

Communication from Public

Name: Pamela Bean

Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 09:13 AM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: - I fully support the Wildlife Ordinance with NO FURTHER changes.

Communication from Public

Name: Deborah Jean Bird

Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 09:47 AM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Deborah Bird. I am a biologist. I live at 708 Angelus Pl., Los Angeles, CA. I fully support the Wildlife Ordinance with NO FURTHER changes. These are some of my reasons: ---The Wildlife Ordinance is supported by wildlife biologists, environmental scientists, ecologists. ---The Wildlife Ordinance is supported by over 80% of residents in the WO Pilot Area, who voted yes on Measure H, which supports local open space preservation funded by these voters' own property taxes ---The Santa Monica Mountains are a unique hotspot for biodiversity on the edge of a major metropolis. ---No other city in the United States has an urban/natural resource such as our Santa Monica Mountains. This resource is under threat by development. ---Environmental protection has the mandate of Angelenos. ---Time is of the essence. Many, too many, new properties have been authorized and threaten miles of wildlife connection. At a time when enormous effort and cost is being invested in the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing as a reaction to original poor planning, we now need to take a preventative approach, make smart decisions in city planning, protect undeveloped areas, and support The Wildlife Ordinance. Deborah Bird, PhD Project Scientist Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology UCLA 310-245-2003

Communication from Public

Name: William Wright

Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 10:44 AM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Dr. William Grandfield Wright. I am a biologist. I live at 708 Angelus Pl., Los Angeles, CA. I fully support the Wildlife Ordinance with NO FURTHER changes. These are some of my reasons: ---The Wildlife Ordinance is supported by wildlife biologists, environmental scientists, ecologists. ---The Wildlife Ordinance is supported by over 80% of residents in the WO Pilot Area, who voted yes on Measure H, which supports local open space preservation funded by these voters' own property taxes ---The Santa Monica Mountains are a unique hotspot for biodiversity on the edge of a major metropolis. ---No other city in the United States has an urban/natural resource such as our Santa Monica Mountains. This resource is under threat by development. ---Environmental protection has the mandate of Angelenos. ---Please execute the will of the people, which is to maintain our beautiful city, where most citizens value our local nature is valued and protected and fight against the greed of wealthy investors.

Communication from Public

Name: Douglas Fudge

Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 10:44 AM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Dr. Douglas Fudge. I am a biologist. I live at 11030 Rhoda Way, Culver City, 90230. I fully support the Wildlife Ordinance with NO FURTHER changes. These are some of my reasons: -The Wildlife Ordinance is supported by wildlife biologists, environmental scientists, ecologists. -The Wildlife Ordinance is supported by over 80% of residents in the WO Pilot Area, who voted yes on Measure H, which supports local open space preservation funded by these voters' own property taxes -The Santa Monica Mountains are a unique hotspot for biodiversity on the edge of a major metropolis. -No other city in the United States has an urban/natural resource such as our Santa Monica Mountains. This resource is under threat by development. -Environmental protection has the mandate of Angelenos. -Time is of the essence. Many, too many, new properties have been authorized and threaten miles of wildlife connection. At a time when enormous effort and cost is being invested in the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing as a reaction to original poor planning, we now need to take a preventative approach, make smart decisions in city planning, protect undeveloped areas, and support The Wildlife Ordinance. Douglas Fudge, PhD Professor, Chapman University

Communication from Public

Name: Barry Campion

Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 11:17 AM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Barry Campion and am a retired landscape designer and now volunteer with a group (VVG) that works with the city to plant native plants and trees in our neighborhood. I have worked on and designed many projects that border the the Santa Monica Recreation areas and have seen the impact of development on wildlife - such as extensive fencing and destruction of habitat. I fully support the Wildlife Ordinance with NO FURTHER changes. These are some of my reasons: ---The Wildlife Ordinance is supported by wildlife biologists, environmental scientists, ecologists. ---The Wildlife Ordinance is supported by over 80% of residents in the WO Pilot Area, who voted yes on Measure H, which supports local open space preservation funded by these voters' own property taxes ---The Santa Monica Mountains are a unique hotspot for biodiversity on the edge of a major metropolitis. ---No other city in the United States has an urban/natural resource such as our Santa Monica Mountains. This resource is under threat by development. ---Environmental protection has the mandate of Angelenos. ---Time is of the essence. Many, too many, new properties have been authorized and threaten miles of wildlife connection. At a time when enormous effort and cost is being invested in the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing as a reaction to original poor planning, we now need to take a preventative approach, make smart decisions in city planning, protect undeveloped areas, and support The Wildlife Ordinance. Barry Campion

Communication from Public

Name: Alysa N.

Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 11:38 AM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: Hello Representatives and Neighbors: - I fully support the Wildlife Ordinance with NO FURTHER changes. - Throughout this process, more than 62,000 notices were sent to local properties, and countless hours were dedicated to listening to community voices and refining the ordinance. - The City Council File shows more than 100 pages of wildlife, ecologists and environmental scientists in addition to hillside residents and Neighborhood Councils in support of the ordinance. - In that time (a decade), countless new properties have been authorized threatening miles of wildlife connections, wildfire defensibility, and further threatening hillside stability. It is time to put the pencil down and support this important and necessary ordinance. - The eastern Santa Monica Mountains are a biodiversity hotspot, but this crucial natural resource is under threat, particularly from urban development. The Wildlife Ordinance is an important step towards protecting this biodiversity, via simple and common sense measures. - Over 80% of residents in the Wildlife Ordinance Pilot Area voted YES on Measure H, which supports local open space preservation funded by these voters' own property taxes. Environmental protection is a clear priority not just for these residents, but for all Angelenos. Thank you for your consideration and support for preserving wildlife, which is in the best interest of our community in Los Angeles -- now and for generations to come.

Communication from Public

Name: Sara Roos

Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 12:16 PM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: Dear PLUM Cmte members, CD5 councilmember Yaroslavsky, CD11 councilmember Park: I SUPPORT PASSING the wildlife ordinance, expertly crafted by our City Attorney's office, WITH NO FURTHER CHANGES. I am surrounded by biologists as are we all by... biology. My father, brother, husband and child are all biologists. And I couldn't be more sympathetic to the wildlife on our planet - all of it, no matter the number of legs. • Conserve the biodiversity of the Eastern SM Mountains. • Support the overwhelming will of the people and Measure H to preserve open space for humans and animals alike. • Support the expert, representative testimony in support of conservation by professional wildlife biologists and environmental scientists; as well as political support from the grassroots -- Neighborhood Councils, hillside residents. Please let's move on to more difficult-to-negotiate political matters like, say, "solving" homelessness and the plight of people on our streets. This matter of kow-towing yet further, as per usual, to real estate developers' incessant drive for excessive profit, simply should be set aside (I am referencing their temporizing and other objections in the CF). Not now. We have a good ordinance, as per instructed: please PASS the wildlife ordinance WITH NO FURTHER CHANGES. Thanks, - Sara Roos, _elected Democratic delegate from AD 55 to LA/CDP (Mar Vista, CD11)._

Communication from Public

Name: Joseph A Custer

Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 01:06 PM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose this "Wildlife" Ordinance as it is not for wildlife protection. It is a Ridgeline Ordinance disguised as a "wildlife" protection measure. It is poorly written and has been championed by groups with too much influence on city government. I am a resident and owner in Mt Olympus, a neighborhood of approximately 405 single-family housing units in the Hollywood Hills between Laurel and Nichols Canyons. Mt Olympus was the largest Planned Urban Development in the US when it was developed in the late 1960's. Mt Olympus is within the pilot program's "Wildlife Supplemental Use District" (WSUD), and our homeowners and residents would be negatively impacted should the above-mentioned LAMC amendments and zone changes be applied to our community as currently proposed. The draft Wildlife uses "Hillside Aesthetics" and the "visual impact" of ridgeline homes to justify the 25 ft height limit. What do aesthetics and visual impact have to do with wildlife? We would all support a sincere approach to managing wildlife interactions within our community; however, as proposed, we do not accept building restrictions that do not help protect wildlife. Two existing ordinances, the BMO and BHO, restrict development in our community.

Communication from Public

Name: Marian Dodge
Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 02:40 PM
Council File No: 14-0518
Comments for Public Posting: Hillside Federation supports Wildlife Ordinance with no changes.

P.O. Box 27404
Los Angeles, CA 90027
www.hillsidefederation.org



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June 28, 2022

Lena Mik, Planning Associate
City Hall Room 750
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
VIA email OurLA2040@lacity.org

Re: CPC-2022-3413-CA and CPC-2022-3712-ZC

Dear Ms. Mik:

In response to your presentation at our May 17, 2022 Monthly Meeting, the Hillside Federation is providing a few recommendations to help improve the proposed Wildlife Ordinance:

1. Native Woodlands identified by 2006 National Park Service vegetation mapping is a Resource.
2. All undeveloped City properties (except DWP) with APNs are "Open Space".
3. Identify "Paper Streets" (dedicated street easements) as habitat linkage.
4. Open Space mapping shall be revised and updated at least annually. Update should include all land preserved for open space by either public or private organizations.
5. Conservation easements and open space deed restrictions shall be "open space" under this Ordinance.
6. Have a Required Finding for Site Plan Review such that the environmental impacts of the Project have been evaluated, mitigated, and reduced to the maximum extent feasible.
7. The requirement for tree removal permits by the Forestry Division of the Bureau of Street Services with review and approval by the Board of Public Works shall not be changed by this ordinance.

Footnote: Unused city-owned parcels shall be zoned as open space

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Charley Mims

President, Hillside Federation

CC: Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Nithya Raman
Councilmember Mike Bonin

Communication from Public

Name: Marian Dodge
Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 02:42 PM
Council File No: 14-0518
Comments for Public Posting: Hillside Federation supports Wildlife Ordinance with no changes.

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November 14, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

City Planning Commission
201 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
cpc@lacity.org
Patrick.whalen@lacity.org

Re: November 17, 2022, Items 9 & 10; CPC-2022-3413-CA, CPC-2022-3712-ZC, and ENV-2022-3414-CE

Dear President Millman and Commissioners:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. ("Hillside Federation"), founded in 1952, represents 46 homeowner and resident associations with approximately 250,000 constituents panning the Santa Monica Mountains. The Federation's mission includes protecting the property and quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and encouraging and promoting those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.

The Hillside Federation continues to strongly support the proposed Wildlife District Ordinance ("Ordinance"). However, the Hillside Federation believes that the current draft of the Ordinance has room for improvements and offers the following comments and suggested revisions:

Addition of "Habitat Triggers" for Site Plan Review

The new draft has not successfully achieved ensuring that development projects most likely to result in substantial loss to wildlife habitat are subjected to Site Plan Review - where a more focused, site-specific analysis can be undertaken to ensure that landform alteration is minimized, impacts to biotic resources reduced and project modifications considered.¹ We are therefore requesting the addition of a "habitat trigger" for Site Plan Review.

Currently, there are only three triggers for Site Plan Review in the Ordinance, which include the following: (1) 1,000 cubic yards or more of remedial grading, (2) homes of 7500 square feet or larger and (3) building within a Wildlife Resource or buffer. Unfortunately, Site Plan Review will not be triggered for many development projects that result in significant habitat

¹ See Site Plan Review Wildlife Findings at page 26 of Ordinance.

loss. This is because the City has too narrowly defined “Wildlife Resource” to include only zoned or protected open space and water resources. See Table 7.2. Development can occur via this Ordinance that will result in significant habitat loss to protected species and native woodlands without ever triggering Site Plan Review. This is a problem. Substantial swaths of high-value habitat exist on lots in the Pilot Study Area and we strongly contend that the development of these lots should be subject to Site Plan Review. Preventing habitat loss is a critical function of any wildlife ordinance and inclusion of a habitat trigger for Site Plan Review makes perfect sense.

We are suggesting the following habitat trigger:

- Proposed removal of 3 or more protected trees

Adding this trigger would ensure that development of lots with high habitat value is done with sensitivity towards the preservation of that habitat.

Reduction in Size of Home Triggering Site Plan Review

The Hillside Federation believes that the 7,500 square foot trigger for Site Plan Review should be reduced to between 3,000 to 4,000 square feet. A modern family can be fully accommodated by a home of this size.

Revision to Definition of Open Space

The City has proposed to delete the following sentence from the definition of “Open Space:” Open Space shall also include City-owned vacant land that, while not zones as Open Space, meets the criteria above.” The Hillside Federation strongly opposes this deletion. City-owned vacant land in the hillsides provide abundant habitat for wildlife. The deletion of this sentence would allow development provides to be built *within* 25 feet of these City-owned lots without ever triggering Site Plan Review resulting in significant habitat loss. There is no legitimate basis to exclude City-owned land that meets the criteria for being considered open space from being deemed “open space.” To the extent that the City is concerned that City-initiated developments could be subjected to Site Plan Review, the Ordinance could be amended to clarify that development initiated by the City is exempt from the ordinance altogether.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Charley Mims

President, Hillside Federation

CC: Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Nithya Raman
Councilmember Mike Bonin

Communication from Public

Name: Marian Dodge
Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 02:44 PM
Council File No: 14-0518
Comments for Public Posting: Hillside Federation supports Wildlife Ordinance with no changes.

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

via email

June 19, 2023

**Re: #19 CF 14-0518
Wildlife Ordinance SUPPORT**

Dear PLUM Committee:

The Hillside Federation which represents 47 resident associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains has supported a Wildlife Ordinance since 2014. A few simple modifications to new construction design in the Supplemental Use District will assure that wildlife continues to be able to move across our hillsides and does not become isolated. The cumulative effect of many people making small changes will have a great impact on wildlife's ability to survive and thrive.

Since the arrival of P-22 in Griffith Park more than a decade ago, the people of Los Angeles have shown an increased appreciation for the wildlife in their own backyard. P-22's death late last year only increased their resolve. They have learned the benefits of co-existing with wildlife.

The Hillside Federation strongly urges you to approve the Wildlife Ordinance today.

Sincerely,

Charley Mims

Argyle Civic Assn.
Beachwood Canyon NA
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Sunshine Hills Residents Assn.
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Upper Mandeville Canyon Assn.
Upper Nichols Canyon NA
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

Communication from Public

Name: Marian Dodge
Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 02:24 PM
Council File No: 14-0518
Comments for Public Posting: Wildlife Ordinance - Support with no changes.

P.O. Box 27404
Los Angeles, CA 90027
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Budget and Finance Committee

May 3, 2021

Re: **CF 21-0600**
2021 - 2022 Budget **Wildlife Pilot Study**

Dear Chair Krekorian and Councilmembers:

The Hillside Federation, founded in 1952, represents 46 resident and homeowner associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains. Our mission is to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles. The Federation has actively supported the staffing and completion of the Wildlife Pilot Study and Wildlife Corridor Ordinance.

