

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 22-0600-S61

Comments for Public Posting: I am an environmental educator with the Resource Conservation District who takes LAUSD elementary, intermediate and high school children on educational field trips through the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve (hereinafter SBWR). I am also a Board member of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS) who has lead group walks of members of the public through the SBWR and have participated in semi-annual cleanups there. The SFVAS has submitted separate comments in favor of these Motions and has been in existence and active in the Community since 1906. I am submitting this comment as a concerned citizen in support of Motions CF22-0600-S20 and CF22-0600-S61 urging the Committee to approve these Motions to use goats to effectively eliminate invasive and overgrown brush to avoid future fires. I further request that these Motions be passed on to the City Council for approval and implementation. Using goats for environmentally friendly brush and invasive plant clearance, weed control and fire prevention is not new. It has been successfully utilized by numerous cities, counties and public agencies within California for decades. It is a cheaper and more effective fire prevention method. Goat herds were used by the City of Los Angeles, overseen by the LA Community Redevelopment Agency to control brush in downtown Los Angeles along 4th and Hill to Olive Street. Goat herds have been used in Simi Valley, where 300 goats grazed as a part of the Ventura County Fire Department's vegetation management program to reduce the severity of fires while maintaining the natural appearance of the landscape near the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. Goat grazing has also been used for weed abatement, land management and fire prevention by the cities of Anaheim, Chino, Corona, Irvine, Malibu, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Oroville, Oakland, Santa Barbara and San Diego. In particular, goat herds would be especially effective in preventing more fires and controlling the spread of invasive weeds and brush in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve. In September of 2020 the SBWR suffered a devastating fire destroying many acres of habitat. Many efforts to restore the area have been underway. It is one of the only urban wildlife reserves of its kind and is highly utilized as a refuge by the surrounding communities as well as providing an important reserve for birds and other wildlife. The ash from the fire has been

a significant breeding ground for mustard, other invasive plants and weeds which create a potential fire hazard and are at present uncontrolled and overtaking acres. Goat herds especially like eating mustard and other invasive plants and would be an environmentally safe way to eliminate the fire hazards that the invasive plants, weeds and brush have created as well as providing good publicity for the City and County. It is in the public interest, and I strongly join those urging the passage of CF22-0600-S20 and CF22-0600-S61, to use goat herds as an environmentally safe, highly efficient and cost effective way to effect brush, weed and invasive plant clearance and fire prevention. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.