

MOTION

NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY
ENRICHMENT

Senderos Canyon, also known as Hoag Canyon, is one of the largest and last remaining undeveloped parcels of land in the City of Los Angeles and is up for auction. The property is over 260 acres, spanning three contiguous parcels and makes up six percent of the neighborhood of Bel-Air. Over 90 percent of the site is undevelopable, and the remaining portion would require intensive infrastructure investments and grading to develop. The parcel has been on the market for a decade and has failed to find a buyer. It opened for auction on January 24, 2023 for \$39 million dollars; with an auction close date of March 15th.

The City has a unique opportunity to preserve this land for wildlife and allow for public access to open and recreational space. If properly preserved and managed in a manner consistent with indigenous knowledge and practices, the property has an opportunity to present benefits for nearby neighborhoods in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Establishing this site for permanent open space and recreational activities is appropriate given it would make strides towards preserving and connecting this habitat to the Backbone Trail, a preserve that stretches 67 miles across the Santa Monica Mountains to the Ventura County line. Senderos Canyon is bordered by other large parcels of public land managed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). If preserved, this land would extend the Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park and the greater Santa Monica Mountains nature preserve managed by the SMMC and MRCA on the west side of the 405 Freeway, through the wildlife crossing that was built in conjunction with the Skirball Bridge development.

There are several potential tools that the City of Los Angeles might use to obtain these parcels in an effort to preserve Senderos Canyon, potentially including purchase of the property, in partnership with organizations like SMMC, MRCA, or Metro, using County, State, or Federal funds. The public purchase of Senderos Canyon would contribute to California's 30x30 Initiative to combat the global climate and biodiversity crises by conserving at least 30 percent of California's land and coastal waters by the year 2030.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Recreation and Parks Department, be directed to report back on the available strategies to preserve the Senderos Canyon property and work with the City Administrative Officer to identify various options for funding to purchase the property, including potential County, State, and Federal funding sources.

PRESENTED BY:


Katy Yaroslavsky
Councilwoman, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



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