

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee

**Date Submitted:** 08/03/2022 03:03 PM

**Council File No:** 22-0600-S61

**Comments for Public Posting:** The mission of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee is to oversee, in its advisory capacity, the wildlife refuge areas and other areas of present or potential natural value within the Sepulveda Basin, as well as to support policies and programs that ensure their long-term preservation, protection, and enhancement. We wish to express our strong support for the two above referenced Council Files. We urge the Arts, Parks, Health, Education, and Neighborhoods Committee to consider CF22-0600-S61 and send it on to the full City Council. We also urge the Public Safety Committee to consider CF22-0600-S20 and send it on to the full City Council. Having thoroughly researched and discussed the use of goat grazing to control invasive and flammable vegetation over the past two years, we have been vocal advocates for their use in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas. In fact, our Committee members have even expressed a willingness to provide financial resources to facilitate their use in our jurisdiction. Goat grazing is a low-impact, cost effective solution for managing large areas of invasive vegetation in natural resources areas and in the wildland-urban interface where removal by hand is impractical and/or prohibitively expensive, and mechanical removal may be destructive. We have witnessed increased incidences of wildfire in the Basin in recent years. Climate change and aridification appear to be amplifying and exacerbating wildfire spread. Uncontrolled fires create threats to humans and wildlife alike. Goat grazing can significantly reduce the amount of flammable material while protecting soil health and surrounding habitats. Mainstreaming the use of goats for vegetation management in Los Angeles is a sustainable approach to protecting and preserving our biodiverse habitats and precious park lands. We urge Councilmembers to move quickly to approve and implement goat grazing programs wherever feasible.

Sincerely – Melanie Winter Chair, Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee



August 3, 2022

Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Los Angeles City Council

RE: Council Files CF22-0600-S61 and CF22-0600-S20

Honorable Mayor and City Council Members:

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Sincerely –

Melanie Winter  
Chair, Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee