

Communication from Public

Name: Mona Field

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 11:09 AM

Council File No: 26-1100-S15

Comments for Public Posting: As a member of the charter reform commission of 2025–2026, I urge the Council to support funding for our parks and recreation centers, for our senior centers, our youth programs in the parks, and all the things that will help us have a healthier, more equitable city. Please put this on the ballot for Angelenos.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 02:23 PM

Council File No: 26-1100-S15

Comments for Public Posting: Please find the attached public comment on behalf of Prevention Institute.

June 29, 2026

Council File 26-1100-S15

Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15

On behalf of Prevention Institute, we **strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a)** to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15.

We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November.

Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disasters, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. Yet due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park.

Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: Pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries.

Deferring is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue.

We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026, ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

Thank you for your time and your service to our communities.

Sandra Viera

Director

Prevention Institute

Sandra@preventioninstitute.org

Communication from Public

Name: LANLT/TPL

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 02:40 PM

Council File No: 26-1100-S15

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Trust for Public Land and LA Neighborhood Land Trust Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15 To the Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council: The Trust for Public Land and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, are honored to submit this letter in strong support of the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to double the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) Charter-mandated appropriation from 0.0325% to 0.065% of assessed property value, phased in over ten years. We are deeply appreciative of Council's common-sense proposal to correct a broken parks funding formula. We have been deeply honored to work alongside more than 100 community-based organizations, neighborhood leaders, park and health advocates, and small businesses across Los Angeles who have united behind this effort. Community members from El Sereno, South Los Angeles, Sun Valley, Pacoima, Boyle Heights, Echo Park, Venice, Pico-Union, Elysian Valley, Brentwood, Los Feliz, Koreatown, North Hollywood, West Los Angeles, Van Nuys, Glassell Park, East Hollywood, and neighborhoods across the City have appeared before the Council repeatedly to share their stories and stand up for correcting a broken funding formula. We deeply appreciate the City Council's 14-1 vote on June 17 to advance a fiscally sound proposal to double RAP's Charter minimum allocation. Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15 revised Section 593(a) captures this direction accurately. We strongly support approving this language on June 30. Doubling RAP's funding directly meets the needs identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is necessary to achieve park equity across Los Angeles. We stand ready to work with the Council to develop additional revenue streams to build a park system that delivers the essential public services that a fully resourced RAP can provide to every neighborhood in Los Angeles-regardless of zip code. Attached you will find a technical analysis prepared by the Olin Group, the lead consultant for the team that authored the City's Parks Need Assessment. Their analysis strongly supports the proposed revision to Section 593(a). The analysis details the essential services parks deliver, RAP's decades of structural underfunding, and the full fiscal picture of timely parks

investment — including important considerations regarding how RAP's cost recovery payments reduce the projected General Fund impact. More specifically, the technical memo notes: The City Administrative Officer's 'Financial Impact of Potential Changes to the Recreation and Parks Charter Mandated Appropriation' dated June 26, 2026 does not account for the indirect costs that RAP returns to the General Fund — currently 40% of RAP's charter allocation. Accounting for this offset reduces the real Year 1 cost from the stated \$43.3 million to approximately \$26 million and overstates the final-year impact by approximately \$273 million. The June 26 report applies property value growth assumptions inconsistently-potentially skewing budgetary impacts. Doubling the Charter minimum appropriation directly reflects the PNA's documented annual funding need and is consistent with law, policy and precedent. The June 26 report omits the positive returns of timely park investments. These include jobs, tax increases, and repairs that avoid or decrease the City's liability. The fiscal emergency provision should be narrowly scoped to protect the integrity of protected funding. Respectfully, Sarah K. Friedman Trust for Public Land Tori Kjer Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust



OLIN

TO: Trust for Public Land
Sarah Friedman

Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
Tori Kjer

SUBJECT: Financial Impacts and Benefits of Doubling RAP's Charter Allocation

FROM: Consultant Team Lead and Members of the 2025 LA Park Needs Assessment

27 June 2026

Dear Sarah, and Tori,

Last year, the Department of Recreation & Parks (RAP) completed a visionary Park Needs Assessment (PNA) documenting what the Los Angeles park system requires now and in the future. The PNA has been widely celebrated, receiving an Award of Excellence from the American Planning Association Los Angeles Chapter and a Merit Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects Southern California Chapter.

The PNA was shaped by the participation of thousands of Angelenos through surveys, in-person meetings, workshops, and events. Through this extensive public engagement process, it became overwhelmingly clear that parks and recreation are beloved by the community. Most Angelenos agree that parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs provide a wide range of benefits essential to their daily lives. Inadequate funding forces cuts to the very programs, spaces, and services that people love and rely on.

As the lead for the team who authored the PNA and this analysis, we strongly support Council's June 17 actions and support revised Section 593(a). A Charter amendment on the November 2026 ballot to double the RAP Charter-mandated appropriation from 0.0325% to 0.065% of assessed property value is necessary. Currently, the Los Angeles park system has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country, and the City offers just 4.2 park acres per thousand residents—the lowest ratio since the 1870s. The question is not whether the City can afford to invest adequately in parks, but whether it can afford *not* to.

In addition to performing the analysis underlying the PNA, based on your request our team and other team experts reviewed reports from the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) regarding the budgetary impacts of increasing protected parks funding, as well as the City Attorney's proposed ballot and charter language.

Based on our work underlying the PNA and work in other cities, we strongly support changing 593(a) to double RAP's charter minimum allocation. We offer the following comments:



- Parks deliver essential public safety, health, and economic services
- RAP's decades of structural underfunding are essential context for any fiscal baseline
- Doubling the Charter appropriation directly reflects the PNA's documented annual funding need and is consistent with policy and precedent
- The projected General Fund impact is overstated: indirect cost recovery reduces the real Year 1 cost from \$43.3M to approximately \$26M, and overstates the final-year impact by approximately \$273M
- A complete analysis should reflect the positive fiscal returns of parks investment — including jobs, property value uplift, and avoided liability costs
- Property value growth assumptions should be applied consistently across the analysis
- The fiscal emergency provision should be narrowly scoped and time-bound

1. Parks Are Essential Public Services

The June 26 fiscal analysis frames an increase in parks funding largely as a matter of fiscal policy, questioning whether basic services will be cut to fund the park system. This framing does not account for the fact that parks are themselves *essential* public safety, health, and emergency services—not extras layered on top of basic services.

The 2025 PNA comprehensively documents this reality:

- **Parks are emergency infrastructure.** As climate events intensify, RAP facilities increasingly serve as official cooling centers and emergency shelters. Even today, during the Lineage Logistics Fire, RAP's Pecan Recreation Center serves as a 24-hour emergency relief shelter and a hub for community resources.
- **RAP staff improve public safety.** Understaffed parks are unsafe parks. Due to budget constraints, the Park Ranger Division has been reduced to just 18 rangers today. Overall, RAP has lost 28% of its full-time workforce since 2008 while the park system it serves has grown.
- **Parks drive tourism, economic activity, and property values.** RAP-managed facilities — including Griffith Park and Venice Beach, each drawing over 10 million visitors annually — anchor Los Angeles's position as California's largest regional tourism economy. Properties adjacent to parks carry an 8 to 10 percent home value premium, expanding the property tax base that funds City services.
- **Parks reduce healthcare costs.** Parks provide mental and physical health benefits for Angelenos, reducing public health costs. Research shows that proximity to parks is associated with reduced incidence of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and poor mental health outcomes. In Los Angeles, approximately 106,000 adult residents use city parks, trails, and recreation centers exclusively to engage in physical activity at a level that generates measurable health benefits.



2. Doubling the Appropriation Reflects Documented, Data-Driven Need

The PNA was commissioned to assess park needs. It establishes that \$558 million annually is needed to cover basic staffing, operations, and General Fund reimbursements, and that \$605 million annually is required to align with peer cities. The current total operating budget is approximately \$350 million—less than the basic need and roughly one-third of what peer cities spend per resident.

The PNA did not simply generate a generic funding target; it underwent a rigorous, data-driven process to prioritize 518 existing and prospective park sites based on facility condition, park pressure, social equity, and the severity of disparities in park access. Currently, fewer than half of Angelenos feel they have a park or recreation center within walking distance of their home. Reducing RAP's funding is effectively a decision about how far down that priority list the City Council is willing to go—directly translating to fewer investments in top-priority parks and leaving critical neighborhood access gaps unaddressed.

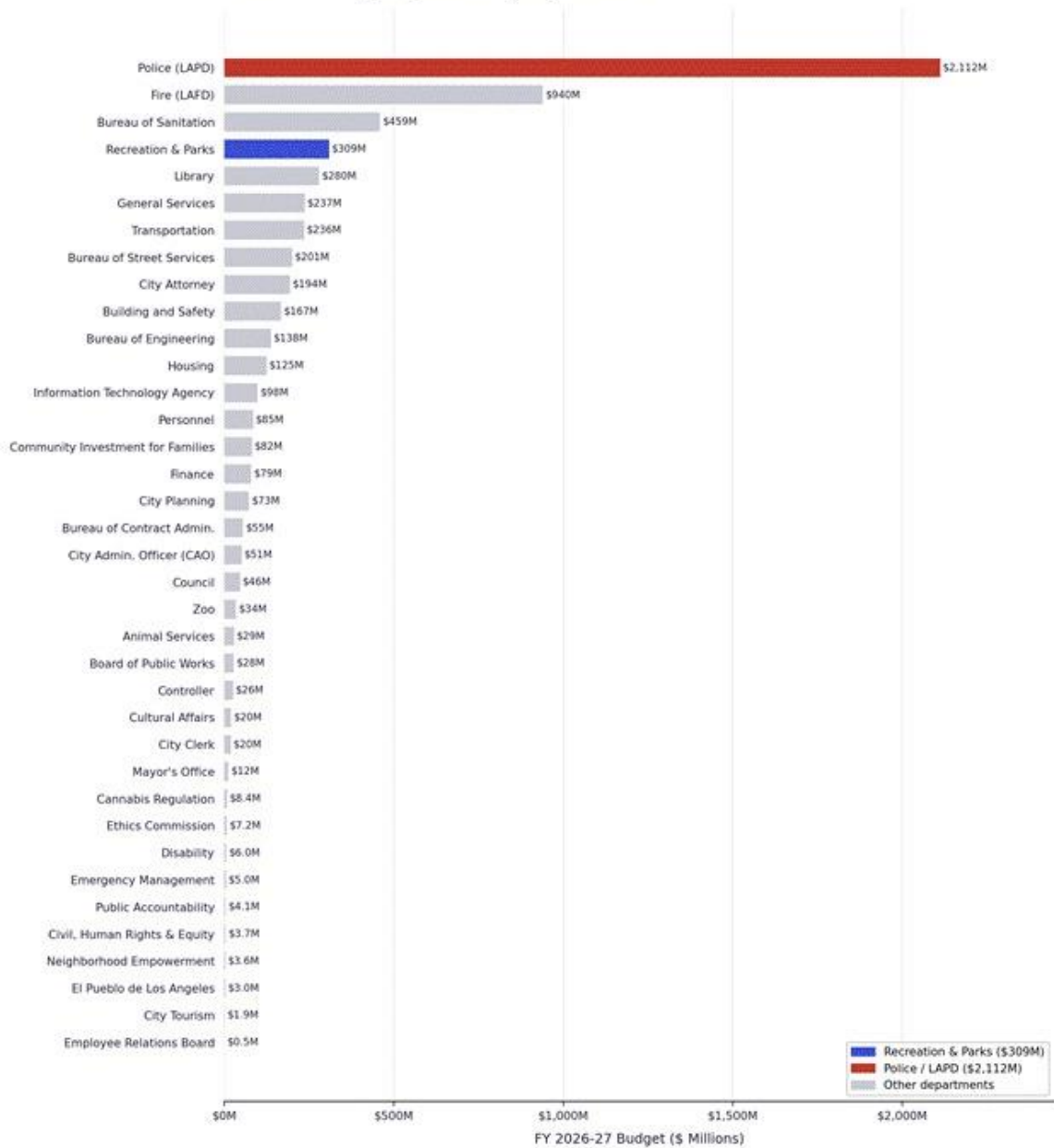
3. Decades of Structural Underfunding Are Essential Context for Analysis

A complete fiscal analysis must acknowledge that RAP has been structurally underfunded for decades. The 3.25 cents per \$100 of assessed value formula has remained unchanged since 1937. With Proposition 13 capping annual assessment increases at 2%, RAP's property tax allocation has barely kept pace with actual cost increases, failing to match inflation, population growth, or rising operating costs. A policy change implemented in 2009 regarding the reimbursement of indirect costs further deepened this underfunding—today, \$145 million, or 40% of RAP's total operating budget, flows back to the General Fund as mandatory reimbursements for employee benefits, utilities, and refuse collection before it reaches a park. As a result, RAP's full-time staff has decreased by over 28% since 2008, and the park system faces a deferred maintenance backlog of \$2.68 billion.

RAP's budget growth has lagged dramatically behind the rest of City government. Between FY 2009 and FY 2023, RAP's operating budget grew by just 35%. Over that same period, the City's overall operating budget grew by 68%, the Police Department by 42%, the Bureau of Sanitation by 46%, and the Library Department by 131%. Today, LAPD's FY 2026-27 budget is approximately \$3.53 billion—roughly 40% of the City's General Fund—while RAP's Charter-mandated appropriation of approximately \$303 million represents about 3.5% of the General Fund. When other essential services need more funding, we find a way. Parks should be no different, yet in recent years RAP has received no additional General Fund appropriation through the annual budget process.



City of Los Angeles — FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget General Fund Appropriations by Department



Source: City of Los Angeles FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget, Exhibit A — Summary of Appropriations (April 2026).
 Note: Figures reflect direct General Fund appropriations. LAPD total cost including centrally budgeted pensions/benefits is ~\$3.3B (City Controller, April 2026).
 Library and Recreation & Parks shown as General Fund transfers to Charter-mandated funds.



4. Doubling RAP's Allocation Is Consistent with Policy, Law, and Practice

We strongly support the City Council's proposal to double RAP's funding via Charter amendment. Although the CLA and CAO have each correctly noted that the Mayor and Council retain the flexibility to provide additional General Fund support to RAP at any time, in practice such allocations rarely occur—as demonstrated by the Mayor's proposed budgets for FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27, which included no additional General Fund appropriation for RAP despite the documented condition of the park system.

Preference for annual budgetary flexibility also ignores the operational reality of managing one of the nation's largest park systems. RAP oversees hundreds of recreation centers, pools, and parklands and employs a large workforce to maintain them. Planning for long-term capital improvements, addressing a multi-billion-dollar deferred maintenance backlog, and rebuilding staff capacity all require structural financial certainty. Relying on the unpredictability of annual discretionary allocations makes proactive, long-term management nearly impossible.

The CAO report states that increasing the Charter appropriation would conflict with Fiscal Policy No. 20: *"Unrestricted General Fund revenue streams shall not be designated as restricted or special funds. This in no way precludes the City from making appropriations from unrestricted revenues to achieve specific policy goals either as part of the budget process or during the fiscal year."* This is not a special fund. Additionally, the City Charter approved by voters also supersedes a City policy. Moreover, RAP's Charter allocation has existed since 1937—predating this fiscal policy—specifically to protect core parks funding from the annual budgeting process. In 2011, voters approved Measure L to increase the Library's allocation from 0.0175% to 0.03%, following the same 2009 policy change that forced library branch weekend closures, reaffirming the legitimacy and precedent for this approach.

5. Indirect Cost Recovery Substantially Reduces the Net General Fund Impact

The net General Fund impact is substantially lower than projected — the CAO's analysis does not account for the significant share of any increased allocation that flows directly back to the General Fund as indirect cost recovery. Per the June 26, 2026 report: *"General Fund impacts as follows over the phase-in period (in millions): \$43.3 (2027-28), \$90.6 (2028-29), \$144.8 (2029-30), \$206.2 (2030-31), \$275.3 (2031-32), \$346.0 (2032-33), \$421.0 (2033-34), \$502.0 (2034-35), \$589.1 (2035-36), and \$683.0 (2036-37)."*

This analysis reflects the dollar value of the proposed increase based on estimated property value growth but does not account for the indirect costs that RAP returns to the General Fund before those dollars reach a park. The PNA found that in FY 2025-26, RAP returned \$145 million—40% of its total operating budget of \$359 million—to the General Fund as mandatory reimbursements for employee benefits (\$112 million), utility costs to the Department of Water and Power (\$31 million) and refuse collection services through the Bureau of Sanitation (\$3 million). An increased allocation will mean more money flowing back to the General Fund—particularly as much of any increase would likely be directed toward staffing,



which carries the same reimbursement obligations. In the first year of the phase-in alone, applying this offset reduces the real General Fund impact from the CAO's stated \$43.3 million to approximately \$26 million. The CAO projects a final-year incremental impact of \$683 million. Applying the same 40% indirect cost rate, approximately \$273 million of that increase would flow directly back to the General Fund — reducing the real net impact to approximately \$410 million. Taken together with the \$145 million RAP already returns annually in indirect costs, total indirect cost recovery at full implementation would reach approximately \$418 million per year — more than RAP's entire current operating budget.

The CAO's June 26, 2026 analysis acknowledges that *"In 2025-26, RAP paid its full related costs in accordance with the Cost Allocation Plan rate, including retirement, fringe benefit, and central service costs"* and that *"(i)f the proposed Charter amendment is approved by the voters, RAP must fully fund all related costs and services, including those currently funded in other City departments"* (the General Fund subsidy for RAP's related costs in 2026-27 is \$5.4 million).

The PNA's projected \$558 million annual funding need already incorporated reimbursements proportional to what RAP currently pays. The CAO's proposal that RAP absorb costs currently subsidized by the General Fund represents obligations not modeled in the PNA and would reduce the effective value of the increased allocation before any new park service is funded. Every additional reimbursement demanded of RAP reduces the effective amount available for park maintenance, staffing, and programming. Mandating full cost recovery would undermine RAP's ability to serve its primary mission: providing safe facilities, equitable programming, and environmental stewardship through free and low-cost services to all Angelenos.

We therefore recommend the fiscal impact analysis quantify the budgetary impacts of the increase net of indirect cost recovery, and that the City seriously consider the implications of full cost recovery.

6. Increased Parks Investment Generates Measurable Positive Returns to the City

The budgetary impact analysis does not account for the fact that increased funding will create new City jobs—for both full- and part-time RAP employees and for employees across other City departments involved in capital project delivery. Additionally, improved parks increase property values, the very source of General Fund revenue. Investment in new and improved parks expands the tax base that funds City services.

More importantly, the budgetary analysis identifies the cost of investing in parks without accounting for the compounding cost of inaction. The PNA identifies \$2.68 billion in capital needs to maintain and renovate existing facilities, and \$15 billion in total one-time capital spending to bring park amenities to peer-city levels of service.

Deferred maintenance does not disappear—it compounds, accruing higher repair costs, increasing City liability exposure, and accelerating the deterioration of billions of dollars in



public assets. The CAO's June 26, 2026 report assumes \$200 million in annual liability claim payments from the General Fund, and notes that actual payments have exceeded that figure in each of the prior two fiscal years. Investing in needed safety improvements now will help contain these costs. RAP staff have already been forced to redirect Quimby funds—originally intended for new park acquisition and capital improvements—toward emergency health and safety repairs. Deferring needed repairs to a future budget cycle does not save money; it borrows from the future at a compounding cost.

7. A Complete Fiscal Picture Requires Consistent Application of Property Value Growth

The CAO report states *"estimated allocation also includes projected annual increases in assessed value, ranging from 3.9 to six percent. In 2026-27, the Charter mandated funding allocation to RAP was \$303 million. At the conclusion of the ten year phase-in, the allocation to RAP is estimated to be \$986 million, an increase of \$683 million."*

However, it does not appear that the CAO applies the same projected annual increases in assessed value when estimating the City's future total budgets or when assessing the impact of the increased RAP allocation on the City's structural deficit. Accounting for overall property value growth—both from annual assessment increases and from the specific value uplift created by improved parks—is necessary for a complete and accurate fiscal picture.

8. The Fiscal Emergency Provision Should Be Narrowly Scoped and Time-Limited

The CAO has proposed allowing the City to withhold up to 30% of the Charter-mandated appropriation during a declared fiscal emergency. The Council has moved forward with this proposal, adding a "floor" to ensure RAP's funding does not fall below its current 0.0325% minimum. While we appreciate this protection, the 30% suspension threshold remains overly broad. Because the Council have wide latitude to declare fiscal emergencies—and the City has in fact operated under a fiscal emergency declaration for the past year—this language telegraphs an intent to continue restricting park funding. Historical data shows that RAP's budget is disproportionately targeted during downturns and among the slowest to recover. No other City department is subject to this type of return provision. The fiscal emergency language must be narrowly scoped, time-limited and include a mandatory restoration requirement once the emergency ends. The Charter protection offered to RAP is only as strong as the certainty it provides—an open-ended claw back could impede the planning and development of needed park projects.

9. Conclusion

Parks are not discretionary luxuries; they are essential public services. As the PNA's extensive public engagement process overwhelmingly demonstrated, Angelenos deeply love their parks and rely on them daily for physical health, mental well-being, and connection. From operating emergency cooling centers and disaster shelters to providing youth programming and preserving vital green space, RAP serves a multitude of indispensable functions that touch every neighborhood in Los Angeles. Yet despite this critical role, RAP has endured decades of chronic, structural underfunding. To reverse this trend and manage one of the nation's largest park systems effectively, RAP



needs the long-term financial stability and certainty that only Charter-protected funding can provide. The compounding cost of inaction cannot be ignored. Delaying this investment does not save the City money—it simply borrows from our future at an ever-increasing price.

As a resident of the Adams Normandie neighborhood in Los Angeles and lead of the Park Needs Assessment Consultant Team, I support the City Council's action to fulfill the vision of the City's own Park Needs Assessment by placing on the November 2026 ballot language that fully doubles the RAP minimum appropriation to 0.065%, giving voters the opportunity to secure the foundational funding required to build the thriving, equitable park system that Los Angeles deserves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Henson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessica M. Henson, ASLA, RLA, AICP
Partner-in-Charge, Los Angeles, OLIN

Communication from Public

Name: Gerry Hans
Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 03:39 PM
Council File No: 26-1100-S15
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter in support of proposed RAP Charter Amendment. Thank you,



Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573
Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573
friendsofgriffithpark.org

June 29, 2026

Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson

Re: Council File 26-1100-S15
RAP Budget Charter Amendment

Dear Councilmember Harris-Dawson,

We write in strong support of the proposed ballot measure to increase funding for the Department of Recreation and Parks, doubling the minimum allocation over a period of 10 years. We are grateful to you and your colleagues for advancing this historic measure to give residents the opportunity to vote for a park system that befits the great city of Los Angeles. And we appreciate the thoughtfulness of the compromise to ensure that fiscal responsibility goes hand-in-hand with increased recreational opportunities for all.

Again, thank you to the members of the City Council for voting to place this important measure on the November ballot.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hans
President

Jason Greenwald
Executive Director

cc: Members of the City Council
RAP: Jimmy Kim, Matt Rudnick, Brenda Aguirre, Stefanie Smith
CD4: Mashael Majid, Mehmet Berker, Hannah Jaeger

About Friends of Griffith Park:

Friends of Griffith Park is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable group that promotes the enlightened stewardship of Griffith Park so it can survive and thrive well beyond the 21st century. FoGP is committed to ensuring that Griffith Park, a public park and Los Angeles' largest Historic-Cultural Monument, remain open, natural, and free to all citizens of Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Marian Dodge
Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 03:43 PM
Council File No: 26-1100-S15
Comments for Public Posting: Hillside Federation supports increasing the funding for the Department of Recreation and Parks.

P.O. Box 27404
Los Angeles, CA 90027
www.hillsidefederation.org



PRESIDENT
Charley Mims
CHAIR
Marian Dodge
VICE PRESIDENTS
Mark Stratton
Jamie Hall
SECRETARY
Robin Greenberg
TREASURER
Don Andres

Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky

June, 10, 2026

Argyle Civic Assn.
Beachwood Canyon NA
Bel-Air Assn.
Bel-Air Hills Assn.
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills Homeowners
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners
Canyon Back Alliance
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA
Encino Property Owners
Franklin/Hollywood West Res.
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
Friends of Walnut Canyon
Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Hollywoodland HOA
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.
Lake Hollywood HOA
Laurel Canyon Assn.
LFIA (Los Feliz)
Mandeville Canyon
Mountaingate
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.
Nichols Canyon NA
Oaks Neighborhood Assn.
Outpost Neighborhood Assn.
Pacific Palisades Res. Assn.
Residents of Beverly Glen
Save LA River Open Space
Save Our Canyon
Shadow Hills POA
Sherman Oaks HOA
Studio City Residents Assn.
Sunset Hills HOA
Sunshine Hills Residents Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon Assn.
Upper Nichols Canyon NA
West Hollywood Heights
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

**Re: CF 26-0489-S2
Increasing RAP funding SUPPORT**

Dear Councilmember Yaroslavsky:

At its May meeting the Hillside Federation voted unanimously to support the Charter Reform Committee's recommendation that the percentage of funding for the Department of Recreation and Parks be increased to \$0.065% of assessed property value. We urge you to support this critical need.

