



May 17, 2017

RE: Department of Recreation and Parks 2017-2018 Budget (Council File 17-0600)

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

As organizations working to promote the health, safety, and vibrancy of our communities, we are committed to fighting for **park equity** so that all Angelenos—regardless of race, income, or zip code—have access to safe, clean, well-maintained, and well-programmed parks in their neighborhoods. Unfortunately, we live in a city where two out of every three Angelenos are park-poor, and clear disparities exist across race, income, and geography. For example, according to the [LA County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment](#), 75 percent of the City's non-White population lives in areas of "high" and "very high" park need. This status quo is unacceptable.

We write today to thank the Budget and Finance Committee for restoring or enhancing parts of the 2017-2018 Recreation and Parks (RAP) budget, especially restoring the position authorities for 44 Gardener Caretakers and 9 Senior Gardeners and providing \$2.75 million partial funding. As you know, these 53 critical positions are the heart of RAP's ground maintenance staff, and we absolutely cannot afford to lose them—especially when considering that compared with a decade ago, RAP's position authority has decreased by 34 percent, while park use and park pressure have increased due to population growth.

While we appreciate the Council's commitment to restoring RAP's position authorities this fiscal year, the larger budget issues remain: RAP's skyrocketing "chargebacks" in the form of utility payments and mandated General Fund Reimbursements are crippling the department's ability to spend on core services and programs. In fact, in 2017-2018, RAP will be able to spend only 62 percent of its total budget on vital public services and programs—the lowest level in the past 10 years.

Councilmembers, we urge you to work expeditiously to resolve the "chargeback" issue so that the Recreation and Parks Department can carry out the core services and programs so fundamental to all Angelenos.

More broadly, we must begin to reverse years of diminished funding and disinvestments to ensure that Los Angeles no longer ranks 51st out of the 100 largest U.S. cities in per capita park spending. A budget is a moral document, and there is no greater opportunity to align the City's priorities on health, safety, and economic and environmental sustainability with its actions to fund Recreation and Parks. We are counting on you to make it clear that parks are an indispensable part of LA's community fabric.

Respectfully,

Mark Glasscock, MPH
Director of Special Projects
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Elva Yañez
Director of Health Equity
Prevention Institute

Ramya Sivasubramanian
Staff Attorney, Environmental Justice
Natural Resources Defense Council

Tori Kjer
Los Angeles Program Director
The Trust for Public Land

Veronica Flores
Chief Executive Officer
Community Health Councils

Scott Chan
Program Director
Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement

John Kim
Executive Director
Advancement Project

Tamika Butler
Executive Director
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

cc: Council President Herb Wesson, CD 10
Councilmember Paul Krekorian, CD 2
Councilmember Mitchell Englander, CD 12
Councilmember Nury Martinez, CD 6
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, CD 3
Councilmember Mike Bonin, CD 11
Councilmember Gil Cedillo, CD 1
Councilmember David Ryu, CD 4
Councilmember Paul Koretz, CD 5
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, CD 8
Councilmember Curren Price, CD 9
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, CD 13
Councilmember Jose Huizar, CD 14
Councilmember Joe Buscaino, CD 15
Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor of City Services
Michael Shull, General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks



Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

Fwd: Please Approve our Request for \$99K in General Funds for Clean & Green for Next FY

Erika Pulst <erika.pulst@lacity.org>

Thu, May 18, 2017 at 7:50 AM

To: Richard Williams <richard.williams@lacity.org>

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Wendy Butts** <wbutts@lacorps.org>

Date: Wed, May 17, 2017 at 4:22 PM

Subject: Please Approve our Request for \$99K in General Funds for Clean & Green for Next FY

To: "councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org" <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, "councilmember.martinez@lacity.org" <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, "councilmember.englander@lacity.org" <councilmember.englander@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "councilmember.bonin@lacity.org" <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, "councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org" <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, "councilmember.ryu@lacity.org" <councilmember.ryu@lacity.org>, "councilmember.koretz@lacity.org" <councilmember.koretz@lacity.org>, "councilmember.price@lacity.org" <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.wesson@lacity.org" <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.huizar@lacity.org" <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>, "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, "councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org" <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>

