

Communication from Public

Name: Shelley Reinstein

Date Submitted: 04/25/2025 09:45 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Do not shut down the animal shelters!!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Paula Herrera

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 09:57 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please make shelters a priority in the budget .. it will help the community in the long run .. do not neglect our animals please !

Communication from Public

Name: Madison

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 10:18 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Cutting the budget for innocent animals that have already been suffering is horrendous. Your state already has backyard breeding problem as well as many animal cruelty problems. Yet here you are mayor, choosing the backyard breeders and these animal abusers side. You're not thinking of the innocent dogs and cats and lives you're effecting, all the deaths you're going to cause.

Communication from Public

Name: Kathie Roseberry

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 01:04 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am heartbroken by the proposal to close three of our six animal shelters. Los Angeles is a progressive city that values compassion, and our residents expect better. Our shelters are already overcrowded, closing them would condemn countless innocent animals to suffering and death. We must invest in protecting vulnerable lives, not turn our backs on them. Please keep all six shelters open. The animals and the people of Los Angeles are counting on you.

Communication from Public

Name: Madison

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 06:17 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Shame on you mayor!! Do better for these innocent dogs lives!! You're caring more for the back yard breeders and animal abusers!! How wrong is that!! YOU CARE MORE ABOUT BACKYARD BREEDERS AND ANIMAL ABUSERS THAN THE INNOCENT ANIMALS! You're wrong! And anyone who agrees with this mayor is WRONG! cutting animal service budgets when the animal shelters are already horrendous!!! Have you actually seen the shelters in person with your own two eyes to see how bad they are? No? Figures. Do better. A SHAME!!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Evelyn Fischer

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 07:07 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: It is absolutely disgusting that you are trying to cut funding from animal shelters. This will not help the fact that shelters are already over booked and the amount of animals on the street. FIND ANOTHER SOLUTION. People are the ones who create issues for animals, it is up to us and the shelter employees and volunteers to help them. We have seen the effect of budget cuts with the fires this last December. If you somehow manage to believe that this is beneficial, I hope the budget that affects your salary gets cut.

Communication from Public

Name: Danielle Montezinos

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 08:22 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Major Bass, I voted for you. To help homeless people. To keep or make LA more equitable. And now I'm reading that you want to cut animal services. Why? We do not want animals suffering along with all the unhoused humans. Please do not screw them too. Animals deserve better. This city has been through enough with the fires and The entertainment industry going away (you could propose some help there too btw) Do not destroy our animals as well. Sincerely, D Montezinos

Communication from Public

Name: Justine Smith

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 09:24 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers and Budget Committee, I am writing today as a dedicated shelter volunteer and a concerned member of the Los Angeles community who cares deeply about the welfare of the animals in our city's shelters. Los Angeles Animal Services is already critically underfunded, understaffed, and overwhelmed. Staff and volunteers are stretched to their absolute limits, working tirelessly to provide even basic care to thousands of animals. The consequences are heartbreaking: overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, delays in medical treatment, lack of behavioral support, and rising rates of illness and euthanasia. The proposed budget cuts to LAAS would have devastating and irreversible consequences for both the animals and the people who are trying to help them. Without proper staffing, resources, and medical support, more animals will suffer, more will be euthanized, and public trust in the shelter system will continue to erode. Many community members and rescue organizations already step up daily to bridge the gaps, providing urgent medical care, rehabilitation, and placement for at-risk animals. But we cannot replace a fully functioning public shelter system. The City of Los Angeles must take responsibility for the lives entrusted to its care. Slashing the LAAS budget is not a cost-saving measure. In the long run, it will increase public health risks, legal liabilities, and community safety concerns - all of which are far more costly to taxpayers. Instead, the city should invest in meaningful solutions: hiring and retaining more staff, improving shelter conditions, expanding spay/neuter and community outreach programs, and supporting partnerships with rescues. The animals in our shelters are not just numbers on a budget sheet. They are living beings who experience fear, pain, joy, and love. They are part of our community, and they deserve better. Please do not balance the city's budget at the expense of the most vulnerable. I respectfully urge you to protect and fully fund Los Angeles Animal Services. Our city's values demand it - and the animals are counting on you. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Laura Rettura

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 02:08 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The proposed budget cut to LA Animal Services will have devastating consequences. Closing 3 shelters and eliminating 60+ puts thousands of animals and entire communities at risk. These cuts will: • Increase euthanasia • Leave more animals without basic care • Lead to more strays and public safety issues • Waste taxpayer investments • Burn out already overwhelmed volunteers Los Angeles cannot turn it back on its most vulnerable. This isn't just about pets - it's about public health compassion and responsibility. Keep the shelters open. Keep them staffed. Protect our animals. Please reverse the cuts and invest in real solutions. Lives are on the line.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 02:08 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The proposed budget cut to LA Animal Services will have devastating consequences. Closing 3 shelters & eliminating 60* staff puts thousands of animals - and entire communities - at risk. These cuts will: - Increase euthanasia - Leave more animals without basic care - Lead to more strays & public safety issues - Waste taxpayer investments - Burn out already overwhelmed volunteers Los Angeles cannot turn its back on the most vulnerable. This isn't just about pets - it's about public health, compassion, and responsibility. Keep shelters open. Keep them staffed. Protect our animals. Please reverse the cuts and invest in real solutions. Lives are on the line

Communication from Public

Name: Wendy

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 09:44 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am spoils and saddened that some L.A. shelters will be closing and more Angelinos will be losing their jobs and livelihoods will be put in danger. We already have over crowding in our shelters and now some will be closing? Is the city just planning on killing all these animals ? I voting for mayor Bass and with what is happening with the wildfires, homelessness money missing and now this, I definitely voted for the wrong person and will not be voting for her re-election.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 11:13 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am completely opposed to the potential budget cuts for animal shelters. We need more people and more shelters built, not less. These cuts will kill millions of animals, and that's not ok. Karen Bass must stop mismanaging the cities money. Stop wasting it on DEI crap, and save homeless animals.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 11:42 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The decision to close animal shelters in Los Angeles would be nothing short of a humanitarian disaster. Shelters exist for a reason — they are safe havens for the abandoned, the abused, the neglected, and the lost. To close them without offering real, sustainable alternatives is an act of cruelty, one that will condemn thousands of innocent animals to suffering, fear, and death. Mayor Bass's plan to shut down LA's animal shelters shows a disturbing disregard for the lives of vulnerable creatures who have no voice and no choice. Animals rely on us for protection, compassion, and responsible stewardship. When we close shelters, we aren't just shutting down buildings — we are slamming the door on hope. We are abandoning pets who have already been failed by the very society meant to protect them. Without shelters, where will these animals go? The answer is devastatingly simple: they will be dumped onto the streets, left to fend for themselves against traffic, starvation, disease, extreme weather, and cruelty. Stray animals often face horrific suffering. They are hit by cars, abused by people, attacked by other animals, or die slowly from preventable illnesses. Closing shelters will not make the problem of stray or unwanted animals disappear; it will make the suffering invisible to those who have the luxury of looking away — but the animals themselves will still suffer every single day. Shelters also play a critical role in public safety. They prevent the spread of disease, help manage animal populations humanely, and protect both people and pets from dangerous situations. When shelters close, the burden falls on already overworked rescue organizations, volunteers, and citizens who are neither funded nor equipped to handle a crisis of this magnitude. Mayor Bass's proposal is not just short-sighted — it is reckless and profoundly heartless. Rather than investing in expanding shelter resources, community education programs, affordable spay/neuter services, and adoption initiatives, this plan opts for abandonment. It prioritizes budget cuts over lives, convenience over compassion. Animals do not end up in shelters because they are broken or unwanted by nature. They end up there because humans have failed them — through irresponsible breeding, lack of spaying and neutering, abandonment, or mistreatment. Shelters are our opportunity to right those wrongs, to give animals a second chance at the love and care they deserve. To shut them down is to shrug at that

