

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 01:15 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I DO NOT SUPPORT BUDGET INCREASES FOR LAPD. IT IS OVER-FUNDED AS IT IS. REJECT BUDGET INCREASE. STOP UNNECESSARY FUNDING INCREASES INTO A CORRUPT AND VIOLENT GANG. Schools and Homeless outreach are DESPERATE for this funding- and after NUMEROUS injuries to peaceful protestors, how can you, in good faith, claim to have the people's interest at heart? IF YOU INCREASE THIS BUDGET, YOU ARE PAYING FOR MORE CITIZENS TO BE HARASSED, INTIMIDATED, INJURED, AND POSSIBLY KILLED. Please do the right thing. REJECT LAPD BUDGET INCREASE. Thank you for your time.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Shelley Levin Billik

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 08:49 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please restore funding for Planning's Wildlife Pilot project, including 4 staff positions needed to finish the work of the past 7 years already invested. It is imperative that Planning publish the draft ordinance, collect public comments and then finish the final ordinance so it can begin to be implemented right away – this year! On a daily basis, during the last 7 years since the initial motion, we continue to lose so much native habitat – including in lower income communities (El Sereno, Highland Park etc.) to grading, retaining walls and clearcutting of so called “protected” trees and open space. With that, we lose all the insects, flora & wildlife. If this Mayor and council truly wants to be a sustainable city, as promoted in the Green New Deal, Biodiversity report, and 30 by 30 efforts, you MUST get the Planning department back on track, otherwise, all these goals are just empty promises. Also, please restore and increase the budget for the Urban Forestry Division and the Office of Forest Management. UFD (or OFM) need an Environmental Planner with CEQA expertise. They also need more funding for proper tree maintenance. The city is currently unable to care for newly planted trees – that means we are wasting the public resources that were used to plant them last year the year before and the many years before that. Young trees are dying throughout the city for lack of care. And by deferring care for existing mature trees which provide the greatest environmental benefit, those become future emergencies that cost 2.5x to remedy and remove. PLEASE put the funding behind the programs that are needed in order to meet the climate crisis challenges ahead, the goals of the GND, Biodiversity, and especially in order to restore our city to a healthy, livable place for ALL communities. If you were to confer with the Kizh Gabrieleno people who first inhabited this land and who now feel like they are not at the table, they would explain that nature is not a luxury, it's a necessity for our very survival. Everything we have – our air, water, food, building materials, EVERYTHING comes from nature. But nature doesn't have a seat at the table. Nature can't take 4 hours of the work day to sit on hold on the phone and barely be able to speak (or in my case not speak because the meeting started an hour late and public comment was cut off). YOU must be the stewards that speak for nature and all the gifts we get for free! Please refer to CFAC's Budget Investment letter



sent to your individual offices. Thank you. Shelley Billik, Chair  
LA Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) Council  
District 5 310-925-6091 cell



Please restore funding for Planning's **Wildlife Pilot project, including 4 staff positions needed to finish the work of the past 7 years already invested**. It is imperative that Planning publish the draft ordinance, collect public comments and then finish the final ordinance so it can begin to be implemented right away – this year!

On a daily basis, during the last 7 years since the initial motion, we continue to lose so much native habitat – including in lower income communities (El Sereno, Highland Park etc.) to grading, retaining walls and clearcutting of so called “protected” trees and open space. With that, we lose all the insects, flora & wildlife. **If this Mayor and council truly wants to be a sustainable city, as promoted in the Green New Deal, Biodiversity report, and 30 by 30 efforts, you MUST get the Planning department back on track, otherwise, all these goals are just empty promises.**

Also, please restore and increase the budget for the Urban Forestry Division and the Office of Forest Management. **UFD (or OFM) need an Environmental Planner with CEQA expertise**. They also need more funding for proper tree maintenance. The city is currently unable to care for newly planted trees – that means we are **wasting the public resources that were used to plant them last year the year before and the many years before that**. Young trees are dying throughout the city for lack of care. And by deferring care for existing mature trees which provide the greatest environmental benefit, those become future emergencies that cost 2.5x to remedy and remove. PLEASE put the funding behind the programs that are needed in order to meet the climate crisis challenges ahead, the goals of the GND, Biodiversity, and especially in order to restore our city to a healthy, livable place for ALL communities.

**If you were to confer with the Kizh Gabrieleno people who first inhabited this land and who now feel like they are not at the table, they would explain that nature is not a luxury, it's a necessity for our very survival.** Everything we have – our air, water, food, building materials, EVERYTHING comes from nature. But nature doesn't have a seat at the table. Nature can't take 4 hours of the work day to sit on hold on the phone and barely be able to speak (or in my case not speak because the meeting started an hour late and public comment was cut off). YOU must be the stewards that speak for nature and all the gifts we get for free!

Please refer to CFAC's Budget Investment letter sent to your individual offices.

Thank you.

*Shelley Billik, Chair  
LA Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC)  
Council District 5  
310-925-6091 cell*



## Communication from Public

**Name:** The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 12:27 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation has a deep commitment to equitable park access for City of Los Angeles residents. We are submitting the attached letters in support of adequate staffing for the LA City Recreation and Parks Department to ensure that parks are appropriately maintained, staffed and programmed so that they remain safe, appealing and useable for Los Angeles residents of all ages.



# THE ROSALINDE AND ARTHUR GILBERT FOUNDATION

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1801 Century Park East, Suite 2010 • Los Angeles, CA 90067  
310-449-4500 • [thegilbertfoundation.org](http://thegilbertfoundation.org)

RICHARD S. ZIMAN, TRUSTEE & CEO

MARTIN H. BLANK, JR., TRUSTEE & COO

Dear Budget Committee Council Members,

I am a trustee of The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, an LA based private foundation that has invested in equitable park access for the past 10 years, granting over \$3.95 million to address park inequities and support park access, including contributing to the construction or renovation of 24 parks within Los Angeles County.

I write today concerning the Mayor's 2021-22 budget in support of restoring the Recreation and Park's Department (RAP) hiring authority for 140 staff positions that were lost to early retirement during the pandemic. The inability to refill 140 RAP staff positions will have a disproportionate impact on communities in the City and will most significantly impact communities of color.

The majority of RAP positions that have been vacated are from within the Land Maintenance Program; when parks are not well-maintained, community members do not feel safe accessing them. Under used parks can become places for unwanted activity, adding to the feeling that parks are not safe places for families and children.

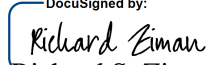
Other vacated positions are from the Recreational Programming section, which often hires directly from the community. By not refilling these position, good paying jobs with growth potential are cut off from communities that most need this type of economic opportunity.

COVID-19 has clearly demonstrated the inequities in our park system; while many people safely accessed parks during the pandemic, many more did not have the ability to safely access a convenient park. Access to parks is a determinant of mental and physical health and nothing has brought this fact to bear more than the current health crisis.

Losing the ability to refill 140 positions will only further exacerbate the inequities in LA's park system. The Department's leadership has demonstrated a commitment to closing the equity gap in access to park space, but without the necessary staff to do the work, they will not be able to get this done.

Your budget decision is critical to ensure that years do not go by with a huge gap in RAP staff which would be detrimental to both the health of our park system, and the mental, social, and physical health of our communities. Please restore RAP's hiring authority for the 140 staff positions that were lost to early retirement during the pandemic.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:  
  
