



19 member
Neighborhood
Councils

Board Members

Glenn Bailey	Lucia Marano
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Don Dwiggin	Laura Mack, Chair and Executive Director
Lisa Hart	

May 10, 2016

TO:
COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KREKORIAN, CHAIR
COUNCILMEMBER MITCHELL ENGLANDER
COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KORETZ
COUNCILMEMBER BOB BLUMENFIELD
COUNCILMEMBER MIKE BONIN

CC: Richard Williams

Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CONSIDERATION OF MAYOR'S 2016-17 PROPOSED BUDGET – NCSA COOL BLOCKS LA PILOT PROGRAM

Dear Budget & Finance Committee members:

The nonprofit Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) -- whose mission is to advance sustainability and resilience across the City of Los Angeles through advocacy, sharing of best practices, and community action -- is excited to partner with Empowerment Institute to launch *Cool Blocks LA*, an innovative, neighborhood-scale program that will reduce carbon emissions of participating LA households by 25% in just five months, through award-winning behavior change and community engagement strategies. The program will also support progress toward at least six of 14 elements of the Sustainable City pLAN, including water conservation, safe and livable neighborhoods, and neighborhood resilience.

The NCSA requests your immediate support for the proposed *Cool Blocks LA* pilot program budget, within the Mayor's 2016-17 Proposed Budget, to allow us to implement and evaluate a one-year pilot *Cool Blocks LA* pilot program in 30 neighborhood blocks (beginning this June in Council Districts 1, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, and 14, then expanding to other districts by Fall 2016) across the City.

More about *Cool Blocks LA*:

According to the United Nations, the world's cities are responsible for up to 70 percent of harmful greenhouse gases. Cities have become the real battleground in the fight against climate change. Empowerment Institute has found that on average, **70% of a city's carbon emissions come from the lifestyle choices we make to power our homes and our cars.** In other words, how urban residents live is a huge part of the climate change problem -- *and* can be a huge part of the solution.

Cool Blocks LA's unique neighbor-to-neighbor organizing model is based on the social psychology principle of social diffusion, and has been proven to: reduce neighborhood carbon emissions by at least 25%; reduce water

use by 32%; make neighborhoods safer, healthier, and greener; and prepare neighborhoods for earthquakes and other disasters. *Cool Blocks LA* is a five month, nine meeting, action-based program. It is self-directed by a team of five to eight households on a block, with full training, coaching, and support from the NCSA and Empowerment Institute.

Cool Blocks LA is the culmination of 25 years of research and practice in over 200 cities, showing that support by neighbors nearly *doubles* success at achieving and sustaining lifestyle changes, over what any one person can accomplish alone. The method succeeds because it taps into the yearning we all have for greater purpose, community, and the ability to make a difference.

With your support, we will run the *Cool Blocks LA* pilot in 30 neighborhood blocks over the next year, and will be on the path to take the program to scale citywide, then place the City of Los Angeles in position to receive \$2.5 million in funding to serve as a demonstration city for an upcoming *Cool City Challenge* across California, and lead California cities toward a climate stable future.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura Mack

Laura Mack
Founder and Executive Director
[Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance](#)

Email: NCSA@EmpowerLA.org
Phone: 310.420.1604

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

RAMIREZ CANYON PARK
5750 RAMIREZ CANYON ROAD
MALIBU, CALIFORNIA 90265
PHONE (310) 589-3200
FAX (310) 589-3207
WWW.SMMC.CA.GOV



May 10, 2016

Budget and Finance Committee
Los Angeles City Council
c/o Mr. Richard Williams, Legislative Assistant
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Funding for Department of City Planning to Implement Wildlife Corridor,
Santa Monica Mountains (Council File 14-0518)**

Hon. Chairperson Krekorian and Committee Members:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy respectfully recommends that the Council allocate funds to the Department of City Planning for the express purpose of preparing and finalizing the Wildlife Corridor ordinance described in Council File 14-0518. The City Council's April 22, 2016 adoption of the motion to create a Wildlife Corridor in the Santa Monica Mountains, and the Rim of The Valley Trail Corridor zone, is a critically important step for conservation of Los Angeles's native wildlife. However, the Planning Department will require a dedicated full-time staff position to prepare and finalize the ordinance.

Any delay would be penny-wise and pound foolish, because the resource is imperiled and the resulting land protections would come at no public cost.

The staff of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is available to contribute considerable time working with City Planning staff. Please feel free to contact me regarding this matter at 310-589-3200, ext. 128, by e-mail at edelman@smmc.ca.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Edelman", written over a horizontal line.

