

# THE URBAN WILDLANDS GROUP, INC.

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April 4, 2017

Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee  
Councilmember Paul Koretz, Chair  
Los Angeles City Council  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Council File 17-0170 – No-Kill Goal / Los Angeles Animal Services / Reconfirm Commitment**

Dear Chair Koretz and Committee Members:

The Department of Animal Services and your Committee have routinely invoked a desire for the City to become “no-kill” as a justification for pursuing a policy that limits the animal control function of the City and restricts the options to control unowned, freeroaming cats to trap-neuter-return (TNR), which is a demonstrably ineffective approach to reducing freeroaming cat numbers. The purported “no-kill goal” has been used to justify the City’s proposed Cat Program, including most recently the expenditure of \$800,000 on an Environmental Impact Report to provide clearances for a policy that condones and encourages feeding of unowned, freeroaming cats, takes away the right of property owners and land managers to trap and relinquish unowned, freeroaming cats at shelters, and/or allows such cats to be dumped from shelters back outdoors.

The resolution purports to apply to the reduction of euthanasia of healthy and adoptable animals. It should be made clear that a TNR approach does not in fact provide for adoption of cats in any conventionally understood definition of the word, but rather relies on releasing cats into neighborhoods, natural open spaces, and industrial and commercial zones, where such cats cause significant adverse environmental and public health impacts.

It is disingenuous at best for your Committee to now propose to “reconfirm” a commitment to a “no-kill goal” without disclosing to the public that what is meant by this for cats (this letter does not address dogs) is to promote the forced tolerance of unowned, freeroaming cats throughout the City and remove the ability of residents to take unowned, freeroaming cats to a shelter and not have them returned back to their location or elsewhere back outdoors.

Whatever the City’s previous commitment a “no-kill goal,” the City should not now be reaffirming the policy without exploring its real-world implications, which intersect with a range of land use, public safety, public health, environmental, and quality of life issues.

Finally, the resolution appears to be a predecisional attempt to shore up the basis for adopting a TNR-only program under the forthcoming EIR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Longcore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning and a large, looped flourish at the end.

Travis Longcore, Ph.D.  
Science Director