RAP's allocation of the city budget has not increased since 1937. RAP now has ~ 500 parks. Salaries and cost of supplies have risen exponentially. Additionally RAP is now required to pay indirect costs like water and electricity to DWP. LA invests \$92 per capita on parks; other large cities average \$283 per capita. Los Angeles can and should do better. Access to parks is critical to the physical and mental health of our residents.

The Federation urges you to support increasing RAP's funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charley Mims

CHAIRS EMERITI
Shirley Cohen
Patricia Bell Hearst
Alan Kishbaugh
Steve Twining
CHAIRS IN MEMORIAM
Jerome C. Daniel
Brian Moore
Gordon Murley
Polly Ward

Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

Communication from Public

Name: Paula Sandoval

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 01:31 PM

Council File No: 26-1100-S15

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) On behalf of Equipo Verde and the South Los Angeles communities we live in, we write in strong support of the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. Equipo Verde members have advocated and worked alongside non profit partners to build the parks and green space we needed--but there is a point where that is simply not possible with the current parks funding. We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November. Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. These facilities are a critical third space-outside of work and home-and are critical for mental and physical health and community connection-but they are not distributed equally in all parts of LA. Due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. We see the impacts of funding decisions and from structural disinvestment in South Los Angeles: where our communities do not have access to the green space necessary for our youth, families and seniors to connect, spend time with families and friends. Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries for South Los Angeles. Our communities

cannot wait. Every year of inaction means deeper disparities in park access and years our youth go without the physical and mental benefits of green space. We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge approval of this Charter Amendment.
Respectfully submitted, Paula Sandoval Equipo Verde Member

Communication from Public

Name: Lluvia Arras

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 01:35 PM

Council File No: 26-1100-S15

Comments for Public Posting: RE: Council File 26-1100-S15 Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15 On behalf of Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board, I strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November. Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. I know this firsthand. Parks are where I learned to swim, where I received free lunches as a kid every summer, and where I got my first job as a teen. Ascot Hills Park in El Sereno is where our community breathes, where nature thrives, and where residents who have 80% less park space than wealthier neighborhoods come to find relief and connection. Yet due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. These are not statistics to me — they are my neighbors. Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries. Deferring is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue. We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to

put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot. Respectfully submitted, Lluvia Arras Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board

RE: Council File 26-1100-S15

Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15

On behalf of Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board, I **strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a)** to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15.

We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November.

Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. I know this firsthand. Parks are where I learned to swim, where I received free lunches as a kid every summer, and where I got my first job as a teen. Ascot Hills Park in El Sereno is where our community breathes, where nature thrives, and where residents who have 80% less park space than wealthier neighborhoods come to find relief and connection.

Yet due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. These are not statistics to me — they are my neighbors.

Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries.

Deferring is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue.

We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

Lluvia Arras

Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board

Communication from Public

Name: LA Living Schoolyards Campaign

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 01:37 PM

Council File No: 26-1100-S15

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) The Los Angeles Living Schoolyards Coalition strongly supports the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November. Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. Due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. We see the impacts of funding decisions and from structural disinvestment in the schools and communities we live, work in and serve. Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services our youth want and deserve: pools and recreation centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and access to nature and green space or all. These are not luxuries but for kids across LA they have become so. We cannot afford to wait. Every year of inaction means deeper disparities in park access and delays in getting community school parks and living schoolyards developed so youth can have the benefits of green space. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue. We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot. Respectfully submitted, Francesca De La Rosa Campaign

Director Living Schoolyards Campaign

Communication from Public

Name: FundLAParks

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 01:39 PM

Council File No: 26-1100-S15

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15 100+ community organizations, neighborhood leaders, park and health advocates from across Los Angeles have joined over the past months to support doubling Recreation and Parks charter minimum allocation. These include: 1st 5 LA Best Start San Fernando Valley, AADAP, ACCE, Anahuak Youth Soccer Association, Angels Gate Cultural Center, Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement, Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board, Audubon Center at Debs Park, Barrington Park Advisory Board, Barrington Recreation Center Advisory Board, Black Women for Wellness Action Project, Brentwood Community Council, CAT-911, Cal Poly Pomona / CHILE, Center for Biological Diversity, Central City Neighborhood Partners, Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, Climate Reality Project Los Angeles Chapter, Clockshop, COFEM, Communities for a Better Environment, Community Coalition, Community Health Councils, Community Nature Connection, Concerned Neighbors of El Sereno, Conexión Centroamericana, Crop Swap LA, Day One, Echo Park Improvement Association, Echo Park Trash Club, El Nido Family Centers, Fairfax Park Advisory Board, Food Access Los Angeles, Friends of Elysian Park, Friends of Griffith Park, Friends of Runyon Canyon, Friends of the LA River, Green LA Coalition, Griffith Park Advisory Board, Heal the Bay, Hillside Federation, Hunger Action LA, Investing in Place, KMB Pro-People Youth, Koreatown Youth and Community Center, LA Commons, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, LA Forward Institute, LA Más, LA Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, Latino Outdoors, League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles, Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles, Little Tokyo Service Center, Living Schoolyards Coalition, London Street Garden, Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, Los Angeles Waterkeeper, Los Feliz Improvement Association, MAEVE West Adams, Monarch Mami Community Conservation Project, National Parks Conservation Association, Nature for All, North East Trees, Pacoima Beautiful, Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, Prevention Institute, Promesa Boyle Heights, Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission, PSR-LA, Rising Communities Foundation,

SALT, Saint Remy Arts and Culture, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, Save Elephant Hill, Second Nature Collective, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, Silver Lake Reservoirs Conservancy, South Central LAMP, Studio-MLA, Sunday Jump, Surfrider Foundation Los Angeles Chapter, TRUST South Los Angeles, Terre Moto, Theodore Payne Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, Tías on Trails, TreePeople, Trust for Public Land, Ultimate Restoration Unlimited, United Teachers Los Angeles, Urban and Environmental Policy Institute Occidental College, Urban Environmentalists Los Angeles, Valley Cultural Foundation, Verdant Venice, and Wildwoods. That letter is linked here-the number of logos make it too large to file. These connections and support for a single issue, across parts of Los Angeles, is unusual and point to the urgency of this need, and the strong love Angelenos have for our park system. This was also seen in the recently completed LA City Parks Needs Assessment. Over the last months community members from El Sereno, South Los Angeles, Sun Valley, Pacoima, Boyle Heights, Echo Park, Venice, Pico-Union, Elysian Valley, Brentwood, Los Feliz, Koreatown, North Hollywood, West LA, Van Nuys, Glassell Park, East Hollywood and across Los Angeles have shown up to City Hall repeatedly to stand in support for correcting a broken system under which LA's park funding has not kept up with other departments or the needs of Los Angeles communities. The LA City Council 14-1 vote directing the City Attorney to revise the Charter to double RAP's minimum allocation is a fiscally sound proposal that responds to Angelenos needs and directly meets the annual funding identified as necessary in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment. Approving the ballot language prepared by the City Attorney is one critical step further to letting voters decide in November. We urge continued support from the Council to place this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot. This is a generational change. Let Angelenos decide.