responsibility and allow preventable suffering to continue unchecked. The cruelty of this decision will ripple outward. It will demoralize communities, destroy trust in public institutions, and leave countless animals — from puppies and kittens to senior dogs and cats who only want a warm place to sleep — to die alone, scared, and in pain. Los Angeles has often led the nation in progressive values, in compassion, and in fighting for those who cannot fight for themselves. Closing animal shelters would be a shameful step backward. We must do better. We must fight to protect the most vulnerable among us, no matter their species. If Mayor Bass truly wants to lead with humanity and strength, she must reject this heartless plan. She must work with animal advocates, shelter workers, veterinarians, and rescue groups to build a system that saves lives — not abandons them.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 11:55 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to say that as a TAX PAYING resident of Los Angeles I strongly oppose staff and budget cuts to L.A Animal shelters/services and I am quite sure that I am not alone. The stray pet population continues to worsen everyday and will continue to do so in the future. Please reconsider making this choice. Thank you Megan K.

Communication from Public

Name: Mayra Lopez

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 12:16 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Are you guys desperate for money that you have to reach in the animal shelter funding? Jesus! what happened to your compassionate, your humility, your moral obligation to keeping those who cannot speak sheltered and safe from the true monsters walking the streets. Are we just slowly wiping these poor animals from the face of the earth? Do better for God sakes! What does that say about you when you immorally killing animals by your selfish decisions.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 12:21 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to you not only as a concerned constituent, but as a voice for the animals who cannot speak for themselves. I urge you to take immediate action to stop the closure of animal shelters and to support stronger laws that protect animals from harm, neglect, and exploitation. The closure of animal shelters will lead to more innocent animals being killed, abused, or left to suffer on the streets. These animals are not at fault—humans are responsible for their overpopulation through irresponsible breeding, abandonment, and lack of regulation. Closing shelters is not a solution; it is a sentence. A sentence to pain, to fear, and to death for thousands of vulnerable creatures. Animal shelters are not just facilities—they are lifelines. When we close them or allow them to become understaffed and underfunded, we are turning our backs on a moral responsibility. It is no different from closing shelters for people and leaving them to die. Animals feel pain, loneliness, and fear just as humans do. They deserve the same compassion and protection. God did not create animals for us to destroy, but to protect. It is our duty to care for them with dignity and humanity. We must enact and enforce stronger laws that: Regulate and limit breeding, especially for profit. Penalize abuse and neglect with real consequences. Provide sufficient funding for animal shelters and rescue organizations. Ensure shelters are adequately staffed, trained, and equipped. We have the resources. What we need now is the will. Please do not allow the voiceless to continue to suffer because we failed to prioritize them. I ask you to champion better laws and stable funding that truly reflect our responsibility to protect all life. Thank you for your time and hope for you to act in the interest of justice and compassion. I look forward to your response and to seeing leadership that values and defends the lives of animals in our state. With respect and hope

Communication from Public

Name: Shelzy

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 12:30 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We do NOT agree with the budget cut for animal shelters!! California alone already has a huge crisis going on with the overpopulation and overcrowding of dogs and cats in these shelters. Karen Bass you CANNOT do this to these poor babies! They deserve a chance to find forever homes!! Their blood will be on your hands if you go through with this. Animals are innocent and they are living creatures that help us people find joy in everyday life! Have a heart and do the RIGHT THING!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Marlow tomasian

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 12:32 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Mayor Bass, This letter is not written from a place of emotion, but from a place of reason and concern for both the animals of Los Angeles and the wellbeing of our communities. Research consistently shows that pets—particularly dogs—can significantly reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, ease loneliness, and improve overall emotional and mental health. At a time when mental health is a growing concern in our city, removing access to adoptable animals is not just shortsighted, it's counterproductive. Right now, there are countless animals in shelters waiting to become part of loving families—and vice versa. Closing six animal shelters due to budget cuts will not solve the deeper issues we face. In fact, it will only worsen overcrowding, increase animal suffering and neglect, and place greater strain on animal control services across the city. The root of the issue is not shelter operations—it's a lack of comprehensive policy around spaying and neutering, responsible pet ownership, and community education. Reducing the budget will not make these problems disappear. The animals aren't going anywhere. If we do not act now to implement sustainable, humane solutions, the challenges will only grow. We urge you to reconsider the shelter closures and instead invest in a smarter, long-term approach. Los Angeles can—and should—be a leader in humane, responsible animal care. More people care than you think.

Communication from Public

Name: Julianna Cairo

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 12:37 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Mayor Karen Bass Should Not Let Animals Suffer by Cutting the Los Angeles Animal Shelter Budget Mayor Karen Bass has championed a vision of a more humane, compassionate Los Angeles — but cutting the budget for animal shelters directly contradicts that vision. These shelters serve as the last line of defense for thousands of vulnerable animals who have no voice, no home, and no protection. Budget cuts would lead to severe overcrowding, reduced access to veterinary care, lower staff numbers, and ultimately, increased suffering and preventable deaths. Los Angeles has long been a leader in animal welfare, moving toward "no-kill" shelter policies and investing in programs that promote adoption, rescue partnerships, and humane treatment. Reducing shelter funding now would reverse years of hard-won progress, pushing the city backward and exposing animals to inhumane conditions. Moreover, when shelters are underfunded, the burden spills into neighborhoods — more stray animals, public health risks, and heartbreaking scenes that undermine community trust. Investing in animal welfare is not just about the animals themselves; it reflects the values of compassion, community responsibility, and public health that Los Angeles stands for. Cutting the budget might seem like a short-term financial fix, but the long-term social and economic costs — from increased stray populations to more expensive emergency interventions — will far outweigh any immediate savings. Mayor Bass has an opportunity here to show bold, empathetic leadership: to protect the voiceless and to demonstrate that Los Angeles prioritizes care and decency even during difficult times. Animals do not cause budget crises, and they should not be made to pay the price for them. The people of Los Angeles are watching, and they expect their leaders to protect all members of the community — including those with paws, wings, and tails.

Communication from Public

Name: Sierra Fisher

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 12:52 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Do not cut the budget and close three animal shelters in Los Angeles. These programs need more money not less. Save these poor animals.

Communication from Public

Name: Evy

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 01:08 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear council members and budget committee, I am writing to you as a very concerned resident of the city of Los Angeles who cares deeply about the welfare and wellbeing of the animals in our shelters. The shelters currently are overcrowded and healthy young animals are being euthanized solely because there is no space. They are understaffed and underfunded. The workers and volunteers work tirelessly to get these animals adopted out. The proposed budget cut to the LAAS would be devastating to workers, volunteers and most importantly the animals. These animals are not just animals, they become a part of your family. They experience joy, sadness and hunger. They deserve so much better, not worse. I respectfully urge you to protect and fund Los Angeles Animal services. The animals are counting on you. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 01:23 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Citing funding for Los Angeles shelters is shameful, especially when we were promised that these animals would be cared for. Where is this funding shortfall coming from? We tout the California economy one day, and end innocent lives with budget cuts the next. We don't need another police helicopter. We need to do what is right by innocent animals living in a system that victimizes their inability to speak for themselves. We won't forget this Karen Bass.