PAUL EDELMAN
Deputy Director
Natural Resources and Planning

CC: Mr. Vince Bertoni, Director of City Planning



Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573
friendsofgriffithpark.org

May 6, 2016

Budget and Finance Committee
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Priority budget support for Planning Department funding in regards to the Wildlife Corridor Motion (CF 14-0518)

Honorable Councilmembers Krekorian, Blumenfield, Bonin, Englander, and Koretz,

We consider the recent Wildlife Corridor motion a priority budget item for the Los Angeles Planning Department. We hope a special budget is set aside for this project which recently received rave support by the public, the PLUM Committee, and by the City Council itself.

It is exceedingly important for our City to become proactive in protecting the permeability of lands in the Santa Monica Mountains region. The approved motion specifies action items which will take a considerable amount of effort, outreach and time to accomplish. Among them are: establishing the linkage zones themselves, creating the biological constraints checklist, and implementing them into the building and grading permit process. With a long road ahead for fulfilling the goals of the motion, it is imperative that it be funded now and that work is started in short order.

We would like to add that a Ridgeline Ordinance, never acted upon in, at least, one previous Council motion (about a decade ago), be funded and implemented in conjunction with a Wildlife Corridor Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hans
President



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Trap Neuter Release (TNR) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) - message from PETA

Andrea Adelman <AndreaA@peta.org>
To: "richard.williams@lacity.org" <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Tue, May 10, 2016 at 9:46 AM

Hi Richard,

Can you please add the below communication to Council File 16-0600?

Thank you,

Andrea Adelman

Special Events & Auctions Manager

Office: 323-644-7382 ext. 2306

Cell: 818.522.5156

www.peta.org

If you find an animal injured or in immediate danger, please call our hotline at 757-622-7382 any time.

From: Lisa Lange
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 2:54 PM
To: Deepa Kollipara
Subject: Trap Neuter Release (TNR) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) - message from PETA

Dear Deepa,

I hope you're well. It was a pleasure meeting with you a few weeks ago. Below is a letter to Councilmember Krekorian I hope you'll share with him please. We understand he has concerns about spending nearly 1 million dollars on an EIR regarding cat Trap Neuter and Release, and we share his concerns. Reasons to not move

forward are spelled out in our letter below.

Thank you so much and please don't hesitate to be in touch if we can answer any questions.

Best,

Lisa Lange

Senior VP, PETA

May 5, 2016

Dear Council Member Krekorian,

We hope this finds you well. We are writing to urge you to *withdraw the budget money recently allocated for the Trap Neuter Release (TNR) Environmental Impact Report (EIR)*. Reducing the number of homeless cats in the city is not only desirable but also doable, but it will not be achieved this way and at this expense. It can be done by enforcing the city's existing spay and neuter ordinance and requiring the humane and responsible care of owned cats, which includes licensing, microchipping, and safe, supervised restraint and containment.

Those supporting this allocation are no doubt well-intentioned, but this nearly \$1 million would be far more wisely spent battling the cat and dog overpopulation and homelessness crisis facing L.A. If the city engages in TNR programs, it will take away funds needed to benefit the city's underprivileged residents and their animals. It will not lead to a reduction in feral cat populations but will cause more cats to suffer and result in suffering to and decimation of wildlife.

Part of the LAAS TNR proposal seeks to divert funds away from the city's critical Animal Sterilization Fund (ASF), sensibly established to help indigent dog and cat owners keep their animal companions and to ensure that they spay and neuter them. The fund is also intended to subsidize spaying and neutering costs for animals adopted from city shelters, thus keeping city animal adoptions affordable. It's critical that the ASF remain intact and continue to serve low-income residents of L.A., as it was intended to.

The key to reducing the suffering and death of cats (and associated deaths of wildlife, as well as nuisance animal complaints) is to spay or neuter owned cats through the ASF and also to keep cats from roaming. TNR is not a solution by any means. If TNR programs reduced and prevented animal suffering and homelessness, PETA would be leading the charge to promote them. But they don't. They harm animals. Cats who are abandoned outdoors face parasitism, contagious diseases, weather challenges, traffic, loose dogs, and cruel people. It has been shown time and again that when colonies are set up, many people will see them and decide to abandon their owned cats instead of taking them to a shelter, especially if they hear that the shelter turns them away or charges a drop-off fee. This leads to an *increase* in the number of (more often than not unsterilized) cats on the streets.

Our Emergency Response Team fields countless [reports of incidents](#) in which cats—quasi-"managed" or not—suffer and die badly because they have to fend for themselves outdoors, and our cruelty caseworkers constantly handle cases involving "outdoor cats" who are abused or killed by property owners or neighbors who simply didn't want the cats there, sterilized or not. In an effort to claim that the city is "no kill," proponents of TNR have made it clear that their ultimate goal is to see that the shelter stops accepting cats. Will the council allow this extreme proposal to tell citizens that the shelter is no longer available to them for "nuisance" cat issues?

