

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/20/2025 08:37 AM

Council File No: 00-9999

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember, Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting the City of Los Angeles' environmental future by restoring positions critical to parks, brownfields, LA River restoration, and climate initiatives. In the face of increasing climate challenges, these dedicated professionals will help ensure Los Angeles remains safe, resilient, and livable for all residents. Their work to expand green spaces, manage urban heat, and implement climate adaptation strategies is more vital than ever as our city confronts rising temperatures and environmental pressures. Your support for these positions reflects a meaningful investment in both our present quality of life and our future sustainability. We deeply appreciate your foresight and dedication to creating a cooler, greener, and more climate-resilient Los Angeles. Sincerely, Jennifer Wilson

Communication from Public

Name: UCLA Faculty & Researchers

Date Submitted: 05/22/2025 10:12 AM

Council File No: 00-9999

Comments for Public Posting: We are faculty and researchers at UCLA. We are experts in a diversity of fields, including but not limited to ecology, biology, environmental science, public policy, humanities, and social and political science. As professors, lecturers, and researchers who teach and conduct research related to biological, social, and political themes in California, we have a deep passion, knowledge, and commitment to preserving the natural and cultural resources of Los Angeles. We are writing to convey our support for the City's Biodiversity, Healthy Soils, and Climate Programs. We urge you to recognize the importance of these programs and to preserve them in the coming budget cycle. We cannot express enough how important these programs are to both the natural and human communities that comprise this city. The City of Los Angeles has been designated one of 36 'Hotspot Cities' for biodiversity in the world. It is only one of three in the United States. The programs outlined above were designed to protect and improve the city's incredible natural resources. Plans within these programs will not only create more habitat for sensitive and rare species within the city, but they will create more natural green space for the city's diverse population. Metrics within the Biodiversity Index, as well as guidelines for the Biodiversity Action Plan focus on goals to improve access to nature for disadvantaged communities within the city's boundaries. Research strongly supports that access to nature supports human physical and mental health, and goals of these programs are to make these benefits accessible to all members of our community. As it stands, only the wealthiest members of our communities have easy access to nature. We need to ensure that these health and recreational benefits are accessible to the entire population. Students and faculty in the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and the Institute of the Environment have worked with LASAN staff, through practicum courses, to help develop metrics of the LA Biodiversity Index, the first of its kind in this country. They have also helped develop the Indicator Species booklet and guidelines for the City's Biodiversity Action Plan. Our faculty and staff have participated as consultants on the City's Biodiversity Expert Council. Calculation of the Biodiversity Index shows us that biodiversity is being lost within the city, but that with work, we can protect and improve the city's

biodiversity and habitats. As scientists and scholars, some of whom have actively participated in the building of these programs, we are extremely concerned because elimination of these programs will undo years of work conducted by city staff, as well as by large networks of collaborators across the state, who have worked tirelessly to develop and consult on these plans. The amount of volunteer work that has gone into these programs is immense, and the amount of budget supplied by the City is extremely small in comparison. However, the City does need staff to coordinate these efforts. We strongly request the City maintain funding for these programs, especially the Environmental Specialist position that supports this valuable work. The benefit that all members of the city reap from this small budget item is immense, and the amount of work hours it supports through vast networks of collaboration cannot be overstated. The very health of our communities, both human and biodiversity, is dependent on maintaining these unique, forward thinking programs. The City of LA has become a leader internationally because of these efforts. We would hate to see the City take a major step backward through elimination of these programs. The impact of climate change and biodiversity loss cannot be overstated. If we don't work to mitigate the negative effects of these global changes now, the amount of money and effort we will need to invest in the future will be massive.



May 21, 2025

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
612 CHARLES E. YOUNG DRIVE EAST
BOX 957246
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095-7246
PHONE: (310) 825-1680
FAX: (310) 206-3987

RE: Support for LA Biodiversity, Healthy Soils, and Climate Programs

Dear Budget and Finance Committee:

We are faculty and researchers at UCLA. We are experts in a diversity of fields, including but not limited to ecology, biology, environmental science, public policy, humanities, and social and political science. As professors, lecturers, and researchers who teach and conduct research related to biological, social, and political themes in California, we have a deep passion, knowledge, and commitment to preserving the natural and cultural resources of Los Angeles.

We are writing to convey our support for the City's Biodiversity, Healthy Soils, and Climate Programs. We urge you to recognize the importance of these programs and to preserve them in the coming budget cycle. We cannot express enough how important these programs are to both the natural and human communities that comprise this city.

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Signed,

Alison J. Lipman, Ph.D., Continuing Lecturer, Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Leryn Gorlitsky, Ph.D., Continuing Lecturer, Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Carrie Bearden, PhD, Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences and Psychology
Beth Ribet, PhD, JD, Lecturer, Gender Studies & Race and Indigeneity Cluster
Michael Chwe, Professor, Political Science
Elizabeth DeLoughrey, Professor, Department of English & Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
Travis Longcore, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
Cody Trojan, Ph.D., Lecturer, Political Science
Kathlyn M. Cooney, Professor, Ancient Egyptian Art & Architecture
Jeff Share, Ph.D., Continuing Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Education & Information Studies
Daniela Dover, Ph.D., Professor, Philosophy
Joseph Curti, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, UCLA La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science
James P. Dines, Ph.D., Continuing Lecturer, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Peter Nonacs, Ph.D., Professor, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Stephanie M. Aguillon, Assistant Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Diana Rigueur, Lecturer, Department of Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology
Victoria Marks, Professor, Disability Studies
Claire O. Geiman, PhD. Student, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Paul Barber, Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
David Blake, Assistant Director - UCLA Stunt Ranch Santa Monica Mountains Reserve
Namhee Lee, Professor, Asian Languages & Cultures
Caroline Luce, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment
Greg Grether, Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Morgan W Tingley, Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

CC:

Councilmember and Chair Katy Yaroslavsky
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember Heather Hutt
Councilmember Tim McOsker
Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez

Communication from Public

Name: Concerned Resident of East LA

Date Submitted: 05/22/2025 02:24 PM

Council File No: 00-9999

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting the City of Los Angeles' environmental future by restoring positions critical to parks, brownfields, LA River restoration, and climate initiatives. In the face of increasing climate challenges, these dedicated professionals will help ensure Los Angeles remains safe, resilient, and livable for all residents. Their work to expand green spaces, manage urban heat, and implement climate adaptation strategies is more vital than ever as our city confronts rising temperatures and environmental pressures. Your support for these positions reflects a meaningful investment in both our present quality of life and our future sustainability. We deeply appreciate your foresight and dedication to creating a cooler, greener, and more climate-resilient Los Angeles. Sincerely, A concerned LA resident

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/22/2025 07:07 PM

Council File No: 00-9999

Comments for Public Posting: STOP ALL DRILLING NOW!