Los Angeles is unique in that it is the only major city with a mountain range running through it. Mayor Garcetti has referred to it as the gem of the city, stretching the length of Mulholland Drive to Griffith Park. Both are major tourist attractions, but more than that, parks and open space in the mountains provide refuge for the city's residents to escape from the stress of urban living especially during COVID restrictions. The Planning Director recently issued a memo greatly reducing review of projects along the Mulholland Scenic Corridor because it would be covered by the Wildlife Pilot Study. This was a strange decision to make considering the fact that Planning is complaining that they don't have enough staff and the Design Review Board has been reviewing projects for free.

Meanwhile the Mayor cut funding for the Wildlife Study. There is a disconnect in City Hall. Both of these entities need to be restored. City Council needs to restore funding to complete the Wildlife Corridor Ordinance and staff its 4 positions, which is a very small amount in the city's budget. City Council also needs to rescind the Planning Director's Memorandum and restore review of projects in the Outer Corridor by the Design Review Board. The Wildlife Corridor Ordinance and Mulholland Design Review Board will both ensure a proper balance of nature and development within the Santa Monica Mountains.

The protection of our natural habitat demands it. The physical and mental health of our residents demand it.

Sincerely,

Charley Mims

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Communication from Public

Name: Marian Dodge
Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 02:28 PM
Council File No: 14-0518
Comments for Public Posting: Hillside Federation supports Wildlife Ordinance with no changes.



CITIZENS FOR
LOS ANGELES
WILDLIFE



May 26, 2021

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

Dear Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of the undersigned organization, we want to thank you for the investment you've made in protecting wildlife connectivity and native biodiversity as you approve the FY 2021-22 budget. We want to give special thanks to the members of the Budget and Finance Committee, especially Chair Paul Krekorian.

In particular, we appreciate investments in four staff positions that will be critical to: 1) finalizing and implementing the wildlife ordinance and 2) advancing the wildlife corridors pilot study to apply to the Rim of the Valley.

Having advocated at City Hall for years around this issue, we know that there are still important details that need to be finalized, but we look forward to reviewing the draft ordinance and coordinating with the City Planning Department to ensure the final draft strongly protects the region's threatened and endangered species as well as the remaining habitat linkages that are essential to their survival.

Please contact Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat at ereidwainscoat@biologicaldiversity.org or (831) 428-3312 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat
Urban Wildlands Campaigner
Center for Biological Diversity

Tony Tucci
Chair

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife

Damon Nagami

Senior Attorney, Nature Program

Director, Southern California Ecosystems Project

Natural Resource Defense Council

Jim Hines

Team Leader, California Wildlife Team

Sierra Club

Beth Pratt

California Executive Director

National Wildlife Federation

Kelsey Jessup

Urban Conservation Program Manager

The Nature Conservancy

Gerry Hans

President

Friends of Griffith Park

Marian Dodge

Chairman

Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations

Wendy-Sue Rosen

Co-founder

Brentwood Alliance of Canyons and Hillsides

Communication from Public

Name: Marian Dodge
Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 02:30 PM
Council File No: 14-0518
Comments for Public Posting: Hillside Federation supports Wildlife Ordinance with no changes.

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Patrick Whalen, City Planning Associate
200 N. Spring Street, Room 701
Los Angeles, CA 90012
patrick.whelen@lacity.org

June 22, 2021

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Re: **Ridgeline Protection Ordinance**

Dear Mr. Whalen:

The Hillside Federation, founded in 1952 and representing 45 resident and homeowner associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains, has been anticipating a Ridgeline Protection Ordinance for more than twenty years. It has been our dream to get an ordinance similar to the one that Los Angeles County has enjoyed for years. We were so excited when it was announced that such an ordinance would be released soon.

Imagine our disappointment when the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance was finally released and informational webinars revealed that what we were being offered was merely a Ridgeline Protection *Supplemental Use District*, not a true *citywide* ordinance. It is instead only a pilot program in the Bel Air - Beverly Crest area and a small portion of the Hollywood Community Plan. Why do we need a pilot program for something the County has been successfully doing for decades and something for which the Hillside Federation has been begging the City for at least as long?

The ordinance should apply citywide now. It is simply nonsense that each community plan has to individually request the addition of the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance. Why should each area have to beg and grovel to get protections to which they are rightfully entitled? The Ridgeline Protection Ordinance should automatically be included in every Community Plan.

We all remember how, after a lengthy planning process (2005-2012), the Hollywood Community Plan ended up being rescinded in 2014 due to a lawsuit. Hollywood has reverted to its 1988 community plan while update attempts are still dragging on. In all likelihood a very similar scenario will play out here: a lawsuit will be filed against the current version of the HCPU2. That means that although we have requested that the Ridgeline Protection Supplemental Use District be added to the Hollywood Community Plan Update 2, we will be further delayed in getting these desperately needed protections – if indeed we ever do get them. Meanwhile, developers are free to continue destroying our ridgelines.

An additional disappointment was the creation of separate rules for ridgelines that have already been disturbed. As you accurately pointed out in the webinar, the vast majority of ridgelines have already been disturbed. That is no reason to allow those ridgelines to be further degraded. On the contrary, they are all the more environmentally sensitive because of what has already been done to them and it is all the more imperative that any new construction, addition, or remodel stay within its current footprint or comply with the parameters established for RP1. Of course existing buildings should be allowed to remain. However we see no reason why a property owner should be allowed to further degrade the ridgeline just because it is already partially degraded. RP1 should be the only model.