Richard S. Ziman  
Trustee & CEO



## Communication from Public

**Name:** bozant katzakian

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 11:15 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Do not increase the LAPD budget by 40 million. Defund the police. I as a citizen of LA in no way shape or form support this. I want to support city and county services. This goes fully against my wishes as a citizen. Cut the budget. Garcetti has already increased it by half a billion dollars since he was in office. The point of reimagining the city is to undo all this. We're asking you to stop investing in tools of oppression and invest in structures of empowerment. Do not do this. Defund and abolish the police.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 11:55 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Center for Biological Diversity, in coalition with Sierra Club California, Natural Resource Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, Friends of Griffith Park, The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations and Brentwood Alliance of Canyons and Hillsides, urges you to fully fund the City's Wildlife Pilot Study Program and Wildlife Corridor Pilot Ordinance in your draft 2021/2022 budget to meet the 2021 milestone in the 2019 Green New Deal. Specifically, we ask that the Budget committee reinstate the four positions in the Planning Department, including the Ecologist Position currently filled by Kat Superfisky, necessary to fully implement the complete wildlife corridor protections ordinance and to further use those positions for the Mulholland Design Review Board issues. In addition, we ask that the Budget chair ask for a report back from Building and Safety Department on any positions and funding that might be needed to implement the ordinance, beginning when the ordinance is approved this coming fall. By taking these necessary steps to protect the City's biodiversity, the City will also be supporting the health and sustainability of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems of Los Angeles. To pull funding for the Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance would contradict the City's goals for a "prosperous, livable, safe and well-run" city as heralded in the 2019/20 open budget for the City, and runs contrary to related work and investments currently supported on both city and state levels. This Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance must continue to be an important priority, even in times of crisis, because it implements the City's immediate goals for the health and sustainability of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems of Los Angeles. We also note that as of March 10th, 2021, the City is expected to receive \$1.35 billion from the federal relief package, which will help address the City's budget constraints. The City has an obligation under state law to protect endangered or threatened animal populations, and not approve development projects that may jeopardize the survival of such populations. The mountain lions of the Santa Monica mountains are provisionally listed under the California Endangered Species Act and are presently at risk of extinction, primarily due to loss of habitat connectivity and open space



caused by poorly sited development and lack of wildlife crossings. The City has an obligation not to push this population closer to extinction by allowing further degradation of existing wildlife corridors through poorly sited development. The Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance are critical steps toward meeting the City's legal obligations and preserving the City's biodiversity. Ensuring the protection of open space is also equally important for people. Open space has been vital to many communities during the pandemic and provided essential community spaces for safe socially distanced gatherings. This reaffirms the need for continued preservation and increased access to ensure all Angelenos experience the physical and mental health benefits of nature. Native landscapes help us regulate our climate, purify our air and water, pollinate our crops and create healthy soil. In addition to the direct benefits from access, preservation of our native habitats and the species that rely on them is critical to our long-term health and wellbeing. We know these times are challenging for Los Angeles and we applaud your work in protecting human health and safety. As we continue to fight the immediate threat posed by the pandemic, we must also look ahead and prevent future health crises from occurring. By supporting the City's long range wildlife corridor program, the City can join other leaders in forward-thinking efforts in biodiversity and environmental health, such as Governor Newsom's 30 by 30 conservation goals, and Representative Schiff's steadfastness in passing the Rim of the Valley Preservation Act. For all of these reasons, we urge you to fully fund the City's Wildlife Pilot Study Program and Ordinance in your draft 2021/2022 budget. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Tony Tucci Chair Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife J.P. Rose Staff Attorney Center for Biological Diversity Damon Nagami Senior Attorney, Nature Program Director, Southern California Ecosystems Project Natural Resource Defense Council Jim Hines Team Leader, California Wildlife Team Sierra Club Beth Pratt California Executive Director National Wildlife Federation Kelsey Jessup Urban Conservation Program Manager The Nature Conservancy Gerry Hans President Friends of Griffith Park Marian Dodge Chairman Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations Wendy-Sue Rosen Co-founder Brentwood Alliance of Canyons and Hillsides \*Please see our attached letter to the Mayor sent on March 15th. We also met with staff on 4/12.





March 15, 2021

Mayor Eric Garcetti  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Mayor Garcetti:

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us many things, and a critical lesson that should not be overlooked is the link between environmental health and the health of people. A key element of environmental health is biodiversity, which is declining worldwide primarily due to loss of habitat (Chase et al., 2020). In the City of Los Angeles, there have been overtures towards addressing our declining biodiversity, but crucial and meaningful steps have not been solidified into policy. The undersigned organizations urge you to fully fund the City's Wildlife Pilot Study Program and Wildlife Corridor Pilot Ordinance in your draft 2021/2022 budget, and in alignment with your Sustainability Plan of 2019, direct Planning to deliver a draft ordinance to the City Council by June 30, 2021. By taking these necessary steps to protect the City's biodiversity, the City will also be supporting the health and sustainability of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems of Los Angeles.

As a reminder, in 2019's LA's Green New Deal Sustainability Plan, the 2021 Milestones and Initiatives are to "Set biodiversity targets and pilot LA's first wildlife corridor." However, in 2020, after the pandemic's initial impact, LA's draft emergency budget for fiscal 2020/2021 eliminated the Planning Department's Wildlife Pilot Study Program, which is the City's key contribution to the wildlife corridor pilot zone in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. In response to this omission, hundreds of individuals and organizations wrote to the Planning Department and City Council, and through true grassroots interests, a reinstatement of some funding to the Planning Department kept this program alive.

We are reaching out to you to ensure this omission does not happen again and that you will include adequate funding in your draft budget for the Planning Department to timely complete this project. If we want our City's legacy to include the Green New Deal, we cannot end funding and suspend one of its important milestones.



To pull funding for the Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance would contradict the City's goals for a "prosperous, livable, safe and well-run" city as heralded in the 2019/20 open budget for the City, and runs contrary to related work and investments currently supported on both city and state levels. This Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance must continue to be an important priority, even in times of crisis, because it implements the City's immediate goals for the health and sustainability of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems of Los Angeles. We also note that as of March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the City is expected to receive \$1.35 billion from the federal relief package, which will help address the City's budget constraints.

The City has an obligation under state law to protect endangered or threatened animal populations, and not approve development projects that may jeopardize the survival of such populations. The mountain lions of the Santa Monica mountains are provisionally listed under the California Endangered Species Act and are presently at risk of extinction, primarily due to loss of habitat connectivity and open space caused by poorly sited development and lack of wildlife crossings (Gustafson et al. 2018; Benson et al. 2016; Benson et al. 2019). The City has an obligation not to push this population closer to extinction by allowing further degradation of existing wildlife corridors through poorly sited development. The Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance are critical steps toward meeting the City's legal obligations and preserving the City's biodiversity.

Ensuring the protection of open space is also equally important for people. Open space has been vital to many communities during the pandemic and provided essential community spaces for safe socially distanced gatherings. This reaffirms the need for continued preservation and increased access to ensure all Angelenos experience the physical and mental health benefits of nature. Native landscapes help us regulate our climate, purify our air and water, pollinate our crops and create healthy soil (Lawler et al., 2014). In addition to the direct benefits from access, preservation of our native habitats and the species that rely on them is critical to our long-term health and wellbeing (Martin et al., 2020).

We know these times are challenging for Los Angeles and we applaud your work in protecting human health and safety. As we continue to fight the immediate threat posed by the pandemic, we must also look ahead and prevent future health crises from occurring. By supporting the City's long range wildlife corridor program, the City can join other leaders in forward-thinking efforts in biodiversity and environmental health, such as Governor Newsom's 30 by 30 conservation goals, and Representative Schiff's steadfastness in passing the Rim of the Valley Preservation Act.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to fully fund the City's Wildlife Pilot Study Program and Ordinance in your draft 2021/2022 budget and direct Planning to deliver a draft ordinance to the City Council by June 30, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Tony Tucci  
Chair  
Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife



J.P. Rose  
Staff Attorney  
Center for Biological Diversity

Damon Nagami  
Senior Attorney, Nature Program  
Director, Southern California Ecosystems Project  
Natural Resource Defense Council

Jim Hines  
Team Leader, California Wildlife Team  
Sierra Club

Beth Pratt  
California Executive Director  
National Wildlife Federation

Kelsey Jessup  
Urban Conservation Program Manager  
The Nature Conservancy

Gerry Hans  
President  
Friends of Griffith Park

Marian Dodge  
Chairman  
Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations

Wendy-Sue Rosen  
Co-founder  
Brentwood Alliance of Canyons and Hillsides



## References

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- Benson, J. F., Mahoney, P. J., Vickers, T. W., Sikich, J. A., Beier, P., Riley, S. P. D., ... Boyce, W. M. (2019). Extinction vortex dynamics of top predators isolated by urbanization. *Ecological Applications*, 29(3), e01868.
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## Communication from Public

**Name:** B.Calderon

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 09:26 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Very important to restore RAP's authority for 140 positions in the mayor's budget. Maintenance to city parks is so important for the public to enjoy. Thank you!