Feeding stations set up for cats attract rats, coyotes, skunks, and raccoons. This increases the risk of disease and parasite transmissions. Many of these ailments are zoonotic (contagious to humans), including rabies, typhus, toxoplasmosis, roundworms, and hookworms. Many of the city's residents do not want wildlife in their yards or alleyways and, as a result, employ pest-management companies to kill roaming wildlife, often inhumanely. Once trapped, by law, wildlife cannot be relocated. These incidents will, of course, become more common, as the number of roaming cats increases.

Moreover, roaming cats terrorize and kill birds and other wildlife who are already struggling with habitat destruction and environmental degradation. A 2013 *New York Times* article reported that roaming cats account for the majority of cat-caused wildlife deaths in the U.S., killing an astounding **"2.4 billion birds and 12.3 billion mammals a year."**^[1]

Finally, *nothing currently prohibits or prevents someone who is feeding a cat outdoors to get that cat sterilized, with or without the assistance of the ASF.*

With so many social programs in need of funding in L.A., spending nearly \$1 million to participate in cat abandonment is pretty scandalous. Again, reducing the number of homeless cats in the city is doable: by enforcing the city's existing spay and neuter ordinance and requiring the humane and responsible care of owned cats, which includes licensing, microchipping, and safe, supervised restraint and containment. PETA stands ready to assist in any way we can.

Thank you for your consideration and all your hard work for the citizens of L.A.

Lisa Lange

Senior VP, PETA

[1]Natalie Angier, "That Cuddly Kitty Is Deadlier Than You Think," *The New York Times*, 29 Jan. 2013

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/30/science/that-cuddly-kitty-of-yours-is-a-killer.html?_r=4&>.

[1]Natalie Angier, "That Cuddly Kitty Is Deadlier Than You Think," *The New York Times*, 29 Jan. 2013

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/30/science/that-cuddly-kitty-of-yours-is-a-killer.html?_r=4>.



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Fwd: Budget and Finance Committee: Fund Preservation Positions in Dept of City Planning

Erika Pulst <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
To: Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Tue, May 10, 2016 at 2:58 PM

—— Forwarded message ——

From: Philip Leers <pleers@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, May 6, 2016 at 2:57 PM
Subject: Budget and Finance Committee: Fund Preservation Positions in Dept of City Planning
To: councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.english@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org,
councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, erika.pulst@lacity.org,
lauraine.braithwaite@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org
Cc: LandUse PICONC <landusepiconc@yahoo.com>

Dear Budget & Finance Committee members and staff, and Council President Wesson,

The Los Angeles Department of City Planning is asking for \$171,296 in next year's budget to fund two existing staff positions devoted to conserving older and historic neighborhoods. This funding does not appear in the mayor's current proposed budget, and we ask you to commit the funding and restore these positions.

While this amount represents a miniscule portion (.0019558%) of the city's overall budget of more than \$8 billion, this small staffing investment can have a tremendous impact in protecting entire neighborhoods for decades to come.

If these staff positions are eliminated, Angelenos will continue to see their neighborhoods' character chip away, one teardown at a time. The benefits of preserving neighborhood character are undeniable, and you are no doubt well aware that these issues – and these positions – are of critical importance to your constituents.

Please, restore the funding for these critical neighborhood preservation positions in City Planning.

Respectfully,

Philip Leers
Mid-City
CD 10



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Fwd: Budget and Finance Committee: Fund Preservation Positions in Dept of City Planning

Erika Pulst <erika.pulst@lacity.org>
To: Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Tue, May 10, 2016 at 2:59 PM

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Pat Loeb** <loebtmc@earthlink.net>
Date: Sat, May 7, 2016 at 3:39 PM
Subject: Budget and Finance Committee: Fund Preservation Positions in Dept of City Planning
To: "councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org" <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, "councilmember.englander@lacity.org" <councilmember.englander@lacity.org>, "paul.koretz@lacity.org" <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "councilmember.bonin@lacity.org" <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, "erika.pulst@lacity.org" <erika.pulst@lacity.org>, "lauraine.braithwaite@lacity.org" <lauraine.braithwaite@lacity.org>, "councilmember.wesson@lacity.org" <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, "Cc: LandUse PICONC" <landusepiconc@yahoo.com>

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Please, restore the funding for these critical neighborhood preservation positions in City Planning.

Respectfully,

Patricia S Loeb
PicFair Village
CD 10