Communication from Public

Name: Balam Ahau-Chamahez

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 01:27 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Message for Mayor Karen Bass: Madam Mayor, Are you a Baptist Christian? If so, you believe yourself to be a descendant of Noah. As such, you are a living heir to the sacred covenant that God established after the great flood — a covenant not only with humanity but with all living creatures. This covenant carries serious responsibilities. It calls you to uphold and protect life wherever you have the power to do so. Given your position of leadership, it is within your ability — and your sacred duty — to honor this covenant. At a time when Los Angeles County Animal Shelters are already severely overburdened, and animals are euthanized at alarming rates, it is against the spirit of Christian doctrine — and against the covenant of Noah — to allow the suffering of innocent creatures to be ignored or worsened. Rather than cutting funding, you should be allocating greater resources toward the care, shelter, and protection of these lives that God Himself included in His everlasting promise. Take up your faith. Take up your responsibility. Make the righteous choice that reflects the covenant you are bound to uphold. Please find attached a document that serves as a reminder of the sacred covenant between God, humanity, and all living beings — a covenant you are called to live by. As a member of the Maya and Hopi Nations, I share this understanding with you. Our oral traditions also carry memory of a great flood, and we continue to honor the animals as our sacred relatives — not commodities, not inconveniences, but living souls with whom we share this Earth. The covenant is alive. The animals remember. The Earth remembers. It is time for humanity to remember, too.

The Covenant of Life: Sacred Accountability and Sacred Memory (Genesis 9:5–17)

Sacred Accountability (Genesis 9:5)

Hebrew Text:

וְאָךְ אֶת־דַּמְכֶּם לְנַפְשֵׁיכֶם אֶדְרוֹשׁ מִיַּד כָּל־חַיָּה אֶדְרֶשֶׁנּוּ

Transliteration:

Ve'akh et-dimkhem lenafshoteikhem edrosh miyad kol-chayah edreshenu

Literal English:

"And surely your blood for your lives I will require; from the hand of every living creature I will require it."

Sacred Breakdown:

וְאָךְ (ve'akh) = "And surely" — solemn emphasis.

אֶת־דַּמְכֶּם (et-dimkhem) = "Your blood" — humanity's sacred life-force.

לְנַפְשֵׁיכֶם (lenafshoteikhem) = "For your lives" — connecting blood to the soul and life essence.

אֶדְרוֹשׁ (edrosh) = "I will seek, inquire, require an accounting" — solemn sacred inquiry, not punishment.

מִיַּד כָּל־חַיָּה (miyad kol-chayah) = "From the hand of every living being" — seeking sacred participation, not blame.

אֶדְרֶשֶׁנּוּ (edreshenu) = "I will require it" — referring to the gift of life contributed by creation.

Important Clarification:

This section does not use the Hebrew word for "killing" (שָׁפַךְ — shafakh).

It is not about killing — it is about sacred accountability for the life gifted to humanity by the animal nations and the Earth.

Clear Justice for Human Killing (Genesis 9:6)

Hebrew Text:

שִׁפְךָ דַם הָאָדָם בָּאָדָם דָּמוֹ יִשְׁפֹּךְ כִּי בְצֵלֶם אֱלֹהִים עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם

Transliteration:

Shofekh dam ha'adam ba'adam damo yishafekh ki betzelem Elohim asah et-ha'adam

Literal English:

"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God He made man."

Sacred Breakdown:

שָׁפַךְ (shofekh) = "Whoever sheds" — from root שָׁפַךְ (shafakh) — to pour out or shed blood violently.

דַּם הָאָדָם (dam ha'adam) = "The blood of man."

בְּאָדָם דָּמוֹ יִשְׁפָּךְ (ba'adam damo yishafekh) = "By man shall his blood be shed."

כִּי בְצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים (ki betzelem Elohim) = "For in the image of God."

עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם (asah et-ha'adam) = "He made man."

Important Clarification:

This section clearly describes killing — human against human.

It lays down divine justice for murder, because human life carries the image of God.

The Covenant with Noah and All Living Creatures (Genesis 9:8–17)

Genesis 9:8–11:

"Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark — it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.'"

Genesis 9:12–13:

"And God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.'"

Genesis 9:14–17:

"When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth. God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'"

Sacred Conclusion

Genesis 9:5 speaks of sacred inquiry and remembrance, not killing.

Genesis 9:6 speaks of justice for wrongful killing, clearly using the word for shedding blood.

Genesis 9:8–17 establishes the everlasting covenant between God, humanity, and all living creatures — bound by sacred trust and sealed by the rainbow.

Reminder: What is a Covenant?

A covenant is not a simple contract.

A contract is based on mutual agreement and can be voided if one party fails.

A covenant is a sacred, binding promise made before God, often sealed with signs, witnesses, and sacred words.

However, covenants can be broken.

Humans have the power to break covenants through disobedience, arrogance, and forgetting the sacred trust.

Throughout the Bible, individuals and nations broke their covenants with God, leading to severe consequences — exile, judgment, hardship, and the loss of blessings.

Examples include:

The Israelites breaking the Sinai covenant (Exodus 32, the golden calf).

The repeated warnings of the prophets about covenant violation (Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel).

New Testament warnings about covenant-breaking among believers (Hebrews 3:12–19).

Consequences of Covenant-Breaking:

Broken covenants bring real consequences — spiritually, communally, and individually.

Breaking the covenant with God brings loss of protection, suffering, and divine discipline.

Renewing Covenants:

While humans can break a covenant, God in His mercy allows renewal through repentance, humility, and sincere return to sacred living.

Examples of covenant renewal appear in the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and throughout the prophets.

Final Sacred Reminder:

A covenant is sacred and binding.

A covenant can be broken by human arrogance, forgetfulness, or rebellion.

Breaking a covenant invites judgment.

But humble repentance can renew the covenant and restore the sacred relationship.

Reminder to the Modern Descendants of Noah (everyone on Earth according to Christian faith):

You, who walk the Earth today,

are the descendants of Noah —

heirs to the everlasting covenant made between God, humanity, and all living creatures.

This covenant is not forgotten.

It is still alive.

It binds you even now, whether you remember it or not.

The Covenant you inherited commands:

That human life is sacred,

That animal life is sacred,

That the Earth itself is sacred,

That all living beings were included in God's solemn vow.

To uphold this Covenant today requires living in remembrance of the sacred trust.

When you shelter an abandoned animal, you honor the Covenant.

When you oppose cruelty in factory farming, you honor the Covenant.

When you protect endangered species, you honor the Covenant.

When you choose compassion over convenience, you honor the Covenant.

When you recognize the sacred breath in every living being, you honor the Covenant.

When you teach your children to respect life — not as property, but as family — you honor the Covenant.

But when you treat animals as commodities, when you turn away from suffering, when you consume without gratitude,

you tread dangerously close to covenant-breaking.

The rainbow in the sky was not placed there for beauty alone.

It was set as a witness —

a living sign between God and every soul that breathes on the Earth.

Every act of mercy, every act of protection, every act of gratitude renews the sacred bond.

Every act of cruelty, every act of forgetfulness, every act of greed wounds it.

Remember:

> The covenant is alive.

The animals remember.

The Earth remembers.

Will you?