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Regan Mozingo  
**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 09:31 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Access to parks is a determinant of mental and physical health. We must consider the long-term impacts on community if these positions are not refilled, just when it is so critical that people get outside to their local parks.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Chad Monk

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 09:31 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing as a representative of National Health Foundation, a community-based organization that has advocated for increasing park and green space access for communities across LA; but specifically for Black and Brown communities that are considered “park poor” by LA’s Park Needs Assessment. COVID-19 has clearly demonstrated the inequities in LA’s park system, although to many park and green space advocates this was clear before. Many people had the opportunity to get outside during the pandemic and remain safely distanced, many more people did not. Losing the ability to refill 140 positions will only further exacerbate the inequities in LA’s park system. The Department’s leadership has demonstrated a commitment to closing the equity gap in access to park space, but without the necessary staff to do the work, how will they be able to get this done? Access to parks is a determinant of mental and physical health. Please consider the long-term impacts on our communities if these positions are not refilled, just when it is so critical that people get outside to their local parks. Furthermore, many positions listed are from the Recreational Programming section - a section that often hires directly from the community. By not refilling these position, good paying jobs with growth potential are cut off from communities that most need this type of economic opportunity. And lastly, when parks are not well-staffed and maintained, community members do not feel safe accessing them. When parks aren’t well used they can become places for unwanted activity, adding further to the feeling that they are not safe places for families to thrive outside. National Health Foundation is requesting the budget committee to restore the 140 staff positions for the LA City Department of Recreation and Parks and ensure LA’s parks are a healthy, safe place for all.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Janis Y

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 09:36 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a tenant, health worker, and mental health and housing advocate, I am outraged that Mayor Garcetti is proposing to increase LAPD's budget by \$42 million when Angelenos are suffering and dying daily due to the extraction of funding from housing, healthcare, education, transportation, and other public services. I am outraged that the LAPD budget has increased by over \$500 MILLION dollars while 5 unhoused people die a day on the streets of Garcetti's LA. It is clear that the LAPD does NOT protect and serve our most vulnerable community members and is in fact known for MURDERING them without being held to any semblance of accountability or justice. In consistently empowering and militarizing LAPD by providing them with exorbitant amounts of funding, Garcetti is complicit in the murders of black, brown, and poor community members. When will Garcetti listen to what our communities have been screaming all along, that it's safe & accessible housing, healthcare, education, transportation, and other public services that need to be funded in order to keep us safe and prevent harm/violence???



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ricky Obando

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 09:37 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The RAP staff has been working tirelessly and hard since the pandemic has begun, to have positions cut is not fair. The RAP staff is always on the bottom of the pole and the RAP staff works directly with the community and being short staffed is not fair to the community as well.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Montserrat from Mid City

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 09:55 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My Mid City neighborhood lacks parks, recreational spaces , and youth & senior programs, and what I see community and myself doing is using neglected lots, small parameters of pavements and driving outside our community to engage in healthy activity. We need parks in mid city for the health of our community. While this example pertains to the lack of parks in my neighborhood, the parks that are available and staffed should be sustained and improved as a community health and environmental investment. The loss of 140 positions means that we are not investing in making our parks safer, greener and healthier. I've been going to parks as a personal space that allows me to regain a good mindset, in those spaces I've met the park maintenance workers because I respect their presence at parks because I know they are caring for them, which means they are caring for my health. Some of the times they are informing me about the park rules because I am an artistic rollerskate and I'm not allowed to recreate at most of the parks ( I also want advocate for more skateparks and rollerskating rinks). In those encounters I've learned that the park maintenance workers are under so much pressure by their managers because they are understaffed that some of them have suffered health issues like elevated blood pressure and heart attacks induced by stress. I can already anticipate seeing more park maintenance workers losing their lives to the stressful work environments as a consequence of budget cuts . Overall our parks system has not met its potential because we are seeing and hearing that parks are not safe, not clean, and not enjoyable enough to promote ultimate health. We need to be investing more in parks and pioneering new standards that promote community inclusion and health. Parks are the life that city is losing to urbanization and external societal pressures. What the City council does not see is how Parks can stabilize and enhance the quality of life which in hand relieves the city council from a community that is tired, exhausted and focused on problems rather than solutions for the good. I am a Park advocate for Mid City and will continue to keep the conversation of park needs in my area! Please reconsider the budget cuts and take a different decision that does not put parks, people and planet at a disadvantage. I also invite you to see a short film about the community activity at a vacant lot in our neighborhood, to see the extreme end of what lack of parks do to a



community and how the community needs recreation and parks to live a healthier life.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Meggan Ellingboe

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 10:01 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, I'm the chair of the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council Recreation Committee. However, I write as an individual resident. I urge you to restore or keep funding of the 140 positions in the Recreation and Parks budget. While there are many crises facing our City, the Pandemic highlighted the need for Parks to aid residents' mental and physical health as we saw a huge uptick in usage. Additionally, RAP played an important role in emergency response to the Pandemic. Its contributions to pivot and serve some of our underserved neighborhoods must be recognized. Los Angeles is already park poor and any amount of green space or a facility is already under high use and in need regular maintenance, not less. I worry that these positions that'd not be fulfilled would affect an already seemingly inconsistent maintenance schedule. Without clean bathrooms or regular maintained lighting, families and individuals will not feel safe to use parks and that's the last thing they should feel in a space meant for refuge. As we know with our housing crisis, many Angelenos don't have homes and many who are housed don't have access to backyards. Thus, parks serve an important role in providing outdoor space. Many Rec and Park type jobs are typically first time jobs for young people. What a great opportunity to invest in young people and engage them with their community. Griffith Park's former superintendent, the wonderful Joe Salaices, talked about how he got his start taking tickets at the train ride in Griffith Park. Imagine losing out on finding the next Joe who committed a whole career to RAP and the City if these jobs are eliminated and never come back into possibility. While not obvious to all, Parks are a way to build equity. They serve as a way to build community. You'll see a cross section of generations and identities using parks. While there's a commitment to equity building within RAP, a lack of staff will inhibit any progress. As a resident in Los Feliz, traffic into Griffith Park saw an uptick as a park that serves all of the City. The ability to travel to parks has also been an issue in addition to a lack of parks. On a related note, with CDC guidelines becoming more relaxed and noting that public transit did not close down during the past year, it's very important that funding should also keep the DASH service running. Employees at the Greek Theater rely on that service to get to work. It's critical to not keep our



parks and rec dept operating in a way that meets a growing and changing Los Angeles.



## **Communication from Public**

**Name:** Making Los Angeles Whole Coalition  
**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 10:21 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see the attached Letter for Budget and Finance Committee.





## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Eric Garcetti

Council President Nury Martinez

Chair of Budget and Finance Committee Councilmember Paul Krekorian

**FROM:** Making Los Angeles Whole Coalition

**SUBJECT:** Doubling Down on Our Invitation

**DATE:** April 13, 2021

### DOUBLING DOWN ON OUR INVITATION

The City of Los Angeles will receive an unprecedented infusion of \$1.3 billion from the federal government. President Biden has charged his administration to ensure the benefits of the package “go out quickly and directly to the American people, where they belong.” We the undersigned civic, labor, community, and civil rights leaders call on the City to fulfil the President’s charge and support a vision to Make Los Angeles Whole.

The City has an opportunity to lead the nation and be a model for a recovery effort that places people and communities first. Our proposal centers and uplifts women, families and their children. Women are central to the framework of our plan. Over the past year, women risked their own lives to keep our families safe, supported, and fed as they kept our City afloat. Now is the time to reinvest in them, as they invested in us.

Making Los Angeles Whole centers families most impacted by the pandemic, while also creating opportunities for all of Los Angeles to thrive. While we understand the urge to backfill budget holes, we must lead this moment with a commitment to restore our families.

As we approach budget season in full force, we double down on our collective vision and call on the City of Los Angeles to direct a **\$1 billion dollar investment over the next two years** toward poor and working-class families hit hardest by COVID, (whereby citizenship status does not bar



anyone from obtaining these resources) and develop a formula targeting at minimum 80% of the resources toward the communities most deeply impacted. We have shared our plan and framework, and welcome new ideas to bolster the methodology , so long as it lifts up the people and communities that have borne the brunt of this pandemic.

We call on the City to use no more than \$500 million to restore city budgets. We agree that city employees need full pay for full work and we must do well for employees; however, we adamantly oppose LAPD receiving any additional funding.

There is no time like the present. The City must acknowledge all the powerful organizing and advocacy efforts underway to build an inclusive and equitable LA. These recommendations are a reflection of the current and ongoing work in communities across the City.

As Dr. King reminded us years ago, “The time is always right to do what’s right.” We invite the City to invest in what is right, and reinvest dollars into the people and communities who have saved us during a period of unprecedented social and economic upheaval.

