

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) was created by the California State Legislature through the Conservancy Act (Act) in 1979 to preserve thousands of acres of parkland for wildlife, native plants, and public recreation within the Santa Monica Mountains Zone (Zone) and since that time, it has helped to preserve and open to the public over 75,000 acres of parkland in both urban and wilderness settings; and

WHEREAS, Section 33001 of the Public Resources Code identifies the Zone as a “unique and valuable economic, environmental, agricultural, scientific, educational, and recreational resource that should be held in trust for present and future generations;” and

WHEREAS, public agencies reviewing projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) must notify trustee agencies and consult with them at various points in the environmental review process; and

WHEREAS, a trustee agency is defined in Section 21070 of the Public Resources Code as “a state agency that has jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project, that are held in trust for the people of the State of California;” and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2021, the California Attorney General’s office issued an advice letter arguing that the SMMC must be considered a trustee agency for CEQA purposes for projects affecting natural resources in the Zone, as defined in the Act; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2021, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy adopted the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resource Protection Plan to guide all forms of land protection in the portion of the Santa Monica Mountains between Topanga Canyon Boulevard (State Route 27) and the eastern boundary of Griffith Park; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resource Protection Plan supersedes three maps previously prepared by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Big Wild - Topanga State Park Core Habitat Area Planning Map, the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Habitat Linkage Planning Map, the Griffith Park Area Habitat Linkage Planning Map) that indicate both known and probable habitat linkage/wildlife travel routes between otherwise disconnected habitat blocks; and

WHEREAS, it is a goal of the City to conserve and manage development in environmentally sensitive areas through efforts such as natural community conservation planning;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby directs City staff to consult with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) prior to the release of any draft negative declarations and environmental impact reports under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and on projects that may affect natural resources within the Santa Monica Mountains Zone, as defined in the Conservancy Act (Public Resources Code sections 21080.3, 21080.4, 21091, and 21153).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Los Angeles hereby directs the Department of City Planning, the Bureau of Engineering, and the Bureau of Street Services - Urban Forestry Division, in consultation with the City Attorney’s Office, to coordinate with other City departments and take all necessary steps to ensure that Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resource Protection Plan prepared by SMMC will be considered by the City in the CEQA process to ensure the protection and conservation of sensitive habitat areas.

SEP - 6 2021

SEP - 6 2021

ORIGINAL


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Los Angeles hereby directs the Department of City Planning, the Bureau of Engineering, and the Bureau of Street Services – Urban Forestry Division, in consultation with the City Attorney's Office, to coordinate with other City departments and develop a process to consider all future spatial habitat protection maps prepared by SMMC.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall apply prospectively only and not to any discretionary CEQA approval published or sought from the City prior to the date this Resolution becomes effective.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Los Angeles hereby directs the Department of City Planning, the Bureau of Engineering, and the Bureau of Street Services - Urban Forestry Division, to report back to the City Council within 90 days on the status of the coordination efforts regarding the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resource Protection Plan and a process for all future spatial habitat protection maps prepared by SMMC.

PRESENTED BY:

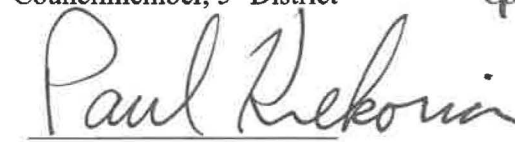

BOB BLUMENFELD
Councilmember, 3rd District


NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District


MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:


PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

(for)

ORIGINAL