RE: Request to Amend Charter Section 593 to Increase Charter-Required Minimum Budget Allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks

1. Introduction and request for sustainable parks funding.

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the undersigned park and open space, equity and health advocates and academic and community leaders from across Los Angeles, we urge you to:

1. Reconsider, and advance as part of your recommendations, the proposal to **double Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP)'s 1937 charter allocation to 0.065% of assessed property value** in order to restore decades of budget reductions and improve the safety and cleanliness of Los Angeles City parks.
2. Consider recommending the successful Measure L model to **phase in the increased allocation gradually over a four-year period** to give RAP the ability to address urgent funding gaps, while giving our City time to thoughtfully plan over time for this funding realignment.

2. Parks Needs Assessment reveals a system on the verge of collapse.

In 2025, Los Angeles dropped from 49th to 90th in the Trust for Public Land's national ParkScore ranking. The City-commissioned Parks Needs Assessment (PNA)—approved by the Recreation and Parks Commission in December 2025 and developed with input from over 100,000 Angelenos—illustrates how and why: Between FY 2009-2023, RAP's budget grew only 35% while the City's overall budget grew 68%—meaning RAP's funding increased at half the rate of citywide growth. **Notably, RAP's "charter allocation," the source of the bulk of its budget, has been formula frozen since 1937—nearly 90 years ago.**

Historically, this dedicated Charter-required funding had been provided to pay RAP's "direct" costs, including staff and equipment, and the City paid RAP's "indirect" costs including water, electricity, security and benefits. Following the 2009 Great Recession the City changed its fiscal policy and began requiring RAP to pay a portion of its indirect costs. Today, 40% of the budget (\$145M) is diverted to the City's General Fund for these "indirect costs" from RAP's Charter allocation. **This means our parks budget is paying for significantly more than it was nearly 90 years ago, on the same percentage allocation.**

As a result, today Los Angeles invests just \$92 per capita on parks compared to peer cities' average of \$283. RAP has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008 and has never fully recovered from Great Recession cuts, even as park acreage increased. The PNA identified \$14.76 billion in one-time costs to meet the level of service of peer cities and to address over \$ 2 billion in outstanding deferred maintenance.

This disinvestment has consequences; more than 1.5 million Angelenos—one in three residents—lack a park within a 10-minute walk of home, among the lowest access rates in major U.S. cities. In communities like Pacoima and South L.A., where industrial use, extreme heat, and limited access to green space intersect, residents have up to 78% less park acreage per capita than wealthier parts of the city.

3. Parks are Critical Infrastructure in times of crisis.

We recognize the interlocking crises facing our City: a \$1 billion budget shortfall, fire recovery and reduced property tax revenues, federal funding cuts that affect services, and the ongoing social and economic harms to our communities from immigration enforcement. We live here too. We all need our City to operate with fiscal responsibility and provide services and infrastructure.

However, in times of crisis, particularly economic crisis, parks are even more essential for physical and social respite, safety and social cohesion. They are critical infrastructure that give our children safe places to play and learn, a place for our families to gather, celebrate life events and stay healthy, and our seniors' opportunities to stay active and connected. As one of the only free spaces where community members can visit without fear, they are a place of respite.

4. Measure L provides a precedent for rebuilding thoughtfully.

In 2011, during another fiscal crisis and in response to the changed City policy that likewise required the Los Angeles Libraries to pay a portion of its indirect costs in addition to its direct cost that cumulatively forced library closures, LA voters increased the Library's charter allocation by over 70% through a progressive phase-in from 2011-2014. Today, Libraries have rebuilt staff capacity, are open 6-7 days a week and provide essential services for our communities far beyond books.

Our park system can and should do the same: With adequate funding, RAP can invest in trained park rangers, emergency preparedness, climate resilience, mass care, fire prevention, youth and senior programming, and operate and maintain its facilities safely so all Angelenos have access to a quality park within a 10-minute walk from home.

5. Double RAP's charter allocation through a thoughtful, phased 4-year approach.

We urge the Commission to recommend doubling RAP's Charter allocation from 0.0325% to 0.065% of assessed property value, phased in over four years (FY 2027-28 through FY 2030-31), eventually nearly meeting the estimated \$525-\$625 million annual operating need identified in the PNA.

This phased approach gives RAP the ability to address critical needs while giving the City Council four years to adjust budgets gradually, hopefully coinciding with an improved tax and economic outlook and replenished federal and state funding.

The Library precedent demonstrates that thoughtful, phased investments in our community infrastructure works and that voters support and value these spaces. In 2011, Measure L was approved by 63%. Today, LA's libraries thrive as essential community anchors. Parks can do the same, and voters want this: Internal polling by park advocates found 8 out of 10 voters in Los Angeles recognized and supported the need for additional funding for parks and the services they provide.

6. Conclusion and appreciation.

Your work on the Charter Reform Commission could permanently fix a funding formula frozen since 1937 that has not kept pace with an urban-wildlands park system of 500 sites across 16,000 acres serving 4 million Angelenos.

We respectfully encourage you to reconsider your action and explore the opportunity to thoughtfully increase RAP's charter allocation. As professionals—and as parents who rely on our park system for our families just as we did growing up—we know how essential it is to have free, safe, resilient public spaces that can meet the social, environmental, and economic needs of a changing Los Angeles. With a sensible and collaborative approach, we can strengthen the foundation of our parks and build a Los Angeles that truly works for everyone.