Cc: "erika.pulst@lacity.org" <erika.pulst@lacity.org>, Matthew Hale <matt.hale@lacity.org>, John Popoch <john.popoch@lacity.org>, Jackie Keene <jackie.keene@lacity.org>, Andrew Pennington <andrew.pennington@lacity.org>, Andrew Westall <andrew.westall@lacity.org>, Pablo Cardoso <pcardoso@lacorps.org>, Bo Savage <bsavage@lacorps.org>, Tricia Robbins Kasson <tricia.robbsinkasson@lacity.org>, "nikki.ezhari@lacity.org" <nikki.ezhari@lacity.org>, "catherine.landiers@lacity.org" <catherine.landiers@lacity.org>, "rachel.brashier@lacity.org" <rachel.brashier@lacity.org>, "james.westbrooks@lacity.org" <james.westbrooks@lacity.org>, Marisol Rodriguez <marisol.rodriguez@lacity.org>, "rocio.hernandez@lacity.org" <rocio.hernandez@lacity.org>, "dennis.gleason@lacity.org" <dennis.gleason@lacity.org>, David Giron <david.giron@lacity.org>, Samantha Martinez <smartinez@kindelgagan.com>, "jeff.jacobberger@lacity.org" <jeff.jacobberger@lacity.org>

Dear Council Members,

As many of you know, the Corps' request to the Budget & Finance Committee to allocate an additional \$99K in general funds to the Clean & Green project for next FY to cover the associated growing costs of the increasing minimum wage and keep our project whole is **not** included in the proposed FY17-18 City of LA budget revision. We appreciate that many members of the Budget & Finance Committee supported our request but since the action wasn't taken there, **I'm writing to ask the full Council to consider our request.**

I've attached the letter I sent to all of you on May 5th. Please consider increasing our funding so we can continue to serve the City's 15 Council Districts with 3 crews of 5 Corpsmembers instead of having to cut back on the number of Corpsmembers served by 20% and thus our ability to meet your constituents' and Council Offices' needs.

We are so appreciative of all of your support over the years and look forward to continuing to serve you with the highest quality of service next FY.

Thank you for your consideration,

Wendy Butts

Chief Executive Officer

LA Conservation Corps | www.lacorps.org

PO Box 15868, Los Angeles, CA 90015

v: [213.362.9000](tel:213.362.9000) ext. 206



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From: Wendy Butts

Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 2:44 PM

To: 'councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org' <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.martinez@lacity.org' <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.englander@lacity.org' <councilmember.englander@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org' <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.bonin@lacity.org' <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>

Cc: 'erika.pulst@lacity.org' <erika.pulst@lacity.org>; 'Matthew Hale' <matt.hale@lacity.org>; 'John Popoch' <john.popoch@lacity.org>; 'Jackie Keene' <jackie.keene@lacity.org>; 'Andrew Pennington' <andrew.pennington@lacity.org>; 'Andrew Westall' <andrew.westall@lacity.org>; Pablo Cardoso <pcardoso@lacorps.org>; Bo Savage <bsavage@lacorps.org>; 'Tricia Robbins Kasson' <tricia.robbsinkasson@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org' <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.ryu@lacity.org' <councilmember.ryu@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.koretz@lacity.org' <councilmember.koretz@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.harrisdawson@lacity.org' <councilmember.harrisdawson@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.price@lacity.org' <councilmember.price@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.wesson@lacity.org' <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org' <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.huizar@lacity.org'

<councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org' <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>; 'nikki.ezhari@lacity.org' <nikki.ezhari@lacity.org>; 'catherine.landiers@lacity.org' <catherine.landiers@lacity.org>; 'rachel.brashier@lacity.org' <rachel.brashier@lacity.org>; 'james.westbrooks@lacity.org' <james.westbrooks@lacity.org>; 'Marisol Rodriguez' <marisol.rodriguez@lacity.org>; 'rocio.hernandez@lacity.org' <rocio.hernandez@lacity.org>; 'dennis.gleason@lacity.org' <dennis.gleason@lacity.org>; 'David Giron' <david.giron@lacity.org>; Samantha Martinez <smartinez@kindelgagan.com>; 'jeff.jacobberger@lacity.org' <jeff.jacobberger@lacity.org>

Subject: Request to Move \$99K Increase for Clean & Green from Tier B to Tier A

Dear Budget & Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for considering and prioritizing our request for \$99K in additional GCP funding for Clean & Green next year.

