

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (FEIR), PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT, and ORDINANCES FIRST CONSIDERATION relative to the proposed Citywide Cat Program.

Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. CERTIFY that:

- a. The Citywide Cat Program FEIR (SCH No. 2013101008) was completed in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and that the FEIR was presented to Council, as the decision-making body of the City of Los Angeles.
- b. Council has reviewed and considered the information contained in the FEIR.
- c. The FEIR reflects and expresses the City's independent judgment and analysis as the CEQA Lead Agency.

2. ADOPT the Citywide Cat Program CEQA Findings as detailed in the November 10, 2020 Department of Animal Services (DAS) report, attached to the Council File.

3. SPECIFY that the documents constituting the record of proceedings in this matter are located at the:

- a. Office of the City Clerk, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.
- b. Board of Animal Services Commission, 221 N. Figueroa Street, 6th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90012.
- c. Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, 1149 South Broadway, Suite 600, Los Angeles, California 90015.
- d. Any other relevant City department.

4. APPROVE the Citywide Cat Program (proposed Project) as detailed in the FEIR, attached to the Council file.

5. PRESENT and ADOPT the accompanying Ordinances, dated November 2, 2020, to:

- a. Amend Section 5.199 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code to allow the Animal Sterilization Fund to be used for feral cat sterilization.
- b. Amend Section 53.00 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code and adding a new Section 53.06.1 to raise the limit of cats that a person may keep or maintain from three to five and imposing conditions upon a person who keeps or maintains more than three cats.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The DAS reports that the fiscal impact will be directly related to the available funding in the General Fund and raised by private fundraising for spay/neuter for

community/free-roaming cats. The DAS will seek funding to spay/neuter for free-roaming cats at a level shown to reduce the overall free-roaming cat population, which as analyzed in the FEIR would be an estimated 20,000 vouchers and accompanying sterilization surgeries annually for free-roaming cats. To support the creation of the City's Working Cat Program and Public Education and Outreach Campaign, funds from the General Fund and private fundraising efforts will also be requested. Additionally, funds would be requested to provide microchips and medical treatments to free-roaming cats at the time of sterilization, such as vaccinations, deworming, and flea treatment.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For:
Tarzana Neighborhood Council

(Budget and Finance Committee waived consideration of the above matter)

Summary:

On December 2, 2020, your Committee considered a November 10, 2020 DAS, and two November 2, 2020 City Attorney reports, FEIR (SCH No. 2013101008), and two Ordinances relative to the proposed Citywide Cat Program. According to the DAS, in 2006, the City proposed implementing of a "trap, neuter, return" (TNR) program to help address potential environmental and public health impacts associated with the existing population of free-roaming cats in the City. In 2008, a CEQA-based legal challenge to the TNR program was filed against the City, and, in 2010, as a result of the legal challenge, a permanent injunction was entered by the court that, in general, prohibits the City from engaging in TNR, or facilitating others to engage in TNR, until such activities are analyzed as required by CEQA.

In 2013, the City prepared and circulated an initial study/mitigated negative declaration (MND) for a different citywide cat program. The MND was never adopted and the 2013 project was abandoned by the City. On April 11, 2017, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners considered and approved an item that recommended preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) based on a new project description for the proposed Citywide Cat Program. Subsequently, Council considered and approved the recommended Citywide Cat Program project description on April 28, 2017 (Council File No. 17-0413). The approved project description included the proposed ordinance to increase the number of owned cats per household from three to five, with restrictions (Council File No. 13-1513) and the proposed ordinance to broaden the permitted use of Animal Sterilization Fund, including for free-roaming cats (Council File No. 13-1513-S1).

The EIR process, as defined by CEQA, requires preparation of an objective, full-disclosure document to:

- a. Inform agency decision makers and the general public of the direct and indirect environmental effects of a proposed project.
- b. Identify, where feasible, mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate any identified significant adverse impacts.

- c. Identify and evaluate alternatives to the proposed project that might lessen or avoid some or all of the identified significant impacts of the project.

Representatives from the DAS, City Attorney, and other relevant agencies presented an overview of the FEIR itself and EIR process and answered questions from the Committee members. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the FEIR and accompanying Ordinances as detailed in the above recommendations. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

MEMBER VOTE

KORETZ: YES

LEE: ABSENT

PRICE: YES

ARL

12/2/20

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-