



*Via electronic mail*

May 8, 2017

Los Angeles City Council  
c/o Office of the City Clerk  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Protecting Biodiversity / City Practices / Working Group (Council File 15-0499) --  
SUPPORT**

Dear Council President Wesson and Council Members:

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council and our tens of thousands of members and online activists in the greater Los Angeles area, we are writing to express our support for the above-referenced motion by Councilmember Koretz, Council File 15-0499. This motion would direct all relevant City departments to report on strategies for protecting biodiversity in all City practices and would further direct a Technical Advisory Committee to recommend new strategies to protect and improve biodiversity and report on the feasibility of implementing the City Biodiversity Index.

Los Angeles's uniquely diverse natural heritage provides a long list of benefits to the health and wellbeing of our community. As part of the California Floristic Province, one of 35 biodiversity hotspots in the world, our region's ecosystems support crucial ecological processes such as oxygen generation, water purification, topsoil creation and waste removal. Biologically diverse systems are more resilient in the face of disturbances such as severe drought or climate change. And equitable access to the natural landscapes that support biodiversity improves health and other quality of life outcomes for communities.

Councilmember Koretz's motion lays the groundwork for future initiatives to assess Los Angeles' current biodiversity and create a program to protect, manage, restore and enhance our city's biodiverse resources in the future. We urge you to vote in favor of the motion. Thank you in advance for considering our comments.

Very truly yours,

Damon Nagami  
Senior Attorney  
Director, Southern California Ecosystems Project

**NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL**

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