Communication from Public

Name: Glenda Nunez

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 01:29 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Los Angeles, California ... Dear Councilmembers and Budget Committee, I am writing today as a concerned member of the Los Angeles community who cares deeply about the welfare of the animals in our city's shelters. Los Angeles Animal Services is already critically underfunded, understaffed, and overwhelmed. Staff and volunteers are stretched to their absolute limits, working tirelessly to provide even basic care to thousands of animals. The consequences are heartbreaking: overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, delays in medical treatment, lack of behavioral support, and rising rates of illness, injury, and euthanasia. The proposed budget cuts to LAAS would have devastating and irreversible consequences for both the animals and the people who are trying to help them. Cutting the budget would not solve the problems - it would make them worse. Without proper staffing, resources, and medical support, more animals will suffer, more will be euthanized, and public trust in the shelter system will continue to erode. Many community members and rescue organizations already step up daily to bridge the gaps, providing urgent medical care, rehabilitation, and placement for at-risk animals. But we cannot replace a fully functioning public shelter system. The City of Los Angeles must take responsibility for the lives entrusted to its care. Slashing the LAAS budget is not a cost-saving measure. In the long run, it will increase public health risks, legal liabilities, and community safety concerns - all of which are far more costly to taxpayers. Instead, the city should invest in meaningful solutions: hiring and retaining more staff, improving shelter conditions, expanding spay/neuter and community outreach programs, and supporting partnerships with rescues. The animals in our shelters are not just numbers on a budget sheet. They are living beings who experience fear, pain, joy, and love. They are part of our community, and they deserve better. Please do not balance the city's budget at the expense of the most vulnerable. I respectfully urge you to protect and fully fund Los Angeles Animal Services. Our city's values demand it - and the animals are counting on you. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Patrice

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 01:56 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: All lives matter! If you have a heart, euthanizing thousands of animals will never cross your minds. There is always a way to make things work and ending the lives of these animals isn't the right way to do it. You are just making everything worse. I hope you reconsider your actions. Ko

Communication from Public

Name: Katherine Nguyen

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 03:00 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Reducing funding for our city's animal shelters would have devastating consequences for both animals and our communities. Our shelters are already under immense strain—understaffed, overcrowded, and struggling to provide basic care for the thousands of homeless, abandoned, and injured animals that rely on them. Cutting their budget will only worsen this crisis, leading to increased neglect, suffering, and potentially higher euthanasia rates. It is unacceptable for a city as large and resourceful as Los Angeles to turn its back on its most vulnerable creatures. These shelters also serve the public—supporting pet owners, reducing stray animal populations, and protecting public health and safety. Budget cuts would limit essential services like adoptions, spay/neuter programs, and emergency response. The impact will be felt citywide. I urge you to reject any proposal that cuts funding to animal services. Instead, we should be investing in solutions that address this crisis humanely and effectively. Our city must do better—for the animals, and for the people who care about them.

Communication from Public

Name: Janet

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 03:52 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I don't want Karen Bass to defund the shelters. These fur babies deserve to continue getting the care and funds they already have.

Communication from Public

Name: Roberta Barrett

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 03:57 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do what is necessary to keep these shelters open. It's cruel to abandon these defenseless animals. Show some compassion!!
Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Alex
Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 04:31 AM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose any decision that cuts funding and/or staff to LA Animal Services. We need to be increasing funding and staffing of animal services in Los Angeles. I also oppose the cuts to other city services. As David Green said "Show us the money. We want to look at the numbers and look at every single dollar. This shouldn't be the first place people go, to lay off city workers, providing valuable city services." If you need to know where to find the funding, just look to the LAPD budget. A \$2.14 billion budget was approved for the LAPD's 2025-26 fiscal year. This plan reflects an 8.1% increase, or \$160.5 million more, compared to the previous budget. We do not need a further militarized police force. Invest that money instead into the community and non-police city services.

Communication from Public

Name: Sage

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 04:37 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Don't shut down more shelters. Animals need us!! Shelters are already under funded and under staffed. If anything we need more shelters! More money to go to the shelters! Don't take away from these animals. Why can't humans look out for other beings? Why be so selfish

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 05:01 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a concerned citizen, I am writing to express my deep alarm over the proposed closures and cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. The city's shelters are already critically overcrowded and understaffed, and further cuts will push them toward extremely high euthanasia rates, similar to what we see in some of the highest-kill areas of the country. This is not only a devastating animal welfare crisis, but also a public safety concern. During the pandemic, other areas that reduced animal services saw significant increases in stray, aggressive, and abandoned animals on the streets, putting residents — especially children and the elderly — at real risk. This issue is gaining national attention through social media, and is damaging Los Angeles' reputation. As someone who would otherwise consider visiting LA, I would now seriously reconsider tourism to a city that is turning its back on humane, responsible animal care. Decimating animal services has ripple effects beyond city borders: surrounding regions also experience higher intake rates, increased shelter euthanasia, and greater strain on rescues and public safety resources. I urge you to reconsider these catastrophic cuts. Protecting both the animals and the people of Los Angeles should be a priority — it reflects the values of a compassionate, responsible city. Thank you, Rebecca Morris

Communication from Public

Name: Deanna

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 05:35 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Reducing funding for our city's animal shelters would have devastating consequences for both animals and our communities. Our shelters are already under immense strain—understaffed, overcrowded, and struggling to provide basic care for the thousands of homeless, abandoned, and injured animals that rely on them. Cutting their budget will only worsen this crisis, leading to increased neglect, suffering, and potentially higher euthanasia rates. It is unacceptable for a city as large and resourceful as Los Angeles to turn its back on its most vulnerable creatures. These shelters also serve the public—supporting pet owners, reducing stray animal populations, and protecting public health and safety. Budget cuts would limit essential services like adoptions, spay/neuter programs, and emergency response. The impact will be felt citywide. I urge you to reject any proposal that cuts funding to animal services. Instead, we should be investing in solutions that address this crisis humanely and effectively. Our city must do better—for the animals, and for the people who care about them.

Communication from Public

Name: anja brown

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 05:40 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: These shelters need the funding and need to be saved! These institutions are lifelines for these sweet animals and provide for the neglected, abandoned and injured. Every creature in this world deserves a fighting chance. Please do not take that away from them. These shelters are their only chance to feel safe and get to loving homes that they so much deserve. Please do not cut the funding!!!! My heart breaks just thinking about it. Thank you for reading this and hopefully for some compassion for the animals, employees and volunteers.

Communication from Public

Name: Kiley

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 06:20 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Closing half of our city's animal shelters, terminating critical staff, and ending programs like TNR will cause immense suffering to countless animals and create a public safety crisis for the city's residents. Animal shelters are not luxuries — they are a basic public service, just like police, fire, and sanitation. Gutting these services in order to fund temporary Olympic upgrades is irresponsible and shortsighted. Los Angeles has worked for years to improve animal welfare and reduce euthanasia rates. These cuts would erase that progress overnight, leaving animals abandoned and the community overwhelmed. I urge you to reconsider and prioritize the humane treatment of animals and the needs of your constituents over fleeting, cosmetic improvements for a two-week event. We are better than this. Please protect our shelters, our employees, and the animals who have no voice but ours.

Communication from Public

Name: Carla Resnik

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 06:22 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Form letter. Copy Paste. Submit. Dear Council Members, Please keep hearings open for in-person comment after M 4/28, schedule two additional public comment sessions, and a longer public notification of open hearing forums-one month notice. • Incorrect Google AI information when searching for meeting. Google states Van Nuys City Hall instead of LA City Hall for upcoming Monday 4/28 meeting. Incorrect till 4/26. • On Fri. 4/25, Van Nuys City Hall court room was unable to house all testifiers and attendees at the same time due to inadequate room size with One In, One Out Rule. Many waited outside in line with no video monitor to view testimonies inside the court room. After submitting testimony, many did not stay but exited so another testifier can enter. The 4/25 hearing did not ensure proper open hearing forum protocol for attendees to hear all testimonies or stay in the courtroom to listen to testimonies that may be critical to their case. The 4/25 meeting was not conducive to an "open public forum." The City needs to provide full coverage of public open hearings to attendees. To have only two open hearings back-to-back (the second meeting an extension of the first) is too short of a time for a public open forum that encompasses multiple department budget cuts and staff reductions throughout the cities of Los Angeles. There are no open hearings scheduled after 4/28. Additional open hearings are needed and better notification of the events to the public. At least two weeks between open hearing sessions. Was there a 10-day public notification for 4/25 and 4/28 meeting in newspaper publications as required by CA Code (gov: 65090)? What newspapers were the hearings published in and when? Was it on or before 4/15 for 4/25 meeting? Was it on or before 4/18 for 4/28 meeting? Thank you, Carla Resnik