Sincerely,

Tori Kjer

Executive Director

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Jazzari Taylor
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Eugenia Ermacora
Chapter Director
Surfrider Foundation Los Angeles Chapter

Allegra Padilla
Executive Director
Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles

Oscar Alvarez
Associate Director of Community Planning
Community Coalition

Dennis Arguelles
Southern California Director
National Parks Conservation Association

Eduardo Rodriguez
Executive Director
Central City Neighborhood Partners

Arturo Garcia
Associate Director of Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy

Eddy M. Gana
Co-Director
Sunday Jump

Elva Yanez
Board President
Save Elephant Hill

Diana Z. Pinto
Executive Director
South Central LAMP

Gloria M. Villagrana-Cruz
Program Director
El Nido Family Centers

Cyndi Hubach
Board Member
Silver Lake Reservoirs Conservancy

Pat Bates
Conservation Committee Co-Chairperson
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

Don Andres
Friends of Runyon Canyon

Helen Leung
LA Mas

Living Schoolyards Coalition

Nancy Freedman
President
Barrington Park PAB

Hayley Haefele
Barrington Recreation Center PAB

John Garside
Director of Policy and Development
Crop Swap LA

Marie S. Mawji
President
MAEVE West Adams

Nicole Elin Antoine
London Street Garden

Isabelle Duvivier
Executive Director
Verdant Venice

Vanesa Iniguez
Director of Climate Initiatives
Trust South Los Angeles

Gerry Han
President
Friends of Griffith Park

Shirley De La Cruz
Co-Organizer
Conexión Centroamericana

Joshua Ramirez
Founder and Executive Director
Saint Remy Arts and Culture

Jenny Jones
Terre Moto

Dr. Jennifer Sanchez Guevara, Ed.D.
Promesa Boyle Heights Program Director
Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission

Jessica Meaney
Executive Director
Investing in Place

Fairfax Park Advisory Board

Tony Tucci
Chair and Co-Founder
CLAW

Evelyn Serrano
Director
Audubon Center Debs Park

Adam Laiben
Founder
Echo Park Trash Club

Jennifer Grissom
Executive Director
Food Access LA

David Levitus, Ph.D.
Executive Director
LA Forward Institute

Redd Martinez
CAT-911

Carolyn LoBuglio
Chairperson
Brentwood Community Council

Yvette Lopez-Ledesma
Founder
Tias on Trails

Carol Peralta
Program Director
Wildwoods

Sejal Patel
Executive Director
Rising Communities Foundation

Veronica Hahni
Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

Kim Orbe
Senior Conservation Program Manager
Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter

Chris Rhie
Urban Environmentalists Los Angeles

Carlos Moran
Executive Director
NE Trees

Eric Lerner
Climate Justice Director
ACCE

Maya Canonizado
Co-Founder
Second Nature Collective

Sam Joo
CEO
AADAP

Jose Luis Sanchez
Field Organizer
COFEM

Alex Crow
Griffith Park Advisory Board

Sakae Koyama and Philip Murphy
Co-Presidents
Friends of Elysian Park

Takao Suzuki
Co-Executive Director
Little Tokyo Service Center

Belén Bernal
Executive Director
Nature for All

Joellen Ammann
Valley Cultural Foundation

Zoe Cunliffe
Environmental Justice Program Coordinator
Black Women for Wellness Action Project

League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles

Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat
Urban Wildlands Policy Specialist
Center for Biological Diversity

Val and Pam Marquez
Founders
Concerned Neighbors of El Sereno

Teresa McDonald
Executive Director
Ultimate Restoration Unlimited

Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board

Frank Tamborello
Executive Director
Hunger Action LA

Charles Miller
Founder
Climate Reality Project

Helen O'Shea
California State Director
The Wilderness Society

Bridget Arndell
Founder
Monarch Mami Community Conservation Project

Christy Zamani
Executive Director
Day One

Brandon Whalen-Castellanos
Lead Chair, Political Action Committee
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley

Mia Lehrer, FASLA
President
Studio-MLA

Julie Van Winkle
Vice President
UTLA

Alexia Skrbic
Senior Watershed Coordinator
Green LA Coalition

Lisa Hart
Executive Director
LA Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance

Charley Mims
President
Hillside Federation

Debra Matlock
President
Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA)

Tracy Quinn
President & CEO
Heal the Bay

Amy Greenwood
Executive Director
Theodore Payne Society

Maro Kakoussian
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PSR-LA

Communication from Public

Name: FundLAParks

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 01:39 PM

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Professor, Landscape Architecture

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Raul Macias

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Andrew Celi
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Eugenia Ermacora
Chapter Director
Surfrider Foundation Los Angeles Chapter

Allegra Padilla
Executive Director
Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles

Oscar Alvarez
Associate Director of Community Planning
Community Coalition

Dennis Arguelles
Southern California Director
National Parks Conservation Association

Eduardo Rodriguez
Executive Director
Central City Neighborhood Partners

Arturo Garcia
Associate Director of Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy

Eddy M. Gana
Co-Director
Sunday Jump

Elva Yanez
Board President
Save Elephant Hill

Diana Z. Pinto
Executive Director
South Central LAMP

Gloria M. Villagrana-Cruz
Program Director
El Nido Family Centers

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Board Member
Silver Lake Reservoirs Conservancy

Pat Bates
Conservation Committee Co-Chairperson
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

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Friends of Runyon Canyon

Helen Leung
LA Mas

Living Schoolyards Coalition

Nancy Freedman
President
Barrington Park PAB

Hayley Haefele
Barrington Recreation Center PAB

John Garside
Director of Policy and Development
Crop Swap LA

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President
MAEVE West Adams

Nicole Elin Antoine
London Street Garden

Isabelle Duvivier
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Verdant Venice

Vanesa Iniguez
Director of Climate Initiatives
Trust South Los Angeles

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Friends of Griffith Park

Shirley De La Cruz
Co-Organizer
Conexión Centroamericana

Joshua Ramirez
Founder and Executive Director
Saint Remy Arts and Culture

Jenny Jones
Terre Moto

Dr. Jennifer Sanchez Guevara, Ed.D.
Promesa Boyle Heights Program Director
Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission

Jessica Meaney
Executive Director
Investing in Place

Fairfax Park Advisory Board

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Chair and Co-Founder
CLAW

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Director
Audubon Center Debs Park

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Founder
Echo Park Trash Club

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Food Access LA

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Executive Director
LA Forward Institute

Redd Martinez
CAT-911

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Chairperson
Brentwood Community Council

Yvette Lopez-Ledesma
Founder
Tias on Trails

Carol Peralta
Program Director
Wildwoods

Sejal Patel
Executive Director
Rising Communities Foundation

Veronica Hahni
Executive Director
Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative

Kim Orbe
Senior Conservation Program Manager
Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter

Chris Rhie
Urban Environmentalists Los Angeles

Carlos Moran
Executive Director
NE Trees

Eric Lerner
Climate Justice Director
ACCE

Maya Canonizado
Co-Founder
Second Nature Collective

Sam Joo
CEO
AADAP

Jose Luis Sanchez
Field Organizer
COFEM

Alex Crow
Griffith Park Advisory Board

Sakae Koyama and Philip Murphy
Co-Presidents
Friends of Elysian Park

Takao Suzuki
Co-Executive Director
Little Tokyo Service Center

Belén Bernal
Executive Director
Nature for All

Joellen Ammann
Valley Cultural Foundation

Zoe Cunliffe
Environmental Justice Program Coordinator
Black Women for Wellness Action Project

