

Communication from Public

Name: Christine Mills O'Brien

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Council File No: 21-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please support the funding to retain the four positions in Planning's Wildlife Pilot Program.



RE: Support continued funding for Wildlife Pilot Program

Dear Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee:

Hollywoodland tract 6450 represents 190 acres of residential property and 440 plus acres of open space given to the city's Griffith Park in 1944. County maps show Hollywoodland residential surrounded by SEA and VSFHZ (Very Severe Fire Hazard Zone). **We are in full support of the wildlife program and its intent to support the county's identification of SEA and substantiate the environmental review process for hillside projects.**

The county identified the SEA's area in the 1970's and included its review in county projects. The first attempt to implement the SEA on a citywide level was City Planning's 2019 Wildlife Pilot Program. If it is discontinued there is a possibility it can be legally challenged. This is especially true when the environmental process is questioned. During hillside project review there are requirements for mitigation of negative environmental effects, specifically in the 6 exception categories (location, cumulative impacts, significant effect, scenic highway, hazardous waste sites and history resources). For example, most projects in Hollywoodland qualifies for a class 32 exemption and one of those criteria is:

c. The project site has no value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species
How is this approved if we do not have a read. Currently there is nothing in the process to substantiate this. A hole in your environmental project clearance. Purposeful or just neglect?

Leadership that understands citizens, property owners rights, zoning and commitment to the environment should not hesitate to protect sensitive, irreplaceable hillside communities like ours. Please continue to fund the wildlife program.

Thank you

Respectfully,

Christine Mills O'Brien
Hollywoodland Homeowners Assoc.
Hollywoodland Gifted Park
Council District 4