Communication from Public

Name: ReneLedesma

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 06:32 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I Represent the Valley Intercommunity Council here in the San Fernando Valley as a "Homebound Meal Coordinator" Delivering Hot Meals to our Seniors that are homebound. It is with a Heavy heart i ask that you, (L.A City Council) not cut the meal Program for our Senior Community. There are many Seniors that could not make it to Speak of how much these Meals are Needed. I personally know many of these seniors who are just "1" accident away from being homeless and providing a Hot meal daily has helped our seniors in attaining good health and help Financially in all aspects of their lives. in a time when the future is un-certain especially is this fiscal crisis and Crime against seniors is growing. delivering Hot meals to our seniors has provided our community with an "extra" set of eyes that ensure our seniors are well. My most concern is Providing "our" communities most vulnerable and hope you would find it in your hearts to really consider this program. I thank you for your consideration.
Respectfully Submitted, Rene Ledesma Homebound Meals Coordinator/Northeast Valley (ASA)

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth Gallardo

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 06:53 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Public comment for the 25-26 budget council file 25-0600. My name is Elizabeth Gallardo. I am a City Planner at the Department of City Planning and EAA member. I am a native angeleno who loves our city. I am very sad to have to comment today on behalf of my colleagues that have less seniority than me and that face LAYOFFS and DEMOTIONS just when they thought their career was taking off. During my 13 years serving the city, I have collaborated with almost every department facing cuts in this budget. I can readily tell you that our city government is not bloated or overstaffed. The positions cut in this budget are WRECKLESS DOGE-style slashes to programs that serve our community and constituents. Angelenos LOOSE with this budget. These cuts set us back 30 years, making our departments less diverse and less able to serve our communities. They slash revenue generating positions for case processing. They take away our racial justice and transformative planning office. They create a future without long term planning, a future without vision at a time when our city needs these most: post fire and pre-olympics. Nearly every unit of my department of City Planning will face 25-50% losses. I will ask bluntly, will LAPD sworn, who has earned a large portion of this deficit in liability suits, also face the same cuts? My unit, the Redevelopment Plan Unit within the Development Services Center, Specialized Services is proposed for elimination. At my job I process Redevelopment Plan cases that we are legally required to implement, Residential Hotel cases, also legally required by the Wiggins settlement, and ED 1 100% affordable housing projects, meeting the mayor's timeline for expedited review and clearances for affordable housing. Without my unit these functions will be stalled or non functional and put the city at additional legal vulnerability. This budget is ignorant of how our city works and cuts revenue generating positions that only have the best intentions for our communities. It will set a bomb inside our department, blowing up every unit. We will have a massive knowledge drain, entire units will cease to exist, and everyone will have to move to learn a new job to accommodate the layoffs of basically all the people that were hired since 2022. This budget prioritizes LAPD sworn without any accountability. This budget does not serve the best interest of Angelenos and needs to be dramatically reconsidered. HANDS off our civil

service departments. Hands off City Planning, Bureau of Street Services, LADOT. Council members, please protect our city with SERVICES. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: B. Martinez

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:06 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose the Mayor's poor decision to cut funding for services that impact the Los Angeles Community. This budget is a disaster for road safety and even basic services. The Mayor's choice to significantly reduce staff in agencies that oversee Los Angeles' streets, which means fewer new bike projects, safety upgrades, open streets events like CicLAvia, and less maintenance is a recipe for disaster. This may severely impact bike and pedestrian projects that are planned as part of preparation for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games and projects that are required for the implementation of Measure HLA, a ballot measure that was passed by voters in March 2024.

Communication from Public

Name: Casey Law

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:13 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please invest in healthier, safer streets in LA! Why tolerate bad and unsafe streets that lead to lawsuits and expensive settlements? Investments in safer designs *save the city money*. This is why voters overwhelmingly endorsed Measure HLA. Please follow through on that endorsement by funding change that improves the lives of Angelenos. Sincerely, Casey Law

Communication from Public

Name: Michelle Welk

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:13 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not implement the proposed budget cuts to Animal Services. To do so would threaten public safety and abdicate our collective responsibility to Los Angeles's animals. Cutting our already insufficient facilities from 6 shelters to 3 when there's enough funding available to maintain current levels in the Unappropriated Balance/Animal Services Operations budget line item is unconscionable. Please, don't abandon Los Angeles's animals and the people who care for them!

Communication from Public

Name: Mateo

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:18 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We cannot defund these community job centers! They're vital to the community.

Communication from Public

Name: Darlene

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:22 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do NOT close more animal shelters in LA. We are already in crisis!! Rescue groups , shelters are at full capacity already . We should be using funds and opening more and hiring more staff. How can you be so blind to see what is happening?? Have some empathy for these animals that are dumped . Also stop giving out breeding licenses to homeless or to anyone . Put a stop to breeding and open more FREE spay and neuter clinics . The animals do not have a choice , but we do to save them .

Communication from Public

Name: Greg Ericksen

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:25 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of REDF and our 25 LA:RISE partners, we write in strong support of a critical element in Mayor Bass's proposed budget: the \$2.7 million allocation for the LA:RISE program. LA:RISE is a proven and transformative initiative that connects individuals experiencing homelessness, reentry, or chronic unemployment with meaningful employment and the long-term support necessary to succeed. We respectfully urge the Los Angeles City Council to maintain this funding. LA:RISE has already changed thousands of lives—and many more Angelenos still rely on this pathway to stability and opportunity. Preserving this investment is essential to advancing economic equity and supporting some of our city's most vulnerable residents. Additionally, as the City considers consolidating the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD), we urge you to ensure that this process does not result in the loss of critical leadership and institutional knowledge. In a time of significant economic uncertainty, strong and experienced leaders are essential to guiding this work forward. The futures of those we serve—and the values of equity, dignity, and opportunity that define Los Angeles—depend on your continued leadership and commitment.

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa L.

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:34 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I voted for Mayor Bass because of her promise to make Los Angeles a model of excellence in animal welfare. It is unacceptable to now do the opposite of what she promised. Perfectly healthy animals will be euthanized due to severe overcrowding resulting from the closure of the 3 facilities proposed by Mayor Bass. LA Animal shelters are already overburdened as it is, and this will cause irrecoverable damage, costing employees their jobs and animals their lives. Mayor Bass, I ask as someone who cast a ballot for you: please honor your campaign promise and make this right.

Communication from Public

Name: Juana Salazar

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:44 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I urge the City Council to fully fund the Youth Development Department. I have been a teacher for public schools (LAUSD and Pasadena) for over 30 years. It is this experience that forces me to write to you in hopes you will not cut funding for this valuable and necessary department. On the contrary, we need to invest MORE in our young people. I am finding that the youth is struggling more than ever. Suicide and depression rates in young people have skyrocketed in recent years. As the wealthier become richer and the middle class dissolves, young people are feeling hopeless and unsure of their future. The small percentage saved in cutting this vital department will only cost the city more in the future as the mental health of our young declines causing instability, crime and poverty. They need our guidance and support than never before. Let's invest more in our youth not cut opportunities for growth and empowerment. PLEASE FULLY FUND THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT. Our future depends on it!

Communication from Public

Name: Samira Tapia

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:45 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I urge the city to use the \$5 million they have to NOT close critically needed animal shelters. Do not lay off shelter staff. We are a world class city and this is embarrassing that it has come to this. This is also a public safety issue, resulting in more stray dogs on the streets - resulting in potential lawsuits from citizens, ultimately not saving money at all. Keep shelters open please!

