if the City has the foresight to retain its funding. The Federation urges you to continue to fund the Wildlife Pilot Study.

Sincerely,

Charley Mims

CHAIRS EMERITI  
Shirley Cohen  
Jerome C. Daniel  
Patricia Bell Hearst  
Alan Kishbaugh  
Steve Twining  
CHAIRS IN MEMORIAM  
Brian Moore  
Gordon Murley  
Polly Ward



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Michael R. Busman

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2020 02:49 PM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Subject: Support to protect funding for CEMO (CF #20-0600) We know you face difficult choices every day that impact the well-being of Angelenos, including how to manage a budget deficit provoked by pandemic-induced economic shutdown. We must prepare our city for inevitable crises of the future -- both other pandemics predicted to be more common and the impacts of climate change, which in the long term could be more severe than COVID-19. I urge you to protect funding for the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO), the Climate Emergency Commission (CEC), and Community Assemblies be fully protected in the 2020-21 budget. Thank you. Sincerely, Michael R. Busman