

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

0590-00123-0049

Date: June 16, 2020

To: Budget and Finance Committee

From: Richard H. Llewellyn, Jr., City Administrative Officer Subject: **CITY PLANNING – DELETION OF POSITION AUTHORITIES FROM VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS TO RESTORE RESOLUTION AUTHORITY FOR POSITIONS TO CONDUCT THE WILDLIFE PILOT STUDY (BUDGET MOTION 49 – C.F. 20-0600-S49)****RECOMMENDATION**

Note and file this Motion.

DISCUSSION

Budget Motion Number 49 instructs the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, to recommend deletions of position authority from departments whose operations may be reduced in light of the COVID-19 State of Emergency to restore resolution authority for one Environmental Specialist II and one City Planning Associate in the Department of City Planning (DCP) without funding to conduct the Wildlife Pilot Study.

The DCP reports that the Wildlife Corridor Pilot Study (Study) will streamline the review process, reduce the amount of staff time needed for each project, and potentially reduce the overall processing timeline for applicants related to entitlement applications in the Santa Monica Mountains Study Area. DCP states that the Study would generate an unquantified amount of savings over a period of years from a reduction in staff time to process individual cases. There are no special funds eligible to support the costs of these positions.

It is not clear what departmental responsibilities and resource needs for COVID-19 response efforts will be in the future due to the fluidity of response efforts. Additionally, it is not clear how departmental operations will change in the long term in response to COVID-19 guidelines and when resources that could be deleted at present may be needed to restore services in the future.

The addition of one Environmental Specialist II and one City Planning Associate without funding in the DCP is not recommended as this would result in an unfunded demand on DCP's 2020-21 budgetary resources and would not be in compliance with the City's Financial Policies requiring position authorities be supported by funding. Budget Motion 13 also requests approval of these positions, and this Office has prepared a memo recommending against adding the positions.

In light of the City's current economic condition and the uncertainty of revenues in 2020-21, and the fact that these positions are proposed to be unfunded, the action in this Motion is not recommended.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommendation to note and file this Budget Motion will have no fiscal impact. If the Motion is approved, and the positions are funded, the total costs are \$248,220 (\$168,709 direct cost and \$79,511 indirect costs).

FINANCIAL POLICY COMPLIANCE

The recommendation to note and file this Motion complies with the City's Financial Policies. If the motion is approved and the positions are added without funding, this action is not in compliance with the Financial Policies, which state that positions added in the budget should be funded.

RHL:NSC:02200179C