

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: January 31, 2023

TO: Councilmember Yaroslavsky  
Councilmember McOsker  
Councilmember Raman  
Councilmember Blumenfield  
Councilmember Hernandez  
Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Barbara Romero, Director and General Manager  
LA Sanitation & Environment



SUBJECT: **REPORT-BACK ON CITY HALL ROOFTOP GARDEN AND BIODIVERSITY  
SHOWCASE SITES (COUNCIL FILE 15-0499)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Instruct LASAN to report back to ECCEJR annually to share progress on biodiversity initiatives, including progress on the revitalization of the City Hall rooftop garden and on the creation of biodiversity showcase sites.

DISCUSSION:

LA Sanitation & Environment (LASAN) submitted a report-back on the annual status of the City's Biodiversity efforts (CF #15-0499) dated October 14, 2022. The report was adopted as amended by the City Council on November 22, 2022. The amendment requested that LASAN coordinate with Recreation & Parks and the General Services Department to report back with information on revitalizing the City Hall rooftop garden and establishing biodiversity showcase sites across the City. Information on project scope, implementation, operation and maintenance, and funding, for these efforts was also requested.

This report summarizes the progress made to date on this initiative and outlines a three-phase approach to accomplish all that is outlined in the instructions. Phase I is nearly complete. LASAN will report back on the progress made on Phases II and III in conjunction with future biodiversity updates on CF #15-0499.

### Phase I- Feasibility and Background Research

As a first step, the LASAN Biodiversity Team did background research on the City Hall rooftop garden and had meetings with staff who were able to share a rich history of the site. LASAN has also requested that Recreation & Parks (RAP) and the General Services Department (GSD) nominate staff to participate in and achieve the actions outlined in the next steps below.

### Phase II - Revitalization of the City Hall Rooftop Garden:

For Phase II, LASAN plans to facilitate meetings with GSD and RAP to determine a plan to revitalize the City Hall rooftop garden and a strategy and funding request to maintain the habitat in perpetuity. As part of this process, LASAN hopes to iron out funding issues and jurisdictional issues. Funding to support this revitalization and long-term maintenance work will be requested in the next report-back on this topic.

LASAN hopes to use the City Hall rooftop garden space as a pilot “Biodiversity Showcase Site” and partner with relevant departments to install native plants that will provide habitat for wildlife and educational signage that visitors to the City Hall can view/read as they enter the City Hall Chambers. More information on plans to develop criteria for Biodiversity Showcase Sites is included below.

### Phase III - Development of Biodiversity Showcase Sites:

For Phase III, LASAN plans to work with the Biodiversity Expert Council and Interdepartmental Biodiversity Team to discuss criteria to define Biodiversity Showcase Sites. It is our intention to develop a rubric or checklist with criteria that can be used to assess future sites. Criteria may consider native plant cover, habitat value, connectivity value, educational signage, project scope, and more.

Once criteria are established, LASAN will make an effort to coordinate with each of the 15 Council Districts to select one existing Biodiversity Showcase Site in each Council District to highlight in a booklet or other visual product. The hope is that these sites will represent a variety of land uses and project types (e.g., school grounds, museums, public buildings, homes, blue-green infrastructure, restoration sites, etc.) that can be emulated by City staff and the general public to include biodiversity considerations in all manner of future projects. LASAN will also advise interested Council Districts on how to create, install, and maintain an additional Biodiversity Showcase Site in their District. This could include developing a scope of work, plan for operation and maintenance, and identifying potential funding sources.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

LASAN is not requesting any additional funding for biodiversity during FY 22-23.

MB:BR

C: Dr. Mas Dojiri