## **SUMMARY OF INVESTMENTS**

### **Family Care for All**

Create a fund of no less than \$250 million for child and elder care. The City should dedicate funds to provide free child care before school and after school until 8pm for families in need. Additionally, the City should dedicate funding to support the in-home care of our elders including: financial resources toward obtaining additional hours of care for IHSS recipients who need more assistance than the maximum allowed by the County, and funding for home modifications for seniors and people with disabilities to ensure safety throughout the home.

### **Racial Justice Equity Fund for Women**

Create an Equity Fund of not less than \$100 million to support women for training, finding employment and supporting women owned small businesses and women led non-profit organizations. There should be special attention to ensure women of color and trans women, which have been most impacted by the pandemic, are prioritized. Include technical assistance to ensure that organizations led by and serving women of color have access.

### **Housing Security: Rent, Mortgage, Utilities Relief**

Expand investments to no less than \$250 million to launch a comprehensive local housing stability program to cancel rent debt, and suspend rent payments for eligible tenants, forgive utilities debt, strengthen mortgage protections and support vulnerable landlords. The funds should be used to establish a local fund to provide financial relief to certain qualifying landlords to mitigate the economic impact of rent cancellation and ensure housing stability.

### **Year-Round Youth Employment and Leadership Opportunities**

Invest no less than \$100 million in comprehensive and holistic employment programs focused on leadership development and life skills for high-need youth in South L.A., the Eastside of LA, MacArthur Park, and the East San Fernando Valley. The City should also adopt the recommendations of the Executive Task Force on Youth Development to establish a Youth Development Department.



**Guaranteed Basic Income**

Dedicate at least \$100 million to provide at least two years of guaranteed basic income of at least \$1,500 a month to families in highest need (without interfering with existing benefits that participants receive). This should be done in collaboration with existing pilots, such as Councilmember Price's Basic Income pilot. There should be no requirement around citizenship for eligibility.

**Community Driven Safety Fund**

We call on the City to increase investments of no less than \$200 million to support Community Intervention Workers, re-entry services, the establishment of Healing Centers in communities that have fallen victims to police abuse, and establish a reimagine public safety innovation fund to invest in community driven alternatives to policing.

Sincerely,

Alberto Retana, President & CEO, Community Coalition

Angela Rye, Principal and CEO, IMPACT Strategies

Angelica Salas, Executive Director, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights

April Verrett, President, SEIU 2015

Aquil Basheer, Founder, Professional Community Intervention Training Institute International,  
South Los Angeles Peacebuilders Collective

Belinda Campos Bresnahan, MPH, Program Manager, Public Health Advocates

Benjamin Torres, President and CEO, CDTech

Betty Avila, Executive Director, Self Help Graphics & Art

Carla De Paz, Project Director, Community Power Collective

Charisse Bremond-Weaver, President & CEO, Brotherhood Crusade

David Huerta, President, SEIU USWW

David Levitus, Executive Director, LA Forward

Derek Steele, Interim Executive Director, Social Justice Learning Institute

Dr. Diandra Bremond, Adjunct Lecturer, University of Southern California

Rev.Eddie Anderson, Sr.Pastor, McCarty Memorial Christian Church(DOC) & President,  
Partnership for Growth Los Angeles Community Development Corporation  
Fernando Rejon, Executive Director, Urban Peace Institute



Fred Ali

Gloria Medina, Interim Executive Director, SCOPE

Jeffery Wallace, President and CEO, LeadersUp

John Grant, President, UFCW Local 770

John Kim, Executive Director, Advancement Project

Joe Donelin, Deputy Director, SAJE- Strategic Actions for a Just Economy

Joseph Tomás Mckellar. Executive Director, PICO California

Karim Webb, Entrepreneurial Activist

Karen Mack, Founder and Executive Director, LA Commons

Kasey Ventura, Community Organizer, Beverly-Vermont Community Land

Trust Kevin “Twin” Orange, Co-Founder, Advocates for Peace and Unity

Laura Raymond, Director, Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles

Lian Cheun, Executive Director, Khmer Girls in Action

Lou Calanche, Executive Director, Legacy LA

Luis Sanchez, Executive Director, Power California

Lyric Kelkar, Policy Director, Inclusive Action for the City

Manuel Pastor, USC Equity Research Institute \*Organization listed for identification purposes only

Maria Brenes, Executive Director, InnerCity Struggle

Mario Fedelin, CEO, Changeist

Mark Wilson, President and CEO, Coalition for Responsible Community Development

Michael A. Lawson, President and CEO, Los Angeles Urban League

Mike De La Rocha, Co-Founder & CEO, Revolve Impact

Mike Dennis, Director of Organizing, Everyone In Campaign /United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Monica Mejia, President and CEO, East LA Community Corporation



Nana Gyamfi, Executive Director, Black Alliance for Just Immigration

Pamela Agustin-Anguiano, Coalition Manager, Eastside LEADS

Pamela A. Bakewell, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, The Bakewell Company/Los Angeles Sentinel

Renato Lira, Executive Director, San Fernando LGBT Community Center

Rosa Soto, Executive Director, The Wellness Center

Roxana Tynan, President and CEO, LAANE

Sam Lewis, Executive Director, Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC)

Shashi Hanuman, Directing Attorney, Community Development Project, Public

Counsel Shimica Gaskins, CDF-CA Executive Director, Children's Defense

Fund-California Tony Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Heart of Los Angeles

Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, Executive Director, LISC LA

Va Lecia Adams Kellum, Ph.D., President & CEO, St. Joseph Center

Virgil Roberts

Yvonne Francois Wheeler, National Representative, AFGE District 12, and American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO

Rev. Zachary Hoover, Executive Director, LA Voice

CC:

City Councilmember Gil Cedillo

City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield

City Councilmember Nithya Raman

City Councilmember Paul Koretz

City Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson

City Councilmember Curren Price

City Councilmember Mark Ridley Thomas

City Councilmember Mike Bonin

City Councilmember John Lee

City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell

City Councilmember Kevin de Leon



City Councilmember Joe Buscaino



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jessica S.

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 10:38 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Public parks in LA are vital to the health and wellness of our community. Parks are needed for many reasons, one of which includes a local meeting place outdoors to bring our children for therapy. I am an Occupational Therapist in LA County and work in home and in clinic setting with pediatric clients. One great option for meeting with a client now that parks are open is at a park. We are outdoors and feel safer than being inside. The parks also need to have accessible features (ramps, wheelchair friendly "flooring", accessible swings for those that need more stability) to be as inclusive as possible to the greatest number of consumers.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Luz Marlene Cordero

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 12:38 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Soy residente de Boyle Heights CD 14, preocupada sobre el punto de orden del dia #1, especificamente el presupuesto del Alcalde 2021-22. Quiero pedirle al Comite de Presupuesto que restablezca la autoridad de contratacion de personal de Recreation and Parks, 140 puestos se perdieron por jubilacion anticipada durante la pandemia. La mayoria de estos puestos son Personal de Mantenimiento por consecuencia afectara a nuestras comunidades. Ya tenemos muchos problemas de salud publica en nuestros parques, tales como la acumulacion de basura, personas defecando en publico, etc. Sabemos que a veces los recortes son necesarios pero nunca a expensas de la salud publica, mental, y fisica. Por lo tanto, tomen en cuenta esta peticion por Favor antes de tomar cualquier decision permanente al respecto, considere la seguridad, el bienestar y la salud de nuestras comunidades. Atentamente, Luz Marlene Cordero CEC - Health Happens with Prevention Boyle Heights



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Allison Brooker on behalf of the Hollywood Orchard

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 01:38 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Honorable Mayor Garcetti, On behalf of the members of the Hollywood Orchard, we strongly urge you to fully fund the City's Wildlife Pilot Study Program and Wildlife Corridor Pilot Ordinance in your draft 2021/2022 budget. After five years of study, LA City recently announced that a wildlife corridor draft ordinance would be revealed by the end of April. Yet only a week after this announcement, your draft budget released for the upcoming year, pulled all funding for this program. Please take these necessary steps to protect the City's biodiversity, the City and support the health and sustainability of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems of Los Angeles. In alignment with your Sustainability Plan of 2019, direct Planning to deliver a draft ordinance to the City Council by June 30, 2021. We remind you that, in 2019's LA's Green New Deal Sustainability Plan, the 2021 Milestones and Initiatives are to "Set biodiversity targets and pilot LA's first wildlife corridor." In 2020, after the pandemic's first economic impacts were felt, LA's draft emergency budget for fiscal 2020/2021 eliminated the Planning Department's Wildlife Pilot Study Program, which is the City's key contribution to the wildlife corridor pilot zone in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. In response to this omission, hundreds of individuals and organizations, including ours, wrote to the Planning Department and City Council, to reinstatement of some funding to the Planning Department kept this program alive. Our members are reaching out to you to ensure this omission does not happen again and that you will include adequate funding in your draft budget for the Planning Department to timely complete this project. If we want our City's legacy to include the Green New Deal, we cannot end funding and suspend one of its important milestones. Pulling funding for the Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance would contradict the City's goals for a "prosperous, livable, safe and well-run" city as heralded in the 2019/20 open budget for the City and runs contrary to related work and investments currently supported on both city and state levels. This Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance must continue to be an important priority, even in times of crisis, because it implements the City's immediate goals for the health and sustainability of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems of Los Angeles. We are also aware that as of March 10th, 2021, the City is expected to receive



