

Communication from Public

Name: Catherine Tyrrell

Date Submitted: 11/08/2022 05:11 PM

Council File No: 21-1081

Comments for Public Posting: To: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Committee Chair
Councilmember John Lee Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember Heather Hutt Dear honorable members of the LA City Public Works Committee, I write this letter to urge you to vote 'Yes' on adopting the Ordinance that the LA City Attorney has drafted in response to CF 21-1081. The Ballona Wetlands are recognized by the State of California as an Ecologically Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA), and as such, human interference with this delicate ecosystem can be detrimental to the animals and plants that inhabit it. The Ballona Wetlands cover a massive expanse of land on the west side: it's the second-largest natural space in the City of Los Angeles after Griffith Park. It is also jurisdictionally complex: a portion of the wetlands are owned and managed by State Fish and Wildlife, while another portion is owned by State Lands and managed by the Ballona Wetlands Conservancy. Further, the wetlands are dissected by Jefferson Boulevard, a City of LA street, and the Ballona Creek, which is County property. This jurisdictional confusion has turned into an absolute nightmare when it comes to effective enforcement of trespassing. The Ordinance that the City Attorney has drafted would syncopate City and State definitions of trespassing, and allow local law enforcement to enforce any entry into the wetlands via City right-of-way after dark. This expanded power to LAPD will greatly aid our land managers, who at present, are out of their depth trying to manage illegal activities in the wetlands. Any unsupervised human activity - be it trampling vegetation, setting a fire, or even littering - can have unbelievably dire consequences on the species in the wetlands. I hope you will support this Ordinance emphatically, as it will be a huge help to my organization, and to other governmental agencies involved. Thank you, Catherine Tyrrell President, Ballona Wetlands Conservancy



Ballona Wetlands Conservancy

To:

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Committee Chair

Councilmember John Lee

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell

Councilmember Heather Hutt

Dear honorable members of the LA City Public Works Committee,

RE: Agenda Item 7, Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) Ordinance (CF 21-1081)

I write this letter to urge you to vote 'Yes' on adopting the Ordinance that the LA City Attorney has drafted in response to CF 21-1081. The Ballona Wetlands are recognized by the State of California as an Ecologically Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA), and as such, human interference with this delicate ecosystem can be detrimental to the animals and plants that inhabit it.

The Ballona Wetlands cover a massive expanse of land on the west side: it's the second-largest natural space in the City of Los Angeles after Griffith Park. It is also jurisdictionally complex: a portion of the wetlands are owned and managed by State Fish and Wildlife, while another portion is owned by State Lands and managed by the Ballona Wetlands Conservancy. Further, the wetlands are dissected by Jefferson Boulevard, a City of LA street, and the Ballona Creek, which is County property. This jurisdictional confusion has turned into an absolute nightmare when it comes to effective enforcement of trespassing.

The Ordinance that the City Attorney has drafted would syncopate City and State definitions of trespassing, and allow local law enforcement to enforce any entry into the wetlands via City right-of-way after dark. This expanded power to LAPD will greatly aid our land managers, who at present, are out of their depth trying to manage illegal activities in the wetlands. Any unsupervised human activity - be it trampling vegetation, setting a fire, or even littering - can have unbelievably dire consequences on the species in the wetlands.

I hope you will support this Ordinance emphatically, as it will be a huge help to my organization, and to other governmental agencies involved.

Best,

Catherine Tyrrell

President, Ballona Wetlands Conservancy

Communication from Public

Name: Jim Burton

Date Submitted: 11/08/2022 09:36 PM

Council File No: 21-1081

Comments for Public Posting: November 8, 2022 211 Culver Blvd Suite N Playa del Rey California 90293 – (424) 241-3524
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Committee Chair
Councilmember John Lee Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell
Councilmember Heather Hutt Honorable members of the LA City Public Works Committee, As the President /CEO of EcoKai, a small environmental consulting company based locally in Playa del Rey, I beseech you to vote ‘Yes’ to adopt the Ordinance that the LA City Attorney has drafted in response to CF 21-1081. EcoKai personnel have worked in and cared for the Ballona Wetlands and the Freshwater Marsh for over a decade and understand the opportunities that this sensitive habitat provides for both wildlife and educational opportunities for the surrounding communities. The wetlands are recognized by the State of California as an Ecologically Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) and, as such, human impacts to this delicate ecosystem can be detrimental to the animals and plants that inhabit it. We have witnessed firsthand the destruction of hundreds of native plants, protective fencing, and the loss of a public sense of safe access trails. The Ordinance drafted by the City Attorney would coalesce City and State definitions of trespassing, and allow local law enforcement to enforce any entry into the wetlands via City right-of-way after dark. This expanded power to LAPD will greatly aid our land managers, who at present, are out of their depth trying to manage illegal activities in the wetlands. Any unauthorized human activity such as cutting and removing vegetation, campfires, dumping motor oil/gasoline, human waste, or littering can have long-term debilitating consequences on the diversity of species reliant on the wetlands. Adopting the City Attorney’s draft ordinance is critical to the protection of the Ballona Wetlands & Freshwater Marsh and for those in the community and all future Angelenos to experience and enjoy. I ask that you demonstrate responsible leadership and vote ‘YES’, thereby allowing a path forward for the protection and enhancement of this critical public resource. Respectfully, Jim Burton P.E. President/CEO EcoKai Environmental Inc.



November 8, 2022

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Committee Chair
Councilmember John Lee
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember Heather Hutt

Honorable members of the LA City Public Works Committee,

As the President /CEO of EcoKai, a small environmental consulting company based locally in Playa del Rey, I beseech you to vote 'Yes' to adopt the Ordinance that the LA City Attorney has drafted in response to CF 21-1081. EcoKai personnel have worked in and cared for the Ballona Wetlands and the Freshwater Marsh for over a decade and understand the opportunities that this sensitive habitat provides for both wildlife and educational opportunities for the surrounding communities. The wetlands are recognized by the State of California as an Ecologically Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) and, as such, human impacts to this delicate ecosystem can be detrimental to the animals and plants that inhabit it. We have witnessed firsthand the destruction of hundreds of native plants, protective fencing, and the loss of a public sense of safe access trails.

The Ordinance drafted by the City Attorney would coalesce City and State definitions of trespassing, and allow local law enforcement to enforce any entry into the wetlands via City right-of-way after dark. This expanded power to LAPD will greatly aid our land managers, who at present, are out of their depth trying to manage illegal activities in the wetlands. Any unauthorized human activity such as cutting and removing vegetation, campfires, dumping motor oil/gasoline, human waste, or littering can have long-term debilitating consequences on the diversity of species reliant on the wetlands.

Adopting the City Attorney's draft ordinance is critical to the protection of the Ballona Wetlands & Freshwater Marsh and for those in the community and all future Angelenos to experience and enjoy. I ask that you demonstrate responsible leadership and vote 'YES', thereby allowing a path forward for the protection and enhancement of this critical public resource.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Burton", is written over a faint, larger signature that appears to be "Jim Burton".

Jim Burton P.E.
President/CEO
EcoKai Environmental Inc.