

ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND RIVER COMMITTEE REPORT
relative to the progress on biodiversity initiatives and pilot projects.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. INSTRUCT the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) to:
 - A. Report back regularly on progress on biodiversity initiatives.
 - B. Continue to lead and work with the Biodiversity Expert Council, the Biodiversity Interdepartmental Team, and the Biodiversity Stakeholders in order to complete the first baseline measurement of the LA City Biodiversity Index.
 - C. Continue to seek funding for biodiversity initiatives and pilot projects.
 - D. Work with the Biodiversity Teams to consult with both the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office and the Civil and Human Rights and Equity Department and report back more robustly on biodiversity equity and access to nature, as per the original biodiversity motion. Perhaps forming a Biodiversity Equity Expert Group might be in order.
2. INSTRUCT the BOS and the Biodiversity Interdepartmental Team departments, and the City proprietaries, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Port of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles World Airport, to:
 - A. Report with the creation of department-specific biodiversity plans, including how each department intersects with native biodiversity issues, how to protect and enhance native biodiversity in City department operations and areas over which the City has oversight, and for them to include recommendations for a percentage improvement per department each year until we achieve a “no biodiversity loss” goal as soon as possible.
 - B. Study and report with Planning in the lead, on how to educate the City, builders, and the public about the problem of bird-building collisions and recommendations on how to avoid them. Include an examination of best practices around the country: the Congressional Bird-Safe Buildings Act, what they are doing to avoid them in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, San Jose and other cities, and what the City needs to do to adopt bird-safe building standards measures.
 - C. Study and report with the Department of Recreation and Parks in the lead, on how to adopt the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for all City golf courses.
 - D. Study and report, with all the biodiversity teams, on recommendations for how to integrate biophilic (aka, nature-centered) design into City projects, development projects citywide, and city-scale planning, and to report on the health and environmental and economic benefits of biophilic design for building occupants and urban environments.
3. INSTRUCT the Department of Public Works to work with the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), and City Administrative Officer (CAO), and report on the very apparent need the City departments have for a full-time Urban Ecologist, including the time Kat Superfisky spent working with BOS,

the LA River team, LADWP, the City Forest Officer, and on other important environmental Planning issues besides the wildlife corridors, and the funding and process for creating a permanent Urban Ecologist position, similar to the City's Forest Officer

4. INSTRUCT BOS to include in the next report the C40 Cities Urban Nature Declaration recently signed by the Mayor, for Council's examination and formal adoption.
5. DIRECT the CLA and CAO to figure out how to access the funding set aside by Governor Newsom, particularly for the ready-pilots, inclusion of a grant writer, and better resources on the overall effort.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The BOS reports that they will continue to work with the Biodiversity Expert Council, the Biodiversity Interdepartmental team, the Biodiversity Stakeholders, and students from local universities to advance biodiversity assessments and research in the field. BOS is not requesting any additional funding for biodiversity during Fiscal Year 2021-22. Neither the CAO nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement:

For:

Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
Wilmington Neighborhood Council
Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council.

Summary:

On August 5, 2021, your Committee considered a May 11, 2021 BOS report relative to the progress on biodiversity initiatives and pilot projects. The report attached to the file includes some background on the matter.

After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to approve the recommendations reflected above. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND RIVER COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
O'FARRELL:	YES
RIDLEY-THOMAS:	YES
KORETZ:	YES
DE LEÓN:	YES
KREKORIAN:	YES

EV

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-