\$1.35 billion from the federal relief package, which will help address the City's budget constraints. The City has an obligation under state law to protect endangered or threatened animal populations, and not approve development projects that may jeopardize the survival of such populations. The mountain lions of the Santa Monica mountains are provisionally listed under the California Endangered Species Act and are presently at risk of extinction, primarily due to loss of habitat connectivity and open space caused by poorly sited development and lack of wildlife crossings. The City of Los Angeles has an obligation not to push this population closer to extinction by allowing further degradation of existing wildlife corridors through poorly sited development. The Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance are critical steps toward meeting the City's legal obligations and preserving the City's biodiversity. Securing the protection of open space is equally important for people. Open space has been critical to communities during the pandemic and provided essential community spaces for safe socially distanced gatherings. This restates the need for continued preservation and increased access to ensure all Angelenos experience the physical and mental health benefits of nature. Native landscapes help us regulate our climate, purify our air and water, pollinate our crops and create healthy soil. In addition to the direct benefits from access, preservation of our native habitats and the species that rely on them is absolutely critical to our long-term health and wellbeing. We are very aware these times are challenging for Los Angeles and we salute your work in protecting human health and safety. As we continue to fight the immediate threat posed by the pandemic, we must also look ahead and prevent future health crises from occurring. By supporting the City's long range wildlife corridor program, the City can join other leaders in forward-thinking efforts in biodiversity and environmental health, such as Governor Newsom's 30 by 30 conservation goals, and Representative Schiff's steadfastness in passing the Rim of the Valley Preservation Act. For all of these reasons, we urge you to fully fund the City's Wildlife Pilot Study Program and Ordinance in your draft 2021/2022 budget and direct Planning to deliver a draft ordinance to the City Council by June 30, 2021. Once again, please fund this project immediately. Signed on behalf of The Hollywood Orchard,





## Statement from The Hollywood Orchard Board of Directors

September 23, 2020

April 28, 2021

Mayor Eric Garcetti  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Mayor Garcetti,

On behalf of the members of the Hollywood Orchard, we strongly urge you to fully fund the City's Wildlife Pilot Study Program and Wildlife Corridor Pilot Ordinance in your draft 2021/2022 budget. After five years of study, LA City recently announced that a wildlife corridor draft ordinance would be revealed by the end of April. Yet only a week after this announcement, your draft budget released for the upcoming year, pulled all funding for this program.

Please take these necessary steps to protect the City's biodiversity, the City and support the health and sustainability of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems of Los Angeles. In alignment with your Sustainability Plan of 2019, direct Planning to deliver a draft ordinance to the City Council by June 30, 2021.

We remind you that, in 2019's LA's Green New Deal Sustainability Plan, the 2021 Milestones and Initiatives are to "Set biodiversity targets and pilot LA's first wildlife corridor." In 2020, after the pandemic's first economic impacts were felt, LA's draft emergency budget for fiscal 2020/2021 eliminated the Planning Department's Wildlife Pilot Study Program, which is the City's key contribution

HOLLYWOOD ORCHARD

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to the wildlife corridor pilot zone in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains. In response to this omission, hundreds of individuals and organizations, including ours, wrote to the Planning Department and City Council, to reinstatement of some funding to the Planning Department kept this program alive.

Our members are reaching out to you to ensure this omission does not happen again and that you will include adequate funding in your draft budget for the Planning Department to timely complete this project. If we want our City's legacy to include the Green New Deal, we cannot end funding and suspend one of its important milestones.

Pulling funding for the Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance would contradict the City's goals for a "prosperous, livable, safe and well-run" city as heralded in the 2019/20 open budget for the City and runs contrary to related work and investments currently supported on both city and state levels. This Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance must continue to be an important priority, even in times of crisis, because it implements the City's immediate goals for the health and sustainability of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems of Los Angeles. We are also aware that as of March 10th, 2021, the City is expected to receive \$1.35 billion from the federal relief package, which will help address the City's budget constraints.

The City has an obligation under state law to protect endangered or threatened animal populations, and not approve development projects that may jeopardize the survival of such populations. The mountain lions of the Santa Monica mountains are provisionally listed under the California Endangered Species Act and are presently at risk of extinction, primarily due to loss of habitat connectivity and open space caused by poorly sited development and lack of wildlife crossings. The City of Los Angeles has an obligation not to push this population closer to extinction by allowing further degradation of existing wildlife corridors through poorly sited development. The Wildlife Pilot Study and Ordinance are critical steps toward meeting the City's legal obligations and preserving the City's biodiversity.

Securing the protection of open space is equally important for people. Open space has been critical to communities during the pandemic and provided essential community spaces for safe socially distanced gatherings. This restates the need for continued preservation and increased access to ensure all Angelenos experience the physical and mental health benefits of nature. Native landscapes help us regulate our climate, purify our air and water, pollinate our crops and create healthy soil. In addition to the direct benefits from access, preservation of our native habitats and the species that rely on them is absolutely critical to our long-term health and wellbeing.

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We are very aware these times are challenging for Los Angeles and we salute your work in protecting human health and safety. As we continue to fight the immediate threat posed by the pandemic, we must also look ahead and prevent future health crises from occurring. By supporting the City's long range wildlife corridor program, the City can join other leaders in forward-thinking efforts in biodiversity and environmental health, such as Governor Newsom's 30 by 30 conservation goals, and Representative Schiff's steadfastness in passing the Rim of the Valley Preservation Act.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to fully fund the City's Wildlife Pilot Study Program and Ordinance in your draft 2021/2022 budget and direct Planning to deliver a draft ordinance to the City Council by June 30, 2021.

Once again, please fund this project immediately.

Signed on behalf of The Hollywood Orchard,



Angela Gygi  
Executive Director and Founding Board  
Member of The Hollywood Orchard



Allison Brooker  
Secretary and Founding Board Member  
of The Hollywood Orchard

Hollywood Orchard is a non-profit corporation exempt from taxation under I.R.C. 501(c)(3)

HOLLYWOOD ORCHARD

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## Communication from Public

**Name:** Irma Lopez

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 01:39 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, my name is Irma López an I am a volunteer whit equipo Green Trust for Public Land. I am here to speak on agenda item #1, specifically the Mayor's 2021-22 budget. I am asking the budguet committee to restore Recreation and Park's hiring authority for 140 staff positions that were lost to early retirement during the pandemic.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ron Bitzer

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 01:54 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Where is the Future of Our Parks Told --- in City Resolutions or the City Budget? The proposed Department of Recreation and Parks FY 2021-22 budget for Partnerships, Grants and Sponsorships is based on misleading metrics ---- namely number of projected participants from collaborations -----to the exclusion of dollar amounts from grants. This is not industry practice in philanthropy; dollar grant amounts found elsewhere could be published in this section of projected budgets as well. Established restricted revenue programs and governmental grant opportunities ---- opportunities that now require evidence of community engagement by the applicant ---- should be funded for more than 9 positions (Details of Departmental Programs 2021-22, Vol. 2, p. 735). Community engagement is not the hallmark of Rec and Parks decision making. Quimby Park Fee Restricted Revenue Program Following reform of City fees charged to developers of added and non-excluded dwelling units, the Department of Recreation and Parks collects additional financial revenue to mitigate the impact of more residents on enjoyment of parks and rec centers. Annual Park Fee Reports documented recently \$5.9 million in such fees that remain unallocated 5 years after payment. Characterization of untapped fees as “earmarked” for a park does not meet the requirements, I believe, of City Ordinance 184505, and allows the developer to request a refund of unallocated amounts at the fifth anniversary of fee payment. One such 2007 fee payment was reported to be \$1.5 million (Oceanwide Plaza in CD#14). A fully-funded Partnership program would encourage staff and Commission to respond further to the 2016 City Planning findings of Quimby Park Fees as administered 5 years ago, namely the following: \*An outdated and ineffective fee program \*Difficulties in the expenditure of collected fees and \*Insufficient emphasis on dedication of land for new parks, “Council File 16-0529, Quimby Park Fee Ordinance Support,” Parks for All, September 6, 2016. State Proposition 68 Grants (Park Development and Community Revitalization Program) The Department reported to the City Council and the Mayor the following: the City requested 56.8% of ALL State grant amounts totalling \$254.6 million be allocated to the City’s 23 projects. “Funding awards were prioritized (by the State) for the creation of new parks and expanding existing parks,” RAP, November 5,