League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles

Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat
Urban Wildlands Policy Specialist
Center for Biological Diversity

Val and Pam Marquez
Founders
Concerned Neighbors of El Sereno

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Executive Director
Ultimate Restoration Unlimited

Ascot Hills Park Advisory Board

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Executive Director
Hunger Action LA

Charles Miller
Founder
Climate Reality Project

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California State Director
The Wilderness Society

Bridget Arndell
Founder
Monarch Mami Community Conservation Project

Christy Zamani
Executive Director
Day One

Brandon Whalen-Castellanos
Lead Chair, Political Action Committee
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley

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President
Studio-MLA

Julie Van Winkle
Vice President
UTLA

Alexia Skrbic
Senior Watershed Coordinator
Green LA Coalition

Lisa Hart
Executive Director
LA Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance

Charley Mims
President
Hillside Federation

Debra Matlock
President
Los Feliz Improvement Association (LFIA)

Tracy Quinn
President & CEO
Heal the Bay

Amy Greenwood
Executive Director
Theodore Payne Society

Maro Kakoussian
Director of Climate and Health Programs
PSR-LA

Communication from Public

Name: Raul Macias

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 01:43 PM

Council File No: 26-1100-S15

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) On behalf of Anawauk Youth Sports Association and the youth we serve, we write in strong support of the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November. Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. These facilities are critical to youth sports in North East Los Angeles. Due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park. We see the impacts of funding decisions and from structural disinvestment in the communities we live and work in, where our youth do not have clean and safe facilities needed to thrive. Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. These are not luxuries. Our youth cannot wait. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue. We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot. Respectfully submitted, Raul Macias

Anawauk Youth Sports Association

Communication from Public

Name: Jon Christensen
Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 01:51 PM
Council File No: 26-1100-S15
Comments for Public Posting: I'm attaching a letter expressing Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15 and appreciation for the Council's leadership on this crucial measure at this historic juncture.



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
LA KRETZ HALL, SUITE 300
619 CHARLES E. YOUNG DR. EAST
BOX 951496
LOS ANGELES, CA 90095-1496

PHONE: 310-825-5008
FAX: 310-825-9663

<http://www.environment.ucla.edu>

For: Council File 26-1100-S15

Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15

I am writing to **strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a)** to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. **I deeply appreciate the careful, thoughtful consideration the City Council demonstrated in developing and advancing this fiscally-sound compromise on June 17, 2026. I urge the Council to advance the measure now so that voters can decide on the measure in November.**

I teach and do research in the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA where my research focuses on environmental equity and access. I've looked at the inequities in access to parks and beaches in Los Angeles from many different angles. I worked on the city's Park Needs Assessment to help ensure that it prioritizes addressing those inequities. I'm proud to say it does, in a way that is unprecedented in this country. We should all be proud of that, if we can find a way to fund that work. **You have found a way and Angelenos now and in the future will be grateful for your leadership.**

An increase in the charter allocation is the only sure path available right now to ensure that our park system does not continue in the slow death spiral that it is currently in. **And this measure is fully within the intent and history of the charter.** Parks and libraries were safeguarded from the usual budget horse-trading because they were considered essential for the well-being, life, and culture of a good city in the early 20th century, for the creation of common ground and common values. Parks were seen as important places where diverse people could mingle and get to know each other and become part of a community. **You have ensured that we won't lose sight of that and lose our way in the early 21st century.** Study after study has reinforced the value of parks for the health and well-being of residents, as well the place in cities where we are most likely to encounter people who are different from us, in a shared setting, and listen, learn, respect, and trust each other. We need those spaces more than ever in Los Angeles.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Christensen'.

Jon Christensen

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
Director, Laboratory for Environmental Narrative Strategies

Communication from Public

Name: Patricia Bates

Date Submitted: 06/29/2026 07:32 PM

Council File No: 26-1100-S15

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of California Audubon Society dba San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, we strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15. This is 15 years overdue and desperately needed - please see attached.



San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

Incorporated as California Audubon Society in 1913

P.O. Box 7769 • Van Nuys • CA • 91409-7769

www.sfvaudubon.org • 747-237-3720

For the conservation of wildlife, natural resources, and nature education.

June 29, 2026

Los Angeles City Council

Los Angeles Mayor

Public comment

RE: Council File 26-1100-S15

Re: Strong Support for Doubling Recreation and Parks Funding — Proposed Amendment to Charter Section 593(a) — Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15

On behalf of **California Audubon Society dba San Fernando Valley Audubon Society**, we strongly support the proposed amendment to Charter Section 593(a) to increase the minimum allocation for the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) from 0.0325% to 0.065%, phased in over ten years as set forth in Ballot Resolution CF 26-1100-S15.

We are deeply grateful for the City Council for developing and advancing this fiscally-sound measure on June 17, 2026. We urge its continued support from Council so that voters can decide in November.

Los Angeles parks are essential public services — cooling centers in extreme heat, emergency shelters in disaster, places where seniors access meals and services, where families connect, and where children learn, play, and thrive. Yet due to chronic and structural underfunding, today Los Angeles has fallen to 93rd out of the 100 largest city park systems in the country. The City spends just \$92 per resident on parks compared to \$283 in peer cities. The Parks Department has lost 28% of its full-time staff since 2008, facilities are deteriorating, wildlife is endangered, and more than 1.5 million Angelenos do not live within a ten-minute walk of a park.

Doubling RAP's Charter allocation is needed to meet the annual operating need identified in the City's own Parks Needs Assessment and is supported by policy. This funding can give RAP the certainty to plan for the basic services Angelenos want and deserve: pools and recreation and senior centers open seven days a week, clean, safe and welcoming park and recreation facilities, new and community school parks for communities that lack park access and fire and climate mitigation. Wildlife, including endangered species that rely on our parks, can not wait! These are not luxuries.

Deferring is not a neutral choice. Every year of inaction means higher repair costs, greater safety risks, and deeper disparities in park access. Doubling protected parks funding is responsible, necessary, and long overdue.

We deeply appreciate the Council for its actions to put this thoughtful, equitable approach forward and strongly urge placement of this Charter Amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Bates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patricia" and the last name "Bates" clearly distinguishable.

Patricia Bates
Conservation Committee co-Chair