And one other very big question remains: how will the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance be enforced? Enforcement is always the elephant in the room.

Unfortunately, like so many of the Planning Department's recent decisions, the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance's slow motion rollout and lack of enforcement provisions seem designed not to protect our ridgelines but to give developers more leeway and reduce community input and participation in the process. In order to truly protect our ridgelines, the following very precise and timely actions are required:

1. The Ridgeline Protection Ordinance must be applicable citywide to all ridgelines – *not a pilot program*.
2. The Ridgeline Protection Ordinance must be included in every Community Plan.
3. RP1 should be the only model.
4. Rigorous enforcement must be included.

Then, and only then, will we have an ordinance worthy of the City of Los Angeles. If all these conditions are not met and met quickly, by the time the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance is actually implemented, there won't be any ridgelines left to protect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charley Mims". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Charley Mims

Communication from Public

Name: Marian Dodge
Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 02:32 PM
Council File No: 14-0518
Comments for Public Posting: Hillside Federation supports Wildlife Ordinance with no changes.

P.O. Box 27404
Los Angeles, CA 90027
www.hillsidefederation.org



PRESIDENT
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Marian Dodge
VICE PRESIDENTS
Mark Stratton
Jamie Hall
SECRETARIES
Julie Kremkus
Robin Greenberg
TREASURER
Don Andres

City Council

December 2, 2021

Re: **CF 21-1286 Support**

Honorable Councilmembers:

The Hillside Federation, founded in 1952, and representing 46 resident and homeowner associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains, enthusiastically supports CF 21-1286.

The Federation applauds the foresight and initiative demonstrated by the Councilmembers who submitted this motion. It is absolutely critical that the City manage and monitor our precious natural resources, particularly in the Santa Monica Mountains. Development in environmentally sensitive areas must be carefully managed to preserve this great city asset.

The City cannot afford to wait to act to preserve these habitats. We are facing dire impacts from climate change. We need to do our part to support the nation-wide initiative 30 X 30 and to support the City's biodiversity efforts, Ridgeline Protection Ordinance, and Wildlife Pilot Study. These efforts all require strong implementation provisions.

The Federation urges you to support CF 21-1286.

Sincerely,

Charley Mims

Argyle Civic Assn.
Beachwood Canyon NA
Bel-Air Assn.
Bel-Air Hills Assn.
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills Homeowners
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Bundy Canyon Assn.
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners
Canyon Back Alliance
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Dixie Canyon Assn.
Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA
Franklin/Hollywood West Res.
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Hollywoodland HOA
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.
Lake Hollywood HOA
Laurel Canyon Assn.
LFIA (Los Feliz)
Mountaingate
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.
Nichols Canyon NA
Oak Forest Canyon HOA
Oaks Homeowners Assn.
Outpost Estates HOA
Pacific Palisades Res. Assn.
Residents of Beverly Glen
Save Coldwater Canyon!
Save Our Canyon
Shadow Hills POA
Sherman Oaks HOA
Silver Lake Heritage Trust
Studio City Residents Assn.
Sunset Hills HOA
Tarzana POA
Upper Mandeville Canyon Assn.
Upper Nichols Canyon NA
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

CHAIRS EMERITI
Shirley Cohen
Jerome C. Daniel
Patricia Bell Hearst
Alan Kishbaugh
Steve Twining
CHAIRS IN MEMORIAM
Brian Moore
Gordon Murley
Polly Ward

Communication from Public

Name: Ryan Ellingson

Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 02:33 PM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Dr. Ryan Ellingson and I live in Van Nuys (CD-6). I am a biologist and high school science teacher, and I'm deeply concerned about the future for my students and for all Angelenos. I fully support the Wildlife Ordinance with NO FURTHER changes. Here are some of the reasons for my support: - Throughout the process of writing and revising this ordinance, more than 62,000 notices were sent to local properties, and countless hours were dedicated to listening to community voices and refining the ordinance. - The City Council File shows more than 100 pages of wildlife biologists, ecologists, and environmental scientists, in addition to hillside residents and Neighborhood Councils, in support of the ordinance. - During that decade of work, countless new properties have been authorized threatening miles of wildlife connections, wildfire defensibility, and further threatening hillside stability. It is time beyond time to stop stalling, consider the revisions final, and support this important and necessary ordinance. - The eastern Santa Monica Mountains are a biodiversity hotspot, but this crucial natural resource is under threat, particularly from urban development. Biodiversity loss is a global problem with local solutions, and it threatens our livelihoods AT LEAST as much as climate change if not more. The Wildlife Ordinance is an important step toward protecting local biodiversity via simple, common sense measures. - Over 80% of residents in the Wildlife Ordinance Pilot Area voted YES on Measure H, which supports local open space preservation funded by these voters' own property taxes. Environmental protection is a clear priority not just for these residents, but for all Angelenos as years of voting results indicate. -Time is of the essence. Many, too many, new properties have been authorized and threaten miles of wildlife connection. At a time when enormous effort and cost is being invested in the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing as a reaction to original poor planning, we now need to take a preventative approach, make smart decisions in city planning, protect undeveloped areas, and support The Wildlife Ordinance. Sincerely, Ryan Ellingson, Ph.D. Evolutionary Biologist & Science Teacher