2020. Six of the 23 proposed projects were devoted to new parks or park expansions. This mismatch between the mission of the \$4.1 billion Prop 68 State program ---- as stated above ---and City grant applications may explain why the City received 7.5% of 2020 funding (\$19,212,100) and not an amount proportional to the City population. The success of 2 new park grant requests (see below) should be considered in staffing this office. \$5,198,400 to complete a new 0.19 acre park at 318 North Matthews St., Boyle Heights. \$6,986,400 for a new 0.585 acre park at 11957 - 11961 Allegheny Street, Sun Valley. County Measure A Again, taxpayers and others voted to raise funds for open space, parks, beaches, rivers and recreational facilities on November 2, 2016. This County parcel tax program has no ending date, and hence conducts regular needs assessments of “study areas.” Half of the City study areas have a recent history of a “high” or “very high” need status. City Council resolved, “...to address the historical inequities in the region’s public parklands, the adopted Measure A Expenditure Plan should target substantial funding in Competitive Grant categories 3 (acquisition) and 4 (Recreation Access) to projects that not only serve areas with High and Very-High need, but are also physically located in those communities ....” CF 19-002-S14, presented by Councilmember Nury Martinez, January 23, 2019 ( emphasis added.) The City has had access to \$7.4 million in category 3 Competitive Grants following Fiscal Year 2019 parcel tax for Measure A, for example. The very nature of a competitive grant program highlights the issue of City staffing and the City’s ability to submit competitive grant requests. Looking to 2022-2023: City Proposition K 2.0 This \$25 million annual property assessment funded the initial 1996 list of 183 specified projects for City parks, facilities and other community projects. Before the termination of this 30-year assessment, a City Council Committee has proposed a second property tax assessment modeled after the 1996 Prop K measure, CF 20-1452. Identification of even 100 projects for youth development would require substantial staff support from the Department. Proposed FY 2021-22 City Recreation and Parks budget funds inadequate maintenance of existing parks and no evident expansion of the City park system. The submission of 23 grant requests to the State (see above) in one grant cycle of a State \$4.1 billion program substantiates the high priority of the Grant program by the City.



## **Communication from Public**

**Name:** TreePeople  
**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 02:22 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** See letter for details





April 28, 2021

Budget and Finance Committee, Los Angeles City Council  
200 N Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Angelenos Need Equitable Urban Forest Canopy Now - Consideration of Mayor Garcetti's FY 2021-22 Proposed 'Justice Budget' for Urban Forestry**

Dear Chairman Krekorian and Budget and Finance Committee Members,

Thank you for your leadership and support for Los Angeles's urban forest! **A healthy urban forest is essential, green, and inclusive infrastructure** to a thriving, sustainable, and resilient city. Los Angeles's urban forest, if properly planned and managed, can protect Angelenos from many of the current and future impacts of climate change including saving lives from extreme heat, capturing and cleaning water, improving human health and wellbeing, and providing many other benefits. For example, a study found that for every \$1 spent on tree planting and maintenance, urban trees deliver \$5.82 in benefit in California (McPherson et al., 2016). However, the urban forest canopy is not equitably distributed in the City. According to the [Los Angeles County Tree Canopy Assessment](#), led by TreePeople and Loyola Marymount University, 18% of the City's tree canopy grows where less than 1% of the City's population lives. The newly published [Los Angeles Urban Forest Equity Assessment Report](#) found that funding is an overwhelmingly important component in addressing the historically under-resourced, inequitable distribution of the City's urban forest.

TreePeople is relieved that there is over \$6 million for tree planting, watering, and tree trimming to maintain our urban tree canopy in the proposed budget. **While this is a good downpayment, more targeted investments are needed to realize a true 'Justice Budget'. To better plan, plant, and care for Los Angeles's urban forest to achieve climate benefits and environmental justice, we urge you to consider the following urban forestry budget items in the Mayor's 2021-22 Proposed 'Justice Budget':**

- Building *critical* urban forestry capacity in the City by adding the following crews in the Urban Forestry Division under StreetsLA to better support the proposed tree planting and maintenance including:
  - Adding two *new* trimming crews



- Adding at least one *new* tree care crew, especially for tree watering
- Adding at least one *new* tree planting crew
- Adding *essential* support staff for the City Forest Officer to expedite improvements to and the coordination of urban forestry work in the City
- Maintaining current authorized positions in the Department of Recreation and Parks, including forestry and maintenance positions, by restoring *all* positions proposed for deletion associated with the Separation Incentive Program (SIP)

Looking ahead, we urge the City to prioritize the discussion and consideration of the following recommendations from the [Los Angeles Urban Forest Equity Assessment Report](#) to address persistent urban forestry equity issues facing the City's *frontline communities*:

- **Trees as inclusive infrastructure:** The City needs to further explore how to utilize trees as green and inclusive infrastructure for public health benefits, consider partnerships needed and potentially alternative measures of success for urban forestry projects (e.g., tree planting) that include meaningful community input and experience.
- **Equitable financing:** The City needs to consider how to ensure funding allocated for the urban forest achieves equitable outcomes rather than following traditional cost-benefit analyses.
- **Maintenance and co-ownership:** The City needs to develop effective models for tree establishment care, especially watering, that include community as an important partner.
- **Building multi-generational coalitions:** The City needs to invest in the next generation of urban foresters.
- **Reclaiming the Right-Of-Way:** The City needs to strategically invest in Right-Of-Way (ROW), develop incentive programs, and explore other mechanisms to increase tree canopy in historically marginalized areas and disadvantaged communities of color.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to confront the existential threat of climate change. Equitable investments now in the City's urban forestry canopy can tackle this existential threat -- putting the City on a pathway to achieving a greener, healthier, and more climate-resilient future for all Angelenos.

Respectfully,



Manny Gonez  
Director of Policy Initiatives  
TreePeople

Tori Kjer  
Executive Director  
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Robin Mark  
Los Angeles Program Director  
The Trust for Public Land

Mark Kenyon  
Executive Director  
North East Trees

Jacky Surber  
Co-Founder  
Angelenos for Trees

Jamie T. Hall  
President  
Laurel Canyon Association

Katherine McNenny  
Co-founder  
Industrial District Green

Johng Ho Song  
Executive Director  
Koreatown Youth and Community Center

Jamie T. Hall  
President  
Laurel Canyon Land Trust

David Kadin  
President  
Benedict Canyon Association

Gerry Hans  
President  
Friends of Griffith Park

Cc:

Jeanne Holm, Deputy Mayor of Budget and Innovation  
Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor of City Services  
Liz Crosson, Director of Infrastructure  
Jennifer Pope McDowell, Associate Director of Infrastructure  
Lauren Faber O'Connor, Chief Sustainability Officer  
Councilmember Blumenfield, Vice Chair, Budget and Finance Committee  
Councilmember Kevin de León, Member, Budget and Finance Committee  
Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, Member, Budget and Finance Committee  
Councilmember, Curren D. Price, Jr., Member, Budget and Finance Committee



## Communication from Public

**Name:** The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 12:29 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation has a deep commitment to equitable park access for City of Los Angeles residents. We are submitting the attached letters in support of adequate staffing for the LA City Recreation and Parks Department to ensure that parks are appropriately maintained, staffed and programmed so that they remain safe, appealing and useable for Los Angeles residents of all ages.



# THE ROSALINDE AND ARTHUR GILBERT FOUNDATION

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1801 Century Park East, Suite 2010 • Los Angeles, CA 90067  
310-449-4500 • [thegilbertfoundation.org](http://thegilbertfoundation.org)

RICHARD S. ZIMAN, TRUSTEE & CEO

MARTIN H. BLANK, JR., TRUSTEE & COO

Dear Budget Committee Council Members,

I am a trustee of The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, an LA based private foundation that has invested in equitable park access for the past 10 years, granting over \$3.95 million to address park inequities and support park access, including contributing to the construction or renovation of 24 parks within Los Angeles County.

