



Friends of Griffith Park

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friendsofgriffithpark.org

June 17, 2023

Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
and Planning & Land Use Committee Members
Via email & CF 14-0518 submission

RE: Strong Support for Wildlife Ordinance

Dear Chair Harris-Dawson and Councilmembers:

Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) continues its strong support of the Los Angeles Wildlife District Ordinance at this long-awaited stage of the approval process. We also look forward to its swift implementation beyond the pilot area, extending the protection into the identified hillsides of Protection Areas for Wildlife (PAWS).

FoGP supports the astute amendment recommendations provided by Councilmembers Raman and Yaroslavsky. We would add that the currently proposed 25-foot buffer is not adequate where a property is adjacent to a 25(or more)-foot road. To accommodate for this occurrence, either the road's width should not count in the buffer measurement, **or** the 25-foot buffer should be increased to 35-50 feet. Otherwise, Site Plan Review would not be triggered when it is needed, for example, across the road or street from an open space parcel.

There is no time left to lose. This is a critical step in preserving biodiversity in the Los Angeles region, by protecting important habitat and connectivity.

As Griffith Park is the eastern terminus of the majestic Santa Monica Mountain Range, we appreciate the continuity of rich natural resources extending from the Pacific Coastline far into the City's urban sprawl. While these mountains have been widely developed over the last century, the remaining connectivity they afford to wildlife makes urban living healthier and enjoyable for all Angelenos.

We commend City Planning's commitment to the biological analysis, the vast amount of outreach, and the enlightened implementation this Ordinance. In doing so, Los Angeles is taking substantial action in the City's future as a biodiverse, yet huge, urban area.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hans, President