Communication from Public

Name: Mericka Lehman

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:45 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members, Please keep hearings open for in-person comment after M 4/28, schedule two additional public comment sessions, and a longer public notification of open hearing forums—one month notice. • Incorrect Google AI information when searching for meeting. Google states Van Nuys City Hall instead of LA City Hall for upcoming Monday 4/28 meeting. Incorrect till 4/26. • On Fri. 4/25, Van Nuys City Hall court room was unable to house all testifiers and attendees at the same time due to inadequate room size with One In, One Out Rule. Many waited outside in line with no video monitor to view testimonies inside the court room. After submitting testimony, many did not stay but exited so another testifier can enter. The 4/25 hearing did not ensure proper open hearing forum protocol for attendees to hear all testimonies or stay in the courtroom to listen to testimonies that may be critical to their case. The 4/25 meeting was not conducive to an “open public forum.” The City needs to provide full coverage of public open hearings to attendees. To have only two open hearings back-to-back (the second meeting an extension of the first) is too short of a time for a public open forum that encompasses multiple department budget cuts and staff reductions throughout the cities of Los Angeles. There are no open hearings scheduled after 4/28. Additional open hearings are needed and better notification of the events to the public. At least two weeks between open hearing sessions. Was there a 10-day public notification for 4/25 and 4/28 meeting in newspaper publications as required by CA Code (gov: 65090)? What newspapers were the hearings published in and when? Was it on or before 4/15 for 4/25 meeting? Was it on or before 4/18 for 4/28 meeting? Thank you. Mericka Lehman

Communication from Public

Name: Talar

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:57 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers and Budget Committee, I am writing today as a concerned member of the Los Angeles community who deeply cares about the welfare of the animals in our city's shelters. I URGE you to protect and fully fund all Los Angeles Animal Services. Please do not balance the city's budget at the cost of innocent living beings. There must be other areas where funding can be cut from. For example, I do not see the need for the Mayor of Los Angeles to travel to foreign countries like Ghana. That is why we have US ambassadors all over the world. We expect our mayor and city council members to serve the needs of Los Angeles, especially during such dire times. Traveling abroad does not benefit our City. In addition, if the city was more mindful of how funds were spent, we would not be in this situation today. It is time for the mayor and city council to prioritize Los Angeles and its residents. The people of Los Angeles work hard and give so much to our city and state. It's time for our government to take care of our people and neighborhoods. We deserve more! We expect more!

Communication from Public

Name: Bruce Reznik

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:59 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Opposition to the climate, environmental, and environmental justice related budget cuts proposed by Mayor Bass. Honorable Chair Yaroslavsky and Budget and Finance Committee members The undersigned organizations oppose the draconian budget cuts Mayor Bass is proposing to the City's climate, environmental and environmental justice. While we appreciate the City's current financial situation, we ask this Committee and its Chair to reject the proposed budget and instead lead an effort to develop a budget that maintains the City's leadership on building a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable city. As we celebrate Earth Month, and as communities in Los Angeles continue to struggle to recover from one of the worst climate-exacerbated disasters in California history, we are dismayed to find that Mayor Bass's proposed annual budget significantly cuts climate and environment related positions in nearly every department within the city. This short-sighted thinking will only lead to further catastrophes: without any mechanisms for emergency preparedness or planning for heat, flooding, or wildfires, all Angelenos will be at risk. Among our many concerns, the mayor's proposal to eliminate the City's Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO) is especially alarming. CEMO was founded to ensure Los Angeles is prepared to execute an equitable response to the growing impacts of climate change. Discontinuing CEMO could pose a grave threat to LA's climate readiness and leave the city even more vulnerable to catastrophic disasters like the recent wildfires. It could also put at risk significant state funding that the CEMO recently was awarded to develop a replicable Extreme Heat Blueprint, meaning this cut could end up being "penny wise and pound foolish". Of course, getting rid of CEMO is just one drastic cut in the Mayor's proposed budget. She also took a chainsaw to other key departments and programs that safeguard LA's environment and public health, including cutting the entire environmental justice unit at the Planning Department, 159 positions at LA Sanitation (which could result in increased risk of catastrophic sewage spills as well as increases in urban and stormwater pollution), massive cuts to the City's biodiversity, urban forestry and soils programs, and eliminating the LA River Coordinator position that has been critical in efforts to restore our namesake river. The Mayor's proposed budget, combined with

some of her other actions, represents an abdication of the leadership on climate, environmental health and justice that the City has demonstrated over the past decade. These cuts could also undermine the City's ability to bring in state funding (e.g. the recently passed \$10B statewide Prop 4 climate bond) and eventually more federal resources to LA, further exacerbating our vulnerability to fire, extreme heat, drought and other climate related disasters. We recognize that the City is in a dire financial position, but ultimately, these cuts will massively increase both human and financial costs in our new climate reality, and push costs onto our most vulnerable residents, to our environment, and ultimately to future generations. Not long ago, Los Angeles was considered one of the world leaders in climate policy and action. This is not the moment to cede that crown. We call on Budget Chair Yaroslavsky and the rest of the Budget-Finance Committee and City Council to reject the Mayor's budget proposal, and to demonstrate the leadership needed to craft a more sensible and safer budget. Sincerely, Bruce Reznik Executive Director Los Angeles Waterkeeper Charles Miller Chair Los Angeles Climate Reality Project Candice Dickens-Russell CEO Friends of the Los Angeles River Gregory Pierce Director UCLA Water Resources Group Claire Robinson Managing Director Amigos De Los Rios Tracy Quinn Chief Executive Officer Heal the Bay Dianna Cohen Co-Founder & CEO Plastic Pollution Coalition Lisa Hart Executive Director Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance Jackie Nunez Founder The Last Plastic Straw Melanie Winter Founder & Director The River Project Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat Urban Wildlands Campaigner Center for Biological Diversity David Diaz Executive Director Active San Gabriel Valley Carlos Moran Executive Director North East Trees Scott Culbertson Executive Director Friends of Ballona Wetlands Valeria Serna Board Member Resilient Palisades Tori Kjer Executive Director Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust Cindy Donis Youth Organizing Director East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice Morgan Goodwin Angeles Chapter Director Sierra Club



UCLA WATER RESOURCES GROUP



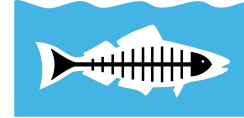
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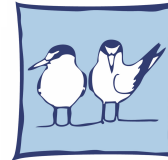
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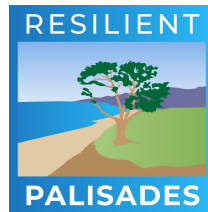
Heal the Bay



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Because life is good.



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NEIGHBORHOOD
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April 28, 2025

Los Angeles City Council Budget & Finance Committee
Submitted via online portal

Re: Opposition to the climate, environmental, and environmental justice related budget cuts proposed by Mayor Bass.

Honorable Chair Yaroslavsky and Budget and Finance Committee members

The undersigned organizations oppose the draconian budget cuts Mayor Bass is proposing to the City's climate, environmental and environmental justice. While we appreciate the City's current financial situation, we ask this Committee and its Chair to reject the proposed budget and instead lead an effort to develop a budget that maintains the City's leadership on building a more resilient, sustainable, and equitable city.

As we celebrate Earth Month, and as communities in Los Angeles continue to struggle to recover from one of the worst climate-exacerbated disasters in California history, we are

dismayed to find that Mayor Bass's proposed annual budget significantly cuts climate and environment related positions in nearly every department within the city. This short-sighted thinking will only lead to further catastrophes: without any mechanisms for emergency preparedness or planning for heat, flooding, or wildfires, all Angelenos will be at risk.

