

Communication from Public

Name: LA Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance

Date Submitted: 05/01/2026 10:33 AM

Council File No: 25-1181

Comments for Public Posting: May 1, 2026 Re: private access to public helipads Dear City Council: The Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance opposes the expansion of private access to City-owned helicopter pads as proposed in Council File 25-1181. Helicopters pose significant environmental risks in the form of carbon emissions and noise pollution, and have insufficient capacity to meaningfully reduce surface traffic conditions. Private helicopter access to public helipads cannot be increased while maintaining our City's safety and environmental standards. Helicopters typically emit carbon emissions at a rate more than 30 times higher than cars, and a single helicopter flying at 1000 ft can generate as much noise as a busy freeway. Studies have shown that noise pollution poses serious risks to public health, including increased risk of hearing loss, sleep deprivation, arterial hypertension, myocardial infarction, heart failure, and stroke, even at levels significantly lower than helicopter noise (Münzel et al., 2018; Hammer et al., 2013; World Health Organization, 2011). Helicopter noise has been shown to change vocalization patterns in bird populations and reduce breeding success (Gallardo Cruz, 2019), while causing acute stress with long-term impacts to population stability in a wide variety of other species (Larkin, 1996). Los Angeles already struggles with excessive noise and pollution from helicopter usage, as it is home to the largest municipal airborne law enforcement operation in the world. City-owned helipads also serve as critical infrastructure for the Los Angeles Fire Department, and increasing private usage would increase strain on limited city resources for emergency response. We believe that publicly owned assets should be used for the equitable benefit of all constituents. This proposal would exclusively benefit a small portion of constituents and visitors with access to helicopters, at the expense of the City's public health and ecosystems. We urge our representatives to focus on high-density, rapid transit options, which are proven to reduce surface traffic and carbon emissions relative to alternatives, to better address transportation concerns during and after the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Thank you, Lisa Hart Executive Director Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance ncsa.la | lisahart@ncsa.la | 323.660.2780 Cc: Mayor Karen Bass Deputy Mayor Randall Winston Becky Dale, Vice

President of Sustainability, LA28

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY ALLIANCE[®]

May 1, 2026

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Dear City Council:

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Thank you,

Lisa Hart
Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance

ncsa.la | lisahart@ncsa.la | 323.660.2780

Cc:

Mayor Karen Bass

Deputy Mayor Randall Winston

Becky Dale, Vice President of Sustainability, LA28