Communication from Public

Name: Amy G

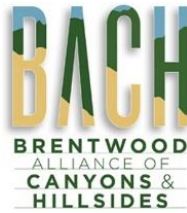
Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 02:34 PM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: I am in favor of the Wildlife Ordinance and look forward to it completing a successful pilot program. The ordinance is a well-balanced proposal that preserves the rights of property owners while adding small but effective measures to assure wildlife connectivity. Please support the Wildlife Ordinance WITHOUT ANY CHANGES.

Communication from Public

Name: Marian Dodge
Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 02:34 PM
Council File No: 14-0518
Comments for Public Posting: Hillside Federation supports Wildlife Ordinance with no changes.



May 2, 2022

Los Angeles City Council
City of Los Angeles
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Funding for Wildlife Ordinance Staff Positions in City of Los Angeles' 2022 Budget - SUPPORT

Dear Los Angeles City Council:

A strong wildlife ordinance is a critical step in protecting the City's biodiversity and open space for both people and wildlife. The undersigned organizations urge you to include funding for personnel to turn the wildlife pilot into a citywide ordinance in the 2022 budget, as requested by Councilmember Kevin de Leon. A strong ordinance that incorporates the amendments outlined in [this letter](#) submitted by conservation organizations to the Department of City Planning on August 9, 2021, will help protect wildlife and ecosystems and achieve co-benefits such as supporting climate resiliency and public health.

Life on Earth is experiencing a sixth mass extinction, with species disappearing at a rate of more than 1,000 times greater than the background extinction rate.¹ Habitat loss and fragmentation are the primary drivers of the extinction crisis. Combating this crisis requires engagement from all levels of government. In Southern California, local jurisdictions such as Ventura County have already adopted wildlife ordinances, and the City has an opportunity to join other forward-thinking jurisdictions in using its land use authority to protect wildlife and ecosystems.

In Los Angeles, local mountain lions exemplify the need for a strong wildlife ordinance. Local mountain lions are often unable to find mates, food, and shelter due to barriers caused by poorly sited development and roads. Southern California mountain lions – including the local Santa Monica Mountains population within the City – are now provisionally listed under

¹ Center for Biological Diversity, *California Connections: How Wildlife Connectivity Can Fight Extinction and Protect Public Safety* (Aug. 2021), available at <https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/wildlife-connectivity/pdfs/California-Connections-wildlife-connectivity-report.pdf>.

the state endangered species act primarily due to loss of habitat connectivity. A strong wildlife ordinance will help ensure the survival of local mountain lions and advance the state's policy of preserving threatened and endangered species.

A strong wildlife ordinance will enhance fire safety.² The science is clear that increased development in high fire-prone wildlands can lead to more human-caused ignitions, as most contemporary wildfires in California are caused by human sources such as power lines, car sparks, cigarettes, and electrical equipment.³ Building new developments in high fire-risk areas increases unintentional ignitions and places more people in danger. Since 2015, almost 200 people in the state have been killed in wildfires, more than 50,000 structures have burned down, hundreds of thousands have had to evacuate their homes and endure power outages, and millions have been exposed to unhealthy levels of smoke and air pollution.⁴ In addition, increasing fire frequency due to development is converting chaparral and sage scrub ecosystems into non-native grasses that burn more easily, leading to a dangerous “feedback loop” of increasing fire and degraded habitats. A strong wildlife ordinance is an important step to combat these issues.

A wildlife ordinance will also foster climate resiliency. Climate change is worsening ecosystem stress and increasing variability in temperature, leaving plants and wildlife struggling to adapt. A permeable landscape allows species to adjust to shifts in resource availability and help ensure populations persist after extreme events worsened by climate change. For example, during wildfires and floods, a permeable landscape provides escape routes for animals seeking safety.

The welfare of humans is deeply linked to nature and access to open space. Open space has been vital to many communities during the pandemic and provided community spaces for safe socially distanced gatherings. Continued preservation and increased access will help ensure all Angelenos experience the physical and mental health benefits of nature. Native landscapes help us regulate our climate, purify our air and water, pollinate our crops and create healthy soil. In addition to the direct benefits from access, preservation of our native habitats and the species that rely on them is critical to our long-term health and wellbeing.

By supporting funding for personnel to finalize a strong wildlife ordinance, the City can join other leaders and jurisdictions in forward-thinking efforts in biodiversity and environmental health, such as Ventura County's wildlife connectivity ordinances, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Natural Resource Protection Plan, Governor Newsom's 30 by 30 conservation goals, and Representative Adam Schiff's Rim of the Valley Preservation Act.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to include funding for personnel to turn the wildlife pilot into a citywide ordinance in the 2022 budget.