Among our many concerns, the mayor's proposal to eliminate the City's [Climate Emergency Mobilization Office](#) (CEMO) is especially alarming. CEMO was founded to ensure Los Angeles is prepared to execute an equitable response to the growing impacts of climate change. Discontinuing CEMO could pose a grave threat to LA's climate readiness and leave the city even more vulnerable to catastrophic disasters like the recent wildfires. It could also put at risk significant state funding that the CEMO recently was awarded to develop a replicable Extreme Heat Blueprint, meaning this cut could end up being "penny wise and pound foolish" .

Of course, getting rid of CEMO is just one drastic cut in the Mayor's proposed budget. She also took a chainsaw to other key departments and programs that safeguard LA's environment and public health, including cutting the entire environmental justice unit at the Planning Department, 159 positions at LA Sanitation (which could result in increased risk of catastrophic sewage spills as well as increases in urban and stormwater pollution), massive cuts to the City's biodiversity, urban forestry and soils programs, and eliminating the LA River Coordinator position that has been critical in efforts to restore our namesake river.

The Mayor's proposed budget, combined with some of her other actions, represents an abdication of the leadership on climate, environmental health and justice that the City has demonstrated over the past decade. These cuts could also undermine the City's ability to bring in state funding (e.g. the recently passed \$10B statewide Prop 4 climate bond) and eventually more federal resources to LA, further exacerbating our vulnerability to fire, extreme heat, drought and other climate related disasters.

We recognize that the City is in a dire financial position, but ultimately, these cuts will massively increase both human and financial costs in our new climate reality, and push costs onto our most vulnerable residents, to our environment, and ultimately to future generations.

Not long ago, Los Angeles was considered one of the world leaders in climate policy and action. This is not the moment to cede that crown. We call on Budget Chair Yaroslavsky and the rest of the Budget-Finance Committee and City Council to reject the Mayor's budget proposal, and to demonstrate the leadership needed to craft a more sensible and safer budget.

Sincerely,



Bruce Reznik
Executive Director
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Charles Miller
Chair
Los Angeles Climate Reality Project

Candice Dickens-Russell
CEO
Friends of the Los Angeles River

Gregory Pierce
Director
UCLA Water Resources Group

Claire Robinson
Managing Director
Amigos De Los Rios

Tracy Quinn
Chief Executive Officer
Heal the Bay

Dianna Cohen
Co-Founder & CEO
Plastic Pollution Coalition

Lisa Hart
Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Council
Sustainability Alliance

Jackie Nunez
Founder
The Last Plastic Straw

Melanie Winter
Founder & Director
The River Project

Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat
Urban Wildlands Campaigner
Center for Biological Diversity

David Diaz
Executive Director
Active San Gabriel Valley

Carlos Moran
Executive Director
North East Trees

Scott Culbertson
Executive Director
Friends of Ballona Wetlands

Valeria Serna
Board Member
Resilient Palisades

Tori Kjer
Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Cindy Donis
Youth Organizing Director
East Yard Communities for Environmental
Justice

Morgan Goodwin
Angeles Chapter Director
Sierra Club

Communication from Public

Name: Linda

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:11 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As mayor, you work for your constituents and we are in need of more animal shelters and programs for animals not the other way around. What makes Los Angeles so great is that it is pet friendly county. You need to make this right.

Communication from Public

Name: Felicia

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:15 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable Board Members, I am writing to respectfully urge you to reconsider the decision to close three Los Angeles animal shelters. These shelters serve as a vital refuge for countless vulnerable animals and a critical resource for our community. Closing them will not only endanger the lives of these animals, but also overwhelm the already strained facilities that remain open. Animal shelters are more than temporary housing — they are a cornerstone of public safety, community compassion, and responsible pet ownership. Eliminating access to them risks an increase in stray populations, public health concerns, and suffering for animals and families alike. I understand the challenges facing the city, but I believe there are better solutions than closure — solutions that involve community partnerships, volunteer initiatives, and innovative funding strategies. I respectfully ask the board to pause and engage with the community for collaborative alternatives that protect both the animals and the residents of Los Angeles. Please reconsider this decision. Our city, our animals, and our community deserve better. Thank you for your time and consideration. Felicia Kryska

Communication from Public

Name: Tanya Tsikanovsky

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:17 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please find other funds to cut instead of this. This is pure evil.

Communication from Public

Name: Erika Mugglin

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:29 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: It has come to my attention that proposed budget cuts would result in \$5 million being taken from the LA County Animal Shelters. I want to voice my strong opposition to these cuts. The shelters are already strained and at capacity with the influx from the recent fire fighters and are understaffed. Taking away the majority of their budget would be a death sentence not only to the shelters but to the animals housed within. This cut cannot be allowed to occur.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:30 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members, Please keep hearings open for in-person comment after M 4/28, schedule two additional public comment sessions, and a longer public notification of open hearing forums—one month notice. • Incorrect Google AI information when searching for meeting. Google states Van Nuys City Hall instead of LA City Hall for upcoming Monday 4/28 meeting. Incorrect till 4/26. • On Fri. 4/25, Van Nuys City Hall court room was unable to house all testifiers and attendees at the same time due to inadequate room size with One In, One Out Rule. Many waited outside in line with no video monitor to view testimonies inside the court room. After submitting testimony, many did not stay but exited so another testifier can enter. The 4/25 hearing did not ensure proper open hearing forum protocol for attendees to hear all testimonies or stay in the courtroom to listen to testimonies that may be critical to their case. The 4/25 meeting was not conducive to an “open public forum.” The City needs to provide full coverage of public open hearings to attendees. To have only two open hearings back-to-back (the second meeting an extension of the first) is too short of a time for a public open forum that encompasses multiple department budget cuts and staff reductions throughout the cities of Los Angeles. There are no open hearings scheduled after 4/28. Additional open hearings are needed and better notification of the events to the public. At least two weeks between open hearing sessions. Was there a 10-day public notification for 4/25 and 4/28 meeting in newspaper publications as required by CA Code (gov: 65090)? What newspapers were the hearings published in and when? Was it on or before 4/15 for 4/25 meeting? Was it on or before 4/18 for 4/28 meeting? Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Nefertari barraza

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:32 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a Vet tech and working in a high volume spay neuter clinic ! Animal shelters are vital to communities because they provide safe havens for abandoned, abused, and stray animals, offering them medical care, food, and a chance to find loving homes. Without adequate funding, shelters struggle to maintain basic services, leading to overcrowding, higher euthanasia rates, and poor living conditions. Cutting funding not only endangers the animals but also impacts public health and safety, as shelters help control stray populations and prevent the spread of disease. Supporting shelters is a humane and responsible investment in the well-being of both animals and people.

Communication from Public

Name: George Tellechea

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:33 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm asking you to please fully fund the Youth Development Department (YDD). Cutting these programs would leave over 800,000 young people without protection, support, or hope. Our kids are already struggling with mental health, violence, and isolation — they need us now more than ever. Please don't abandon them. Invest in their future. Invest in Los Angeles. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Eva Burkley

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:35 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We love the Harbor Animal Shelter and got both of our cats there. It would be a huge disservice to our area to not have a shelter. Please reconsider closing this location.

Communication from Public

Name: Audrey Nunez

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:38 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We need more shelters and funding, this is insane! Don't close shelters killing animals and lying people off! Stop breeders and make people responsible for their animals by enforcing microchipping and spay/neuter and fining them if not! No innocent animals deserve to die because of budget cuts! Do the right thing, Karen Bass!

Communication from Public

Name: Heidi O.

