

MOTION

The world is facing an extinction crisis. A 2019 report by the UN's Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services warns that more than a million species face extinction within the next few decades. Besides climate change, a primary driver of wildlife extinction is habitat loss and fragmentation caused by uncoordinated and poorly-sited development and the lack of safe wildlife crossings across freeways and roads.

As a primary local example, Southern California mountain lions—like LA's famous Hollywood puma, P-22—are unable to roam freely to forage and seek mates. In 2019, the CA Fish and Wildlife (CFW) Commission voted to list Southern California mountain lions as a "candidate species" under the California Endangered Species Act, lest they go extinct. Entire ecosystems are similarly at risk within the California Floristic Province biodiversity hotspot.

In the proposed 2022-2023 City Budget, Mayor Garcetti has included funding for staff in the Department of City Planning to complete the Department's Wildlife Pilot Study. Numerous efforts are underway regionally and nationally to stave off this crisis, including: President Biden and Governor Newsom's 30% by 2030 conservation preservation plans; LA City's Biodiversity and Wildlife Corridors/Habitat Connectivity initiatives; LA County's Significant Ecological Areas and Wildlife Connectivity Ordinance; Ventura County's Wildlife Connectivity Ordinance; the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing; Senator Alex Padilla's PUBLIC Lands Act; Congressman Adam Schiff's Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act; the LA River Master Plan; the Arroyo Seco, San Rafael Hills, Verdugo Mountains, and San Gabriel Mountains conservation efforts; regional habitat conservation plans in Riverside, Orange, and San Bernardino Counties; and, SCAG's Connect SoCal Regional Wildlife Connectivity Plan.

Our native wildlife do not abide by jurisdictional boundaries, however, and separate, disconnected wildlife preservation efforts run the risk of failure. Indeed, one habitat connectivity blockage can spoil the entire enterprise. An interconnected regional effort is essential for this work to succeed. The City of Los Angeles should thus partner and coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions to pool resources, staff, funding, and expertise to ensure that our wildlife connectivity efforts are themselves connected.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct LA Sanitation and Environment (LASAN), in partnership with the LASAN Biodiversity Expert Council and the Department of City Planning, to participate in convenings with local and regional jurisdictions and conservation and environmental justice stakeholders for the purpose of sharing best practices, information, and resources, with the aim of developing a Regionwide Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Plan encompassing LA County and Ventura County, connecting the Rim of the Valley to the LA River and Arroyo Seco and the Verdugo and San Gabriel Mountains, and beyond.



APR 26 2022

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of City Planning, in consultation with LASAN, the Department of Building and Safety, and the City Attorney, to report back on or before October 22, 2022, P-22 Day, with a plan for the expansion of the Wildlife Ordinance to cover the additional Protection Areas for Wildlife (PAWs), including the Rim of the Valley areas within the boundaries of the City of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District



PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District



MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District

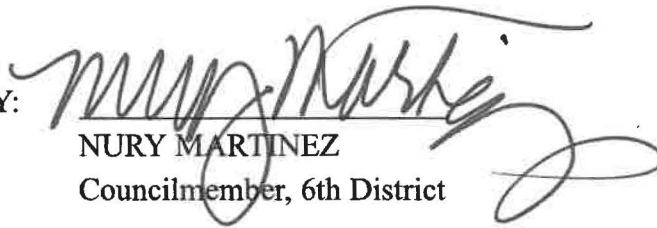


MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District



JOHN LEE
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:



NURY MARTINEZ
Councilmember, 6th District

ORIGINAL