

PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION

MOTION

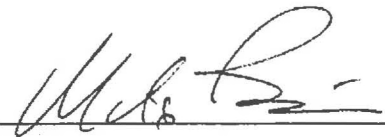
It is the City of Los Angeles' responsibility to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance our Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA). The Coastal Act policies provide protection for ESHAs, including various types of wetlands, sand dunes, riparian areas, coastal prairies, woodlands and forests, and other biological resources in the coastal zone.

The Coastal Act defines these ESHAs as "Any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments" (Section 30107.5). These important habitats include designated areas of Venice Beach, Venice Canals (Banks of Venice Canals north of Washington Boulevard), Ballona Lagoon, Grand Canal (south of Washington Boulevard) and habitat buffer areas (along the east and west banks of Ballona Lagoon).

These habitats support such endangered species as the El Segundo Blue butterfly and the Belding's Savannah Sparrow, a small, gray bird that feeds, nests and fledges only within pickleweed salt marsh. The Ballona Wetlands, for example, provide estuaries to shelter young fish from many predators and the rough open ocean and provide a refuge for migrating birds. Wetlands also allow for water to gently percolate into the ground and down into underground rivers and aquifers, cleansing the water as it recharges our local groundwater supply.

As noted in the legal definition, these delicate ecosystems may be easily be disturbed by human activities. In order to bolster the City's ability to protect these habitats, the City should have the legal authority to prevent people from leaving designated walking trails.

I THEREFORE MOVE to request the City Attorney to prepare and present a draft ordinance to make it a trespass to leave the designated trails and go upon any Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas.

PRESENTED BY: 
MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: _____
PAUL KORETZ (verbal)
Councilmember, 5th District