I write today concerning the Mayor's 2021-22 budget in support of restoring the Recreation and Park's Department (RAP) hiring authority for 140 staff positions that were lost to early retirement during the pandemic. The inability to refill 140 RAP staff positions will have a disproportionate impact on communities in the City and will most significantly impact communities of color.

The majority of RAP positions that have been vacated are from within the Land Maintenance Program; when parks are not well-maintained, community members do not feel safe accessing them. Under used parks can become places for unwanted activity, adding to the feeling that parks are not safe places for families and children.

Other vacated positions are from the Recreational Programming section, which often hires directly from the community. By not refilling these position, good paying jobs with growth potential are cut off from communities that most need this type of economic opportunity.

COVID-19 has clearly demonstrated the inequities in our park system; while many people safely accessed parks during the pandemic, many more did not have the ability to safely access a convenient park. Access to parks is a determinant of mental and physical health and nothing has brought this fact to bear more than the current health crisis.

Losing the ability to refill 140 positions will only further exacerbate the inequities in LA's park system. The Department's leadership has demonstrated a commitment to closing the equity gap in access to park space, but without the necessary staff to do the work, they will not be able to get this done.

Your budget decision is critical to ensure that years do not go by with a huge gap in RAP staff which would be detrimental to both the health of our park system, and the mental, social, and physical health of our communities. Please restore RAP's hiring authority for the 140 staff positions that were lost to early retirement during the pandemic.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:  
  
Martin H. Blank, Jr.  
Trustee & COO



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Pamela Marquez

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 03:38 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Esteemed Members, I respectfully submit comments and recommendations from the El Sereno Arroyo Playground Vecinos regarding the Recreation and Parks budget allocation for FY 21-22, which is drastically insufficient for the current needs of the PEOPLE who frequent the parks and green spaces in our communities. Rec & Parks was allotted a mere 7% budget increase, while the average increase for all departments is 9%. Even Animal Services received more at 9.65%, and a whopping 22.35% was allocated to the Bureau of Street Services (no other department in the City has an increase this large). While we agree that Street Services are a vital necessity, we believe that this DISPARITY puts Street Services above PEOPLE. At this moment in time, we need to put PEOPLE above all else. During this past year our parks were closed for extended periods; and our parks suffered neglect while RAP staff was severely cut (mostly maintenance staff). Maintenance was deferred during the Pandemic and Park Maintenance schedules have still not been restored to the pre-COVID levels. Our parks continue to look shabby and in disrepair. Our communities deserve better! Now, more than ever, our Parks are a safe haven for families whose recreational opportunities have been curtailed during this past year. This especially impacts low-income communities of color, whose families may not be able to afford other recreational opportunities. Our parks and green spaces provide vital health and wellbeing benefits – both physical and mental – to the PEOPLE in our communities. It's evident that when the budget was drafted, no one anticipated how our parks would become such an essential sanctuary for people during the COVID Pandemic. As our parks are now open, and restrictions are being loosened, it is vitally important to provide beautiful and functional green and recreational spaces to our communities. We strongly suggest that the Recreation & Parks budget disparity be revisited and increased to an appropriate level so that the 140 Rec & Parks jobs that were lost can be reinstated, and that our parks, not only be restored – but enhanced – so that our communities can heal and thrive. We need to put PEOPLE first, especially during these difficult times. Respectfully, Pamela Marquez Co-Founder, El Sereno Arroyo Playground Vecinos





Los Angeles City Council  
L.A. Budget Committee Members

April 28, 2021

Re: Council File #21-0600, Consideration of the Mayor's 2021-22 Proposed Budget

Dear Esteemed Members,

I respectfully submit comments and recommendations from the El Sereno Arroyo Playground Vecinos regarding the Recreation and Parks budget allocation for FY 21-22, which is drastically insufficient for the current needs of the PEOPLE who frequent the parks and green spaces in our communities.

Rec & Parks was allotted a mere 7% budget increase, while the average increase for all departments is 9%. Even Animal Services received more at 9.65%, and a whopping 22.35% was allocated to the Bureau of Street Services (no other department in the City has an increase this large).

While we agree that Street Services are a vital necessity, we believe that this DISPARITY puts Street Services above PEOPLE. At this moment in time, we need to put PEOPLE above all else.

During this past year our parks were closed for extended periods; and our parks suffered neglect while RAP staff was severely cut (mostly maintenance staff). Maintenance was deferred during the Pandemic and Park Maintenance schedules have still not been restored to the pre-COVID levels. Our parks continue to look shabby and in disrepair. Our communities deserve better!

Now, more than ever, our Parks are a safe haven for families whose recreational opportunities have been curtailed during this past year. This especially impacts low-income communities of color, whose families may not be able to afford other recreational opportunities. Our parks and green spaces provide vital health and wellbeing benefits – both physical and mental – to the PEOPLE in our communities.

It's evident that when the budget was drafted, no one anticipated how our parks would become such an essential sanctuary for people during the COVID Pandemic. As our parks are now open, and restrictions are being loosened, it is vitally important to provide beautiful and functional green and recreational spaces to our communities.

We strongly suggest that the Recreation & Parks budget disparity be revisited and increased to an appropriate level so that the 140 Rec & Parks jobs that were lost can be reinstated, and that our parks, not only be restored – but enhanced – so that our communities can heal and thrive. We need to put PEOPLE first, especially during these difficult times.

Respectfully,

  
Pamela Marquez  
Co-Founder, El Sereno Arroyo Playground Vecinos



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 03:49 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please include the attached comment letter from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in the record. This letter was originally sent to the Mayor on March 16, 2021. Thank you.



**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY**

KING GILLETTE RANCH  
26800 MULHOLLAND HIGHWAY  
CALABASAS, CA 91302  
PHONE (310) 589-3200  
FAX (310) 589-3200  
WWW.SMMC.CA.GOV



March 16, 2021

The Honorable Eric Garcetti  
Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Support for Wildlife Pilot Study FY 21/22 Funding**

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

The City Council forged new ground with its 2016 motion to establish the Regional Wildlife Habitat Linkage Zone encompassing the Santa Monica Mountains between the 405 freeway and Griffith Park. In response, five years ago the Planning Department was tasked with preparing a Wildlife Corridor Ordinance in conjunction with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife to ensure that development projects accommodate for this habitat linkage system. A well-crafted Wildlife Corridor Ordinance is an essential, although past-due, planning tool to maintain a broad spectrum of wildlife presence that enriches the whole City.

To be sure that the Wildlife Corridor Ordinance gets to the City Council in 2021, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy again urges you to fully fund the Planning Department's Wildlife Pilot Study Program in the 2021/2022 budget. That small investment is without question necessary to assure the future presence of larger mammal species in a special mountain range that delivers those animals close to the heart of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Edmiston".

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP, Hon. ASLA  
Executive Director



## Communication from Public

**Name:** michael siegel

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 04:32 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** our parks are super important - they have shown their importance as one of the lone public spaces we could safely congregate - especially for those of us in multi-family units who have no access to a back yard/front yard. Please do not cut the budget for parks. We need them more than ever.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Val Marquez

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 04:57 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Members, Please accept these comments and recommendations from Concerned Neighbors of El Sereno regarding the Recreation and Parks budget allocation for FY 21-22. Concerned Neighbors of El Sereno and I strongly feel that the budget allocation for Rec and Parks is severely underfunded. This past year parks across the City fell into dilapidation and disrepair due to lack of maintenance. Especially now, local parks are one of the few places that families can go where they feel safe and secure and can escape from their problems, which were enhanced by a year of seclusion and uncertainty. A park is the only recreation for many who do not have the financial resources to go to an amusement park, or even a trip to the beach. This is especially true in low-income communities of color. In February 2020, RAP was awarded several grants from CA Prop 68, one of which was \$2.184 million for expansion of the El Sereno Arroyo Playground. They were also granted \$4.84 million for improvements at Lincoln Heights Recreation Center, and \$6.99 & \$5.2 million respectively for new parks in Sun Valley (Allegheny Park) and Boyle Heights (Brooklyn Heights Park). These are all communities of color. These Prop 68 grants were awarded, because the State recognized that these park-poor communities were underserved and needed new and improved parks to aid in the health and prosperity of their communities, and improve community equity and access to green spaces. The City of Los Angeles should also recognize these egregious disparities. However, RAP has yet to give the green light on these projects, because the future of the department is uncertain and they do not have the funds or staffing to care for the parks they already have. Yet, the L.A. FY 21-22 Budget proposal only allotted RAP a 7% increase, lower than the average for all departments. This budgeting oversight has placed Angelinos who depend on these parks, including those who have been assured new and enhanced parks in a holding pattern. The City has already been in a holding pattern for over a year – and we desperately need our parks more than ever. It is imperative that the 140 Rec & Parks staff positions that were eliminated due to the Pandemic be reinstated. It's important that people are able to enjoy these green spaces of refuge and recreation in the manner that they deserve so that communities begin to feel a sense of normalcy and begin to heal



and thrive. We urge the City Council and Budget Committee to correct this oversight and award RAP a much larger budget allocation, so they can adequately serve this vital community need and go forward with the projects the communities have been promised. Sincerely, Val Marquez Founder, Concerned Neighbors of El Sereno





Los Angeles City Council  
L.A. Budget Committee Members

April 28, 2021

Re: Council File #21-0600, Consideration of the Mayor's 2021-22 Proposed Budget

Dear Members,

Please accept these comments and recommendations from Concerned Neighbors of El Sereno regarding the Recreation and Parks budget allocation for FY 21-22.

