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MOTION

A large bird, mammal, and reptile habitat in the San Fernando Valley's Sepulveda Basin has been eradicated without preparation of an Environmental Impact Report. The habitat and its vegetation dates back to the 1980s, part of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project.

In fact, in a recent Los Angeles Times article, "*Army Corps of Engineers clear-cuts lush habitat in Valley* (December 29, 2012)," in notes that "43 acres of cottonwood and willow groves, undergrowth and marshes that had maintained a rich inventory of mammals, reptiles, and 250 species of birds," has been lost.

As recently as 2010, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' intent was to create a "vegetation management area" within five years that would replace trees and shrubs with native grasses. Sadly, this will not occur, since it is reported that nearly all the vegetation (native and non-native) has now been removed.

This action is nothing more than ineffective environmental policy, and answers are needed as to the actions taken that led to the loss of this much needed habitat, open space, and recreational area. The community needs to know why they were not informed as to the actions that were taken that have potentially disturbed wildlife and a lush habitat, and whether any misrepresentation occurred, and if any improvements were paid for with public funds or charitable contributions.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Bureau of Sanitation and Planning Department, and in coordination with the Chief Legislative Analyst, and in consultation with the City Attorney, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, the Audubon Society, and Friends of the Los Angeles River, and any other pertinent entity, to prepare a report that explains the recent loss of 43 acres of bird, mammal, and reptile habitat in the San Fernando Valley's Sepulveda Basin without preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Council instruct the Bureau of Sanitation and Planning Department to include in the report if any endangered species were compromised, and whether there will be any detrimental impacts to air quality, and if any improvements were paid for with public funds or charitable contributions, and information as to which departments, if any, are responsible for overseeing projects that the Federal government is involved within City boundaries.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Commander of the Los Angeles District of the Army Corps of Engineers present to the City Council their Vegetation Management Plan as well as a summary of additional community input they receive from follow up meetings, and the results of his investigation of the loss of the 43 acres habitat.


JAN 4 2013

PRESENTED BY: Paul Zekman
for JAN PERRY
Councilwoman, 9th District

SECONDED BY: Paul Perry

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