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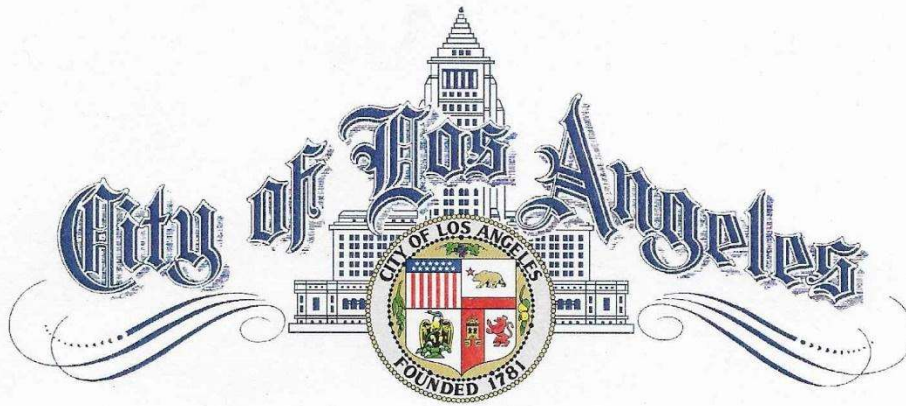
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on 2028 Olympics  
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April 28, 2021

The Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair  
City Council Budget and Finance Committee  
c/o Mandy Morales, Office of the City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

*via email: [mandy.morales@lacity.org](mailto:mandy.morales@lacity.org)*

Dear Honorable Chair Krekorian and Members:

I appreciate the amount of effort you and your staff have before you in reviewing the Mayor's Proposed Budget for FY 2021-22 and I thank you for your work in advance. I respectfully request consideration of the following items for inclusion in the final Budget:

**Department of City Planning's Wildlife Corridors Project**

I support the Planning Department's request that your Committee restore the position authorities and funding for one (1) Environmental Specialist and one (1) City Planning Associate. I further request adding to the Planning Department's Budget the appropriate funding and position authority for one (1) additional Environmental Supervisor II and one (1) City Planning Associate, for a total cost of approximately \$786,000 for the completion and implementation of the Wildlife Corridor project approved by the full Council in 2016 and amended by Councilmember Krekorian to include Congressman Adam Schiff's Rim of the Valley areas.

The Planning Department has nearly completed and will soon release a draft ordinance for the pilot area between the 405 and 101 freeways. This effort will better protect the wildlife with which we share our city as well as the world-famous mountain lion, P-22. As we know well, the health of us all is highly dependent on the health of our natural areas. Further, this Wildlife Corridor project is key to the City's complying with the State's finding that mountain lions are threatened and require protection.

**Department of Public Works' Oil and Gas Well and Drill Site Facility Compliance Program**

In its letter to your Committee, the Board of Public Works requested 12 months funding at \$348,495 and resolution authority for one (1) Senior Environmental Engineer; one (1) Environmental Specialist III; and one (1) Environmental Specialist II to initially roll out an oil well compliance – or inspection – program. I support this request. Funding these three positions to launch a pilot program is merited until such time the City Council adopts a formal Oil and Gas Well and Drill Site Facility Compliance Program. This Program, which is long overdue and is urgently requested by my constituents for drill sites located in Council District 5, is contingent upon the completion of a fee study to establish potential fees to make this program cost-neutral.

**Department of City Planning's oil-focused Land Use Code Team**

The Planning Department also requested funding and position authority for their “oil-focused land-use code team,” consisting of one (1) Senior City Planner, one (1) City Planner, and one (1) City Planning Associate to support its primary role in the regulation of oil drilling operations. I support this request so they can craft and prepare ordinances and background studies regarding the limits on new oil drilling operations announced by the Mayor and to phase out existing oil and gas operations via amortization of existing facilities.

**Department of Animal Services Animal Sterilization Fund**

I support the request of the Department of Animal Services for an additional \$700,000 in funding for the Animal Sterilization Fund. This funding will enable the department to run a fully robust spay/neuter support program for the first time in several years, including one for community cats that we all know is critical to reducing the number of homeless and euthanized cats. As you know, your Committee and the City Council took extraordinary steps over the last several years to fund and certify an Environmental Impact Report that facilitates the launch of the Citywide Cat Program. Without a substantial commitment to sterilizing community cats, however, the Cat Program cannot begin to achieve the goals set for it in the EIR or by the Council's action. This requires a larger commitment of funds than we've seen in past budgets.

**Controller's Office Salary Reduction and Staffing for Fraud, Waste & Abuse Unit**

The Mayor's Proposed FY 2021-22 Budget essentially leaves vacant 18 existing positions critical to carrying out their Charter-mandated responsibilities. I support the Controller's request to work toward restoring these 18 vacancies through the restoration of a one-time salary reduction of \$500,000 which will allow the Controller to fill six additional finance and accounting vacancies in FY 2021-22. At least one of these positions will be devoted to working on the Human Resources Payroll (HRP) project.

Although the Mayor's Proposed Budget sets aside funding for contingency and unanticipated costs of the HRP project, it has been an ongoing concern of mine that this project is staffed sufficiently so it can “go live” on January 1, 2022. My concerns have only been heightened upon hearing about other jurisdictions, such as Baltimore, Maryland, that have had to delay implementation of their Workday payroll system due to

Chair Krekorian and Members of the  
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the transition from the old system to the new system. We cannot afford to run into the same problems which caused the delay in paying hundreds of Baltimore's city employees.

I also support the Controller's request for one additional Special Investigator II position for the FWA Unit to process daily incoming complaints thereby reducing the number of cases they now must refer to departments to conduct investigations.

**Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment's Livability Services Program**

I support LA Sanitation's request to add funding for position authority for one (1) Senior Systems Analyst and one (1) Service Coordinator, as well as vehicle purchases to support the expansion of the CARE+ and the Regional Storage Program. As the City continues to struggle to provide housing for our unhoused individuals and the burden our public streets are carrying, ensuring we provide sufficient staffing and available and reliable equipment to do this work is vital to our success.

I thank you for your consideration of these items.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Koretz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**PAUL KORETZ**  
Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District