

Communication from Public

Name: Wendy Butts

Date Submitted: 05/29/2021 08:22 AM

Council File No: 20-1225

Comments for Public Posting: As CEO of the LA Conservation Corps, I am writing this letter to support the commitment outlined in Mayor Garcetti and the City of LA's Green New Deal to pilot healthy soils projects by 2021. The Corps and our Corpsmembers' work over the past 35 years has contributed to the rebuilding of healthy soils through park construction and maintenance, tree planting, median and other landscaping projects throughout the City and County of Los Angeles, and we are eager to build on our strong partnership with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks, StreetsLA, General Services Department and LA Sanitation to take advantage of underutilized spaces to use them for composting/mulching operations and/or to create healthy soil that can be used on public lands throughout the LA Basin. As a youth and workforce development organization that provides young adults from LA's most under-resourced communities with work experience and job training in environmental and conservation-related career paths, we are uniquely situated to create and improve on the local "green" employment opportunities linked to healthy soil and compost projects and programs, as outlined in Councilmembers Koretz and Bonin's September 23, 2020, motion and further referenced in the February 8th report back from LA Sanitation on strategies to promote Healthy Soils in the City. We are active partners in the City's Griffith Park Nursery, have built and managed dozens of community gardens and an urban farm in our 3 ½ decades of service to the LA region and have partnered with LA Compost to bring composting infrastructure to more of LA's communities; these are just a few of the ways we have and continue to support this work through delivery of our mission to serve LA's youth and communities and the environment. We are at the ready to support both the project work and workforce development goals of this initiative now. We are in conversation with California Assemblymember Robert Rivas regarding his efforts to request funding from AB 125 (the Equitable Economic Recovery, Healthy Food Access, Climate Resilient Farms and Worker Protection Act) to make our food and farm system more resilient and economically viable; we believe this is directly aligned with a Healthy Soils program for California. And we have discussed the City's Healthy Soils strategy-in-development with our partners at

the County of LA Board of Supervisors, specifically with Chair Hilda Solis' office. The support for this work is strong statewide and directly addresses many of the goals in President Biden's January 27, 2021, establishment of a Civilian Climate Corps initiative to "mobilize the next generation of conservation and resilience workers and maximize the creation of accessible training opportunities and good jobs." It's the right time for the City's Healthy Soils strategy to lead the way in achieving climate drawdown and we'd enjoy the opportunity to support and be a part of it! We urge you at the Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice and River Committee to continue to explore ways to fund this work across the City and its relevant departments.



LA CONSERVATION CORPS

Administrative Offices

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 861658, Los Angeles, CA 90086-1658

May 23, 2021

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Chair
Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice and River Committee
City Hall, 200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

Re: Corps' Support of Healthy Soils Strategy for City of Los Angeles (Council File 20-1225)

Dear Councilmember O'Farrell,

As CEO of the LA Conservation Corps, I am writing this letter to support the commitment outlined in Mayor Garcetti and the City of LA's Green New Deal to pilot healthy soils projects by 2021. The Corps and our Corpsmembers' work over the past 35 years has contributed to the rebuilding of healthy soils through park construction and maintenance, tree planting, median and other landscaping projects throughout the City and County of Los Angeles, and we are eager to build on our strong partnership with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks, StreetsLA, General Services Department and LA Sanitation to take advantage of underutilized spaces to use them for composting/mulching operations and/or to create healthy soil that can be used on public lands throughout the LA Basin.

As a youth and workforce development organization that provides young adults from LA's most under-resourced communities with work experience and job training in environmental and conservation-related career paths, we are uniquely situated to create and improve on the local "green" employment opportunities linked to healthy soil and compost projects and programs, as outlined in Councilmembers Koretz and Bonin's September 23, 2020, motion and further referenced in the February 8th report back from LA Sanitation on strategies to promote Healthy Soils in the City. We are active partners in the City's Griffith Park Nursery, have built and managed dozens of community gardens and an urban farm in our 3 ½ decades of service to the LA region and have partnered with LA Compost to bring composting infrastructure to more of LA's communities; these are just a few of the ways we have and continue to support this work through delivery of our mission to serve LA's youth and communities and the environment. We are at the ready to support both the project work and workforce development goals of this initiative now.

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Sincerely,

Wendy Butts
Chief Executive Officer