Concerned Neighbors of El Sereno and I strongly feel that the budget allocation for Rec and Parks is severely underfunded. This past year parks across the City fell into dilapidation and disrepair due to lack of maintenance.

Especially now, local parks are one of the few places that families can go where they feel safe and secure and can escape from their problems, which were enhanced by a year of seclusion and uncertainty. A park is the only recreation for many who do not have the financial resources to go to an amusement park, or even a trip to the beach. This is especially true in low-income communities of color.

In February 2020, RAP was awarded several grants from CA Prop 68, one of which was \$2.184 million for expansion of the El Sereno Arroyo Playground. They were also granted \$4.84 million for improvements at Lincoln Heights Recreation Center, and \$6.99 & \$5.2 million respectively for new parks in Sun Valley (Allegheny Park) and Boyle Heights (Brooklyn Heights Park). These are all communities of color.

These Prop 68 grants were awarded, because the State recognized that these park-poor communities were underserved and needed new and improved parks to aid in the health and prosperity of their communities, and improve community equity and access to green spaces. The City of Los Angeles should also recognize these egregious disparities.

However, RAP has yet to give the green light on these projects, because the future of the department is uncertain and they do not have the funds or staffing to care for the parks they already have. Yet, the L.A. FY 21-22 Budget proposal only allotted RAP a 7% increase, lower than the average for all departments.

This budgeting oversight has placed Angelinos who depend on these parks, including those who have been assured new and enhanced parks in a holding pattern. The City has already been in a holding pattern for over a year – and we desperately need our parks more than ever.

It is imperative that the 140 Rec & Parks staff positions that were eliminated due to the Pandemic be reinstated. It's important that people are able to enjoy these green spaces of refuge and recreation in the manner that they deserve so that communities begin to feel a sense of normalcy and begin to heal and thrive.

We urge the City Council and Budget Committee to correct this oversight and award RAP a much larger budget allocation, so they can adequately serve this vital community need and go forward with the projects the communities have been promised.

Sincerely,

Val Marquez  
Founder, Concerned Neighbors of El Sereno



## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 07:34 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, As a resident of Los Angeles (Zip Code: 90020) I would like to express my deep dissatisfaction with the current LAPD's actions and admonish the council for attempting to push more of the city's budget to such an underperforming department. With helicopter noises late into the night, my family and I have found it difficult to get sufficient rest and then perform work duties the next day—it is also affecting my coworkers/department employees and dampening overall productivity as workers. It is foolish to give money to a department that harms the productivity of the residing businesses in the area. On top of this, I have yet to see the solid proof that giving the LAPD more money is actually reducing crime or improving quality of life for city residents. My taxpayer money should go to places where there is demonstrable proof of its effectiveness, as well as solid, transparent plans—the underperforming LAPD seems to only use the money for fancy toys that fail to validate their exorbitant price tags, and the actions of the LAPD and Mike Feuer to hide the full accounting of the LAPD's budget only serves to further my suspicions that the money is not being well-spent.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 10:16 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please accept the attached letter from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority into the record. Thank you.





**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
King Gillette Ranch  
26800 Mulholland Highway  
Calabasas, California 91302  
Phone (818) 878-0866 Fax (818) 878-0508

April 28, 2021

Los Angeles City Council  
via Los Angeles City Clerk  
City of Los Angeles  
200 North Spring Street, Room 360  
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Council File No. 21-0600, Support for Retention of Funding and Staff for Wildlife Pilot Study, Fiscal Year Budget 2021-2022**

Honorable Councilmembers:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) urges the City Council to restore funding in the 2021/2022 fiscal year budget for the four staff positions in the Department of City Planning related to the Wildlife Pilot Study Program. Abrupt elimination of the Study would waste hundreds of thousands of public dollars already invested when the completion of a draft Wildlife Corridor Pilot Ordinance is only months away. It would also jeopardize the value of tens of millions of dollars of existing public parkland and open space.

To date, the Wildlife Pilot Study has been the City's only contribution toward maintaining biodiversity and protecting threatened and endangered species in the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains. The Wildlife Pilot Study is critical to meeting the objectives of the 2019 Los Angeles Green New Deal Sustainability Plan. Has the pandemic not emphasized enough the importance of nature within the City?

This modest investment in the completion of the Wildlife Pilot Study and the forthcoming Wildlife Corridor Ordinance will provide public benefits that extend beyond wildlife and the ecology of the Santa Monica Mountains. When funding for this critical Study was on the chopping block in 2020, a report by the City Administrative Officer (CAO) found that: "The DCP (Department of City Planning) reports that the Wildlife Pilot Study (Study) will streamline the review process, reduce the amount of staff time needed for each project, and potentially reduce the overall processing timeline for applicants related to entitlement applications in the Santa Monica Mountains Study Area."

Sincerely,

Paul Edelman  
Chief of Natural Resources and Planning



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Monica Rodriguez

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 10:17 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Monica Rodriguez and I am an organizer with the Invest in Youth Campaign. I was also on the Youth Development Task Force and acted as the mayor's youth appointee. I strongly support the proposed budget's 1.1 million allocation to create the City's 1st ever youth development department. This investment is the first step to fully funding a department that will serve the City's youth. I also want to UPLIFT that while this first step is so important we will need all of your support to ensure that there is long-term investment and a funding stream for this youth department. We need to have a centralized youth department to support us in receiving the programming and resources our young people need throughout LA. We need city council to support and make sure this happens and we want to make sure it is reflected in our city's budget to support the over 3,000 youth experiencing homelessness, the over 480,000 living in poverty, and stop the 18,753 youth arrests. It is for this reason that we need to fully fund the Youth Development Department.



## **Communication from Public**

**Name:** Travis Longcore

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2021 11:31 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see attached letter from Los Angeles conservation groups.



THE  
URBAN  
WILDLANDS  
GROUP



Los Angeles /  
Santa Monica Mountains Chapter  
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



April 28, 2021

Los Angeles City Council  
Budget and Finance Committee  
City of Los Angeles

**Re: Mayor Proposed 2021–22 Budget / Special Meeting / Budget and Finance Committee**

Dear Councilmembers:

We are grassroots conservation organizations in the City of Los Angeles. Each of the Audubon chapters overlaps with a portion of the City, from the San Fernando Valley to San Pedro. The Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter of the California Native Plant Society seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations, operating within the Santa Monica Mountains and San Fernando Valley. Endangered Habitats League and The Urban Wildlands Group work within the City and throughout the region. We all agree that the City should enact the ordinance developed as part of the Wildlife Pilot Study over the past five years and to fund positions to ensure that the ordinance is implemented and enforced.

The Santa Monica Mountains are being inexorably degraded through unsound development practices. The Planning Department has worked carefully to develop measures that would reduce those impacts while still allowing reasonable development. To be effective such an ordinance requires staff for interpretation and enforcement.



We are disappointed that Mayor Garcetti zeroed out staff resources for this proposal in his draft budget and respectfully request that you restore funding to the Wildlife Pilot Study Program and Ordinance in the 2021/2022 budget and act quickly to pass the ordinance.

Sincerely,

Catherine Rich  
The Urban Wildlands Group

Travis Longcore  
Los Angeles Audubon Society

Dan Silver  
Endangered Habitats League

Jess Morton  
Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

Dave Weeshoff  
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

Snowdy Dodson  
Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter, California Native Plant Society