Without this increase, we'll be forced to decrease City clean-up service levels and won't be able to continue to offer this 13-week work experience program to as many youth.

We're requesting that you move our request for additional funding from Tier B to Tier A to ensure continued levels of high-quality service in your Districts and throughout the City.

I've included more info. below (and attached a letter with the same). Please let me know if you have any questions – as always, thank you for your support!

Wendy Butts

Dear Chairperson Krekorian and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

Thank you for your attention to our request for additional funding to offset the 14% increase in minimum wage, effective July 1, 2017. **We appreciate your consideration to increase our Community Beautification contract (BC7401) by \$99,000 (to \$850,000).** This request represents a 13.2% increase to the current contract amount of \$751,000. Considered in this increase rate is the economy of scale that is realized with three (3) crews of five (5) Corpsmembers who work every day on the streets and in the neighborhoods of Los Angeles. The \$1.50/hour increase to the minimum wage (from \$10.50 to \$12.00/hour) not only affects the total number of Corpsmember hours this contract supports and the youth who put in those hours on general clean-up work but we must take into account the associated increases in the costs of doing business, including payroll taxes and workers' compensation costs; equipment, supplies and vehicle costs; and, increased crew supervision, coordination, management/direction and administrative expenses.

If the funding amount stays static at \$751,000, we will be forced to decrease the number of Corpsmembers on each of the three-funded crews (from 5 to 4) or the number of hours each of those youth can participate in our work experience program by 14%. **We estimate that 60 Corpsmembers will rotate through these three crews next FY; *without an increase in our funding, only 52 will be served.* We offer each participating Clean & Green Corpsmember a total of 357.5 hours of work experience in a 3-month period; *without an increase in our funding next year, we'll have to decrease those hours to 312.8 (that equates to 2 fewer weeks with us).*** It may not seem like a

lot but in dollars it means \$500 less in wages for 60 underprivileged and eager young people who are building their resumes and adding experience to their job applications through participation in Clean & Green.

In terms of the community, we're concerned that fewer boots on the ground and fewer hours out on the streets performing the services others would complain about will have an adverse effect in the neighborhoods that need our services the most. We serve you and your constituents – with timely and quality service delivery; **please consider moving our request for an additional \$99,000 in General City Purposes funding from a Tier B request to Tier A** – *our Corpsmembers will thank you by giving back directly to your constituents.*

From: Wendy Butts

Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 1:02 PM

To: councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org; councilmember.martinez@lacity.org <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>; councilmember.englander@lacity.org; councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org; councilmember.bonin@lacity.org

Subject: Request for Funding to Support Increase in Minimum Wage for Corpsmembers

Dear Budget & Finance Committee Members,

We are so grateful to the City of Los Angeles that the Corps' funding for our Clean & Green program is included in next year's budget at the same levels as this year.

Unfortunately, the \$1,751,000 won't cover what it does this year as the minimum wage for our participants increases next year.

We are asking the City Council to approve the addition of the difference in both General Funds (**at an additional \$99K for a total of \$850,000**) and LASanitation funding (**at an additional \$125K for a total of \$1,125,000**) in next year's budget. The attached letter addresses our ask for the additional General Funds; we'll be making a public comments about both requests at tomorrow's hearing.

Can we count on you to support this request for \$224,000 in additional funding?

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support of our Corpsmembers!

Wendy Butts

Chief Executive Officer

LA Conservation Corps | www.lacorps.org

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 **Letter to Budget-Finance Comm re Clean and Green #2.pdf**
159K



LA CONSERVATION CORPS

Administrative Offices

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 15868, Los Angeles, CA 90015

May 5, 2017

Paul Krekorian, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee
City of Los Angeles

Dear Chairperson Krekorian and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

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Sincerely,

Wendy Butts
Chief Executive Officer

cc: City of Los Angeles Council Members