

Communication from Public

Name: Charles Hannah
Date Submitted: 05/13/2025 02:59 PM
Council File No: 25-0002-S17
Comments for Public Posting: Forward Alliance Los Angeles supports the position of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, the Theodore Payne Foundation, the Community Forest Advisory Committee and the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society in opposing Resolution CF 25-0002-S17.



Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

May 12, 2025

Dear Council Members,

Forward Alliance Los Angeles is a nonprofit developing a number of projects which are part of the June 2024 Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan. These include a Native Plant nursery & foraging garden, and the restoration of a section of Bull Creek, a Los Angeles River tributary that runs through Lake Balboa/Anthony C. Beilenson Park. These projects will be led by Tataviam & Chumash Elder, Alan Salazar and Julia Samaniego, co-nursery manager of the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing.

Because of this work, we have developed important relationships with groups who, over many decades, have cared for the park and wildlife areas of the Sepulveda Basin. These include the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society and the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee. They have alerted us to resolution CF 25-0002 SF17 that proposes brush clearance 700' from structures in land owned by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority and have shared the views of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, the Theodore Payne Foundation and the Community Forest Advisory Committee with regard to this issue.

We understand the need to adopt policies to protect residents' homes from wild fires. But having studied the matter and the views of the aforementioned groups, it would appear that CF 25-0002 SF17 will not achieve this goal.

For information on why this is so and the unintended consequences of this resolution, we refer you to letters sent to the Los Angeles City Council by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance and the Theodore Payne Foundation.

We would also refer you to the report "Los Angeles does not need 700' of defensible space" by urban ecologist Dr. Travis Longcore. This provides historical evidence that the clearance of more than 100' of vegetation, including cooling tree canopy, will not protect homes; and is more likely to have the opposite impact.

It is our understanding that the aforementioned groups recommend that the City align its fire prevention efforts with California law AB 3074.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Hannah', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Charles Hannah,
Chief Executive Officer,
Forward Alliance Los Angeles, Inc.

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