

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 09/17/2022 01:22 PM

Council File No: 21-1284

Comments for Public Posting: I, along with many others, am very much in favor of the Santa Monica Mountain Conservation Authority be named as a trustee agency. They are clearly incredibly knowledgeable, experienced and the best fit to steward the protected land.

Communication from Public

Name: Ann Dorsey

Date Submitted: 09/17/2022 02:39 PM

Council File No: 21-1284

Comments for Public Posting: I support the Resolution to make the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) a Trustee Agency and urge the council to vote to approve the resolution ASAP. Even with the CEQA process in place, poorly mitigated, ill-advised projects have gotten past CEQA scrutiny, leading to developments that fragment habitat, egregiously alter the landscape, and negatively impact natural microclimates. The SMMC was established in 1979 and has acted effectively on behalf of the public's interest in the preservation of the unique flora and fauna of the Zone. Including the SMMC in the CEQA process will go a long way to prevent such damaging projects from being approved. Thank you for your support and swift action. Ann Dorsey Northridge, CA 91325

Communication from Public

Name: Friends of Griffith Park

Date Submitted: 09/17/2022 05:57 PM

Council File No: 21-1284

Comments for Public Posting: Please post the attached comment letter in support of the SMMC Trustee Agency resolution. Thank you.



Friends of Griffith Park

P.O. Box 27573

Los Angeles, CA 90027-0573

friendsofgriffithpark.org

September 17, 2022

Chair Marqueece Harris-Dawson, and Planning and Use Committee Members
200 N. Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: CF 21-1284, In Support of the Resolution

Honorable Councilmembers:

Friends of Griffith Park strongly supports the City Council resolution to memorialize Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) as a trustee agency in accordance with California's Public Resources Code and CEQA. Affirmative action taken on this resolution will ensure that SMMC is aware at an early stage of any projects within its land protection area, as defined in the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resource Protection Plan.

SMMC is a State agency created through Legislation in 1979, which has unquestionably earned the great respect of the public as it acts to protect the biodiversity of the Santa Monica Mountains. SMMC are the experts on balancing housing, commercial and recreational interests with that of guarding an increasingly-susceptible ecosystem. Habitat fragmentation is at a critical level, and the well-known genetic crisis with our Southern California mountain lion population only illustrates the intricacies and fragility of the mountain range's natural health.

This proposed action to affirm SMMC as a trustee agency goes to the heart of CEQA itself. The fundamental goal of environmental review under CEQA is to provide "information, participation, mitigation, and accountability." CEQA is itself a document of accountability. To short-change the environmental review process of SMMC's well-informed consideration is to disregard the CEQA process.

We are confident Council will uphold that mandatory steps be taken by the respective City Departments to ensure that the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resource Protection Plan is considered prior to CEQA proceeding. In doing so, we are safeguarding a treasured natural resource of the City.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hans
President