² Greenbelt Alliance, “The Critical Role of Greenbelts in Wildfire Resilience” (2021), available at <https://www.greenbelt.org/research/the-critical-role-of-greenbelts-in-wildfire-resilience/>.

³ Center for Biological Diversity, “Built to Burn: California's Wildlands Developments Are Playing With Fire” (Feb. 2021), available at <https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/urban/pdfs/Built-to-Burn-California-Wildfire-Report-Center-Biological-Diversity.pdf>.

⁴ CAL FIRE Incidents. CAL FIRE (2015-2020), Accessed, March 15th, 2021. <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents>

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat
Campaigner
Center for Biological Diversity

Beth Pratt
California Executive Director
National Wildlife Foundation

Damon Nagami
Senior Attorney, Nature Program
Director, Southern California Ecosystems Project
Natural Resources Defense Council

Dan Silver
Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League

Gerry Hans
President
Friends of Griffith Park

Charley Mims
President
Hillside Federation

Wendy-Sue Rosen
Co-founder
Brentwood Alliance of Canyons & Hillsides

Jaime Hall
President
Laurel Canyon Land Trust &
Laurel Canyon Association

cc:

Lena Mik, Planning Associate, City Planning, Los Angeles, lena.mik@lacity.org

Alexander Linz, Planning Assistant, City Planning, Los Angeles, alexander.linz@lacity.org

Kat Superfisky, Urban Ecologist, City Planning, Los Angeles, kat.superfisky@lacity.org

Connie Pallini-Tipton, Senior Planner, City Planning, Los Angeles, conni.pallini-tipton@lacity.org

Communication from Public

Name: Don Andres, Hillside Federation Officer

Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 03:05 PM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: The Hillside Federation which represents 47 neighborhood associations and approximately 200,000+ residents spanning the Santa Monica Mountains has supported a Wildlife Ordinance since 2014. Since the arrival of P-22 in Griffith Park more than a decade ago, the people of Los Angeles have shown an increased appreciation for the wildlife in their own backyard. P-22's death only increased their resolve. They have learned the benefits of co-existing with wildlife. The Hillside Federation strongly urges you to approve the Wildlife Ordinance today.

Communication from Public

Name: Marian Dodge
Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 02:23 PM
Council File No: 14-0518
Comments for Public Posting: Wildlife Ordinance - Support with no changes.



March 15, 2021

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Mayor Garcetti:

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us many things, and a critical lesson that should not be overlooked is the link between environmental health and the health of people. A key element of environmental health is biodiversity, which is declining worldwide primarily due to loss of habitat (Chase et al., 2020). In the City of Los Angeles, there have been overtures towards addressing our declining biodiversity, but crucial and meaningful steps have not been solidified into policy. The undersigned organizations urge you to fully fund the City's Wildlife Pilot Study Program and Wildlife Corridor Pilot Ordinance in your draft 2021/2022 budget, and in alignment with your Sustainability Plan of 2019, direct Planning to deliver a draft ordinance to the City Council by June 30, 2021. By taking these necessary steps to protect the City's biodiversity, the City will also be supporting the health and sustainability of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems of Los Angeles.

As a reminder, in 2019's LA's Green New Deal Sustainability Plan, the 2021 Milestones and Initiatives are to "Set biodiversity targets and pilot LA's first wildlife corridor." However, in 2020, after the pandemic's initial impact, LA's draft emergency budget for fiscal 2020/2021 eliminated the Planning Department's Wildlife Pilot Study Program, which is the City's key contribution to the wildlife corridor pilot zone in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. In response to this omission, hundreds of individuals and organizations wrote to the Planning Department and City Council, and through true grassroots interests, a reinstatement of some funding to the Planning Department kept this program alive.

We are reaching out to you to ensure this omission does not happen again and that you will include adequate funding in your draft budget for the Planning Department to timely complete this project. If we want our City's legacy to include the Green New Deal, we cannot end funding and suspend one of its important milestones.

To pull funding for the Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance would contradict the City's goals for a "prosperous, livable, safe and well-run" city as heralded in the 2019/20 open budget for the City, and runs contrary to related work and investments currently supported on both city and state levels. This Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance must continue to be an important priority, even in times of crisis, because it implements the City's immediate goals for the health and sustainability of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems of Los Angeles. We also note that as of March 10th, 2021, the City is expected to receive \$1.35 billion from the federal relief package, which will help address the City's budget constraints.

The City has an obligation under state law to protect endangered or threatened animal populations, and not approve development projects that may jeopardize the survival of such populations. The mountain lions of the Santa Monica mountains are provisionally listed under the California Endangered Species Act and are presently at risk of extinction, primarily due to loss of habitat connectivity and open space caused by poorly sited development and lack of wildlife crossings (Gustafson et al. 2018; Benson et al. 2016; Benson et al. 2019). The City has an obligation not to push this population closer to extinction by allowing further degradation of existing wildlife corridors through poorly sited development. The Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance are critical steps toward meeting the City's legal obligations and preserving the City's biodiversity.

