

Communication from Public

Name: Shelley L Billik

Date Submitted: 09/19/2022 03:40 PM

Council File No: 21-1284

Comments for Public Posting: We strongly support this resolution (Council File 21-1284) recognizing the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) as a Trustee Agency: a state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a project, which are held in trust for the people of the State of California. SMMC was established in 1979 and the legislation that founded this agency notes that the Santa Monica Mountains Zone (Zone) "exists as a single ecosystem in which changes that affect one part may also affect all other parts; and that the preservation and protection of this resource is in the public interest." For more than four decades, this agency has acted effectively on behalf of the public's interest in the preservation of the unique flora and fauna of the Zone, as well as championing recreational access to the mountains. The SMMC are the top experts when it comes to the ecology of the fragile and critical Santa Monica Mountains Zone. While the CEQA process is invaluable in protecting natural resources and habitat, CEQA's efficacy is only as strong as the parties involved in the process. Over the years and up to this moment, the mountains of Los Angeles have suffered countless poorly mitigated, ill-advised projects that have snuck past important CEQA scrutiny, leading to developments that fragment habitat, egregiously alter the landscape, remove woodlands including protected and near threatened species, and affect natural microclimates. With the City's official recognition and establishment of SMMC as a trustee agency and, therefore, as an integral and ongoing part of the project review process, wildlife and important native plants & trees will have a strong and knowledgeable advocate. This resolution is an important step forward in preserving the ecology and iconic landscape of LA's mountains and it is encouraging that essentially six councilmembers are already in support of the SMMC Trustee Agency Resolution. But, since the resolution states that it will only be applied prospectively, time is of the essence! We ask the City Council to urgently move forward the adoption of this item, as no projects will be provided the benefits of SMMC input until the date this resolution becomes effective. Thank you, Shelley Billik Chair, CFAC

Communication from Public

Name: Lois Becker, BASPOA Community Liaison
Date Submitted: 09/19/2022 05:58 PM
Council File No: 21-1284
Comments for Public Posting: As concerned residents of the Santa Monica Mountains, Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners Association (BASPOA) ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTS the resolution to memorialize the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as a Trustee Agency to the City of Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Marian Dodge

Date Submitted: 09/19/2022 09:59 PM

Council File No: 21-1284

Comments for Public Posting: The Hillside Federation supports CF 21-1284 to confirm the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) as the trustee agency. The mission of the Hillside Federation is to preserve the natural topography and habitat of our hillsides. We can think of no one better qualified to fulfill that mission than the SMMC. They are the state agency which has been studying the Santa Monica Mountains since 1979. Including the SMMC in early notification of all projects in the mountains will provide information, participation, mitigation and accountability to those areas defined in the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resource Protection Plan. The Santa Monica Mountains are a unique defining feature of the City of Los Angeles. Preserving and protecting enhances the value of the entire city.