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:42 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Closing 3 of the 6 city shelters will be a terrible mistake. In the past year, the city shelters were at over 200% capacity, with dogs living in small crates lining the hallways of all the shelters. What happened to the city being NO KILL? Because the city is so large, losing those three shelters also means that certain areas of the city will have no place for people to take care of their concerns relating to their pets. It could mean more animals being dumped on the streets. It will mean double the work for the staff, and citizens will have to travel further to get the services the city is obligated to provide. Even just closing one of the shelters is short-sighted, and will end up costing the city more in the long run. I've been a volunteer with L.A. Animal Services for 19 years. The volunteers cannot make up for the loss of any of the shelters, and the care for the animals relinquished will suffer greatly and will cause a lot of unnecessary suffering. Please reconsider closing any of the city shelters.

Communication from Public

Name: Heidi Falconer

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:43 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to unequivocally oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Reducing funding for our city's animal shelters would have devastating consequences for both animals and our communities. Our shelters are already under immense strain—understaffed, overcrowded, and struggling to provide basic care for the thousands of homeless, abandoned, and injured animals that rely on them. Cutting their budget will only worsen this crisis, leading to increased neglect, suffering, and potentially higher euthanasia rates. It is unacceptable for a city as large and resourceful as Los Angeles to turn its back on its most vulnerable creatures. These shelters also serve the public—supporting pet owners, reducing stray animal populations, and protecting public health and safety. Budget cuts would limit essential services like adoptions, spay/neuter programs, and emergency response. The impact will be felt citywide. I urge you to reject any proposal that cuts funding to animal services. Instead, we should be investing in solutions that address this crisis humanely and effectively. Our city must do better—for the animals, and for the people who care about them.

Communication from Public

Name: Rico Oregon

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:45 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a Los Angeles resident I am demanding Los Angeles puts day labor centers back in the city budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Ashleigh Gallant

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:49 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Mayor Bass, I am writing to express deep concern regarding the proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Our city's shelters are already overwhelmed, underfunded, and understaffed. Cutting their budget even further will only worsen the conditions for the animals in their care and put more pressure on an already strained system. Los Angeles prides itself on being a progressive, compassionate city. Allowing vulnerable animals to suffer due to lack of resources directly contradicts those values. Rather than cuts, we should be investing in better staffing, more foster and adoption programs, and improved shelter conditions. I urge you to reconsider this decision and prioritize funding for Animal Services. The lives of thousands of animals — and the safety and well-being of our communities — depend on it. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:50 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Civilians are the backbone to the Police department and to the City as a whole. While I am sure there are many Civilian positions that need eliminating there needs to better process than "last in first out", this system is flawed and allows for hard workers to get laid off and lazy workers to keep their jobs. When most of the City was telecommuting due to the pandemic, most of the Civilians in the Police department were forced to still go into office and increase their exposure to the worse disease of the past several decades with no hazardous pay. Many of us have worked hard to keep our job and for future promotions, so to hear those promotional opportunities could be taken away is a slap in the face. Whenever a certification list is renewed but there is a freeze on hiring then the list should also be frozen, what is the point of taking a test and having a score good for 2 years when there's a freeze for the majority of that time. Do your hardworking employees right and fix this system, if you want to save the City money find a way to get rid of the dead weight.

Communication from Public

Name: Tiffany Sgueglia

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:51 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Reducing funding for our city's animal shelters would have devastating consequences for both animals and our communities. Our shelters are already under immense strain—understaffed, overcrowded, and struggling to provide basic care for the thousands of homeless, abandoned, and injured animals that rely on them. Cutting their budget will only worsen this crisis, leading to increased neglect, suffering, and potentially higher euthanasia rates. It is unacceptable for a city as large and resourceful as Los Angeles to turn its back on its most vulnerable creatures. These shelters also serve the public—supporting pet owners, reducing stray animal populations, and protecting public health and safety. Budget cuts would limit essential services like adoptions, spay/neuter programs, and emergency response. The impact will be felt citywide. I urge you to reject any proposal that cuts funding to animal services. Instead, we should be investing in solutions that address this crisis humanely and effectively. Our city must do better—for the animals, and for the people who care about them.

Communication from Public

Name: John Helyar

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:53 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I write to express my grave concern regarding the proposed 40 percent staffing reduction and corresponding budget cuts to the Department of Disability (DOD). These cuts would disproportionately impact some of the City's most essential public health efforts and imperil thousands of Angelenos, particularly those living at the intersection of disability, HIV risk, and substance use. Many departments are being cut, and many people will suffer. For cuts to DOD, in particular for HIV services, Angelenos will die. I respectfully urge the Mayor and Council to: Immediately withdraw the proposed 40 percent reduction to DOD; Preserve existing HIV prevention and harm reduction contracts; Engage with community stakeholders, including those with lived experience and organizations impacted by the cuts, before enacting any changes; and, Conduct a formal equity impact review to assess the consequences of these cuts. The proposed 40 percent staffing cut to DOD is wildly disproportionate compared to the broader 5.75 percent City workforce reduction, and carries significant legal and equity risks. DOD ensures compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and supports critical HIV prevention and harm reduction programs that primarily serve historically marginalized communities. These cuts will mean thousands fewer people – many of them Black and Latinx and many of them experiencing homelessness – will be tested for HIV and have access to harm reduction services, including syringe exchange. Thousands fewer will be referred for testing or other supportive services. Hundreds of Angelenos with HIV will not receive social support, thousands of people will not turn in used syringes, and hundreds of thousands of used syringes will not be safely disposed of. The cuts in the proposed budget also will curtail the distribution of Naloxone, which is a retreat from DOD's vital prevention work and will lead to increased street overdoses. Moreover, these cuts compound the harm from simultaneous federal funding reductions for HIV prevention, just when the need is growing. The increased risk to taxpayers is not worth the minimal savings that will be achieved.

Communication from Public

Name: Blaire Bradley

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:53 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Councilmembers, I urge you to fully fund the Mayor's Youth Ambassador (MaYA) Program, a visionary initiative that positions Los Angeles as a global leader in cultural exchange and diplomacy. As LA prepares to host the World Cup and Olympics, this program is critical to: Counteract Harmful Misperceptions: Amidst calls for international boycotts targeting California, MaYA allows our students to serve as cultural ambassadors, showcasing LA's values of inclusion, equity, and cross-border collaboration—distinct from divisive federal policies. Build Global Goodwill: By empowering College Promise students—many from underrepresented communities—to engage with peers abroad, MaYA fosters mutual understanding and soft diplomacy, strengthening LA's reputation as a bridge-builder. Invest in Equity: This free program ensures low-income youth gain life-changing opportunities to develop global competencies, breaking down barriers to international education and career pathways. Cutting MaYA would signal retreat from LA's commitment to global engagement and youth leadership at a time when both are urgently needed. I urge you to protect this program as a testament to our city's values and a safeguard for our shared future.

Communication from Public

Name: Amanda Bustamante

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:54 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am requesting that LA animal shelters NOT be closed due to Mayor Bass's budget cut plans- as it is already, animal shelters are severely overcrowded, underfunded, and these beautiful beating LIVES depend on them to keep them out of the streets, out of abusive and sometimes murderous hands, until someone can find them and actually give them the love and respect they deserve as living beings. Shelters are not a favorable solution but it is a solution that is still needed nonetheless. Mayor Bass's decision for this cut to animal shelters is grossly callous, irresponsible, disappointing, ignorant and uneducated. It will be a HUGE blow that will *maybe* save some dollars but will cost THOUSANDS of precious and innocent lives yearly. That blood will be on her hands with this decision! I invite her to tour these shelters, to speak to volunteers and rescue groups and get the real scoop on what happens to these animals on a daily basis. It's terrible and completely heartbreaking that we can say what is in place is adequate (it really isn't) but to cut what's available in half?! Speaks volumes of her character and how out of touch she really is with what's going on in our state, in this city. I say NO to cutting animal shelter budgets and closing animal shelters!!!!