Ensuring the protection of open space is also equally important for people. Open space has been vital to many communities during the pandemic and provided essential community spaces for safe socially distanced gatherings. This reaffirms the need for continued preservation and increased access to ensure all Angelenos experience the physical and mental health benefits of nature. Native landscapes help us regulate our climate, purify our air and water, pollinate our crops and create healthy soil (Lawler et al., 2014). In addition to the direct benefits from access, preservation of our native habitats and the species that rely on them is critical to our long-term health and wellbeing (Martin et al., 2020).

We know these times are challenging for Los Angeles and we applaud your work in protecting human health and safety. As we continue to fight the immediate threat posed by the pandemic, we must also look ahead and prevent future health crises from occurring. By supporting the City's long range wildlife corridor program, the City can join other leaders in forward-thinking efforts in biodiversity and environmental health, such as Governor Newsom's 30 by 30 conservation goals, and Representative Schiff's steadfastness in passing the Rim of the Valley Preservation Act.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to fully fund the City's Wildlife Pilot Study Program and Ordinance in your draft 2021/2022 budget and direct Planning to deliver a draft ordinance to the City Council by June 30, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Tony Tucci
Chair
Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife

J.P. Rose
Staff Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity

Damon Nagami
Senior Attorney, Nature Program
Director, Southern California Ecosystems Project
Natural Resource Defense Council

Jim Hines
Team Leader, California Wildlife Team
Sierra Club

Beth Pratt
California Executive Director
National Wildlife Federation

Kelsey Jessup
Urban Conservation Program Manager
The Nature Conservancy

Gerry Hans
President
Friends of Griffith Park

Marian Dodge
Chairman
Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations

Wendy-Sue Rosen
Co-founder
Brentwood Alliance of Canyons and Hillsides

References

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Communication from Public

Name: Laura

Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 05:09 PM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: This bill was introduced in 2014! Then there was wildlife in the hills, indeed. Not anymore. Hardly ever we see a lone deer or a coyote. I strongly oppose this "Wildlife" Ordinance in disguise to control and restrict further development in our community, with already two existing ordinances, the BMO and BHO. I am a resident and owner in Mt Olympus since 1986, a neighborhood of about 400 single-family housing units in the Hollywood Hills between Laurel and Nichols Canyons. Mt Olympus was the largest Planned Urban Development in the US when it was developed in the late 1960's. The homeowners and residents would be negatively impacted should the above-mentioned LAMC amendments and zone changes be applied to our community as currently proposed. The draft Wildlife uses "Hillside Aesthetics" and the "visual impact" of ridgeline homes to justify the 25 ft height limit. What do aesthetics and visual impact have to do with wildlife? The building restrictions, as proposed, do not help protect wildlife. Councilmembers: Please focus on immediate needs of the community: ONGOING major problems of homelessness, illegal immigration, crime, education curricula and cultural programs development.

Communication from Public

Name: Howard Schwartz

Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 04:37 PM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose this "Wildlife" Ordinance as it is not for wildlife protection. It is a Ridgeline Ordinance disguised as a "wildlife" protection measure. It is poorly written and has been championed by groups with too much influence on city government. I am a resident and owner in Mt Olympus, a neighborhood of approximately 405 single-family housing units in the Hollywood Hills between Laurel and Nichols Canyons. Mt Olympus was the largest Planned Urban Development in the US when it was developed in the late 1960's. Mt Olympus is within the pilot program's "Wildlife Supplemental Use District" (WSUD), and our homeowners and residents would be negatively impacted should the above-mentioned LAMC amendments and zone changes be applied to our community as currently proposed. The draft Wildlife uses "Hillside Aesthetics" and the "visual impact" of ridgeline homes to justify the 25 ft height limit. What do aesthetics and visual impact have to do with wildlife? We would all support a sincere approach to managing wildlife interactions within our community; however, as proposed, we do not accept building restrictions that do not help protect wildlife. Two existing ordinances, the BMO and BHO, restrict development in our community.

Communication from Public

Name: Brenda Larison

Date Submitted: 11/20/2024 07:13 PM

Council File No: 14-0518

Comments for Public Posting: am an adjunct professor teaching and conducting research on conservation and genomics in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCLA. I fully support the Wildlife Ordinance with NO FURTHER changes. Biodiversity is being lost at a rapid pace world wide. Because we know there will be no leadership to stem losses at the federal level for the next four years it is incumbent upon us to act locally to preserve the wild flora and fauna in the Santa Monica Mountains which are a unique biodiversity hotspot with an extensive urban interface that are increasingly under threat from development. Protecting corridors for wildlife and flora to migrate and shift distributions is essential if biodiversity is to be preserved in the face of the human-caused climate change and the increasing devastation that accompanies it, including more frequent wildfires, floods and landslides. The Wildlife Ordinance is supported by wildlife biologists, environmental scientists, ecologists and over 80% of residents in the WO Pilot Area, who voted yes on Measure H, which supports local open space preservation funded by these voters' own property taxes. Time is of the essence. Many, too many, new properties have been authorized and threaten miles of wildlife connection. At a time when enormous effort and cost is being invested in the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing as a reaction to original poor planning, we now need to take a preventative approach, make smart decisions in city planning, protect undeveloped areas, and support The Wildlife Ordinance.