

Communication from Public

Name: Bel-Air Association

Date Submitted: 03/09/2023 07:44 PM

Council File No: 23-0129

Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter from the Bel-Air Association regarding the Senderos Canyon Auction and the need for its preservation.



March 9, 2023

We are writing to formally express our support of LA City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky's motion (Council File: 23-0129) directing the Los Angeles County Recreation and Parks Department to identify preservation and funding strategies to preserve the Senderos Canyon -- including the proposed acquisition of the native woodlands by the Mountains and Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA)/Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC).

Long considered one of our city's most prismatic natural reserves, Senderos Canyon is home to vast groves of native Oak, Sycamore, and rare Southern California Black Walnut trees, as well as wildlife including bobcats, mule deer, mountain lions, grey foxes and many other endangered species of vegetation and wildlife. Should the now-protected environmental sanctuary be acquired by a private entity, this allowance could lead to the endangerment and/or destruction of 263 acres of undeveloped native woodlands, threatening thousands of endangered species of flora and wildlife.

Also referred to as Hoag Canyon by local residents who enjoy hikes, mountain-biking and other recreational activities above and around this locale, the Canyon and its inhabitants have been threatened and ravaged in recent years by vast destruction caused by flooding, fires and other environmental disasters. As a result, our community bore witness to cherished wildlife being displaced from their home and driven into our city streets, as well as a once green and tree-covered landscape metamorphizing into a vista of charred-hills and mudslides. It would be cruel and inhumane to leave this fragile ecosystem open to further danger and degradation that would most certainly result from private ownership.

What's more, should the Canyon lose environmental protection, this would be a significant retrogression from the much-heralded worldwide **30x30** initiative for national, state and local governments to designate 30% of our Earth's land and ocean regions as protected areas by 2030.

Los Angeles is a region that has long been plagued by increasing population density, industrial pollution, toxic waste and over-development. ***We can do better.*** And we ***have done*** better. We must ensure this progress does not stagnate, and we require oversight and advocacy from leaders like yourselves to defend our city from private citizens encroaching on the last bastions of public lands that still remain.

To further underscore our commitment, The Bel-Air Association has donated \$1,000 to the campaign, focused on protecting and improving the beauty of our neighborhoods. We urge

you to consider Councilwoman Yaroslavsky's motion, ensuring our city's sanctuaries and wildlife are protected for generations to come.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jaime Meyer". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a long, sweeping underline for the name "Meyer".

Jaime Meyer
President, Bel-Air Association

Communication from Public

Name: Sharon Kopman
Date Submitted: 03/09/2023 03:00 PM
Council File No: 23-0129

Comments for Public Posting: I sent this to our representatives on March 9, 2023. To: Local, State and Federal Elected Officials Re: Support for Los Angeles City Council File Number 23-1029 Save Senderos Canyon I am a homeowner in the Bel Air Ridge community. I urge your support of Los Angeles City Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky's motion to determine available strategies to preserve the 260-acre Senderos Canyon property (also known as Hoag Canyon) and to identify various options to fund the purchase of the property, including potential County, State, and Federal funding sources. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy calls this land one of the most ecologically significant properties in the City of Los Angeles, and says that the Canyon's natural values contribute greatly to the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains ecosystem. We support the acquisition of this land for the following reasons: Saving this open space would further the Governor's 30x30 goal of conserving 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 and President Biden's America the Beautiful initiative to help combat the global climate and biodiversity crisis. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy adopted a resolution calling this property one of the most regionally significant unprotected habitat areas within the Santa Monica Mountains range, which contains the most ecologically significant riparian corridor in the Santa Monica Mountains east of the 405 freeway. The recent attention on P-22's death and his isolated existence in Griffith Park highlights the problems associated with habitat fragmentation and loss of connectivity. Preservation of Hoag Canyon will ensure habitat linkage between the Big Wild and Griffith Park extending the Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park and the greater Santa Monica Mountains nature preserve managed by the SMMC and MRCA. According to the City's 2022 Biodiversity Index Baseline Report, just over 20% of the City of Los Angeles is classified as natural (95.48 square miles out of 470.85 square miles in the City). For the baseline assessment of the Index, the City received a score of 37 out of a possible 110 points, indicating that substantial work remains to be done if the City aims to effectively protect and enhance biodiversity and take appropriate action to halt biodiversity loss. Saving this canyon would protect important cultural resources, preserving our shared cultural resources in the State. Saving one of the last remaining perennial streams in the

City would preserve watershed health, protecting aquatic and terrestrial species. Development of the canyon would negatively impact large-scale community health by reducing carbon storage (climate risk), increasing heat island effects, increasing flood and debris-flow hazards, worsening air quality, and eliminating a source of groundwater recharge. Preserving this land as open space will protect against wildfire risk. According to experts 95-97% of all wildfires in California's Mediterranean regions are caused by humans or human infrastructure in the wildland urban interface. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to save what little open space Los Angeles has left. We urge our Federal, State and local representatives to do everything they can to find the resources needed to purchase this important open space. Thank you, Sharon Kopman (homeowner Bel Air Ridge)

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/09/2023 03:40 PM

Council File No: 23-0129

Comments for Public Posting: To: Local, State and Federal Elected Officials Re: Support for Los Angeles City Council File Number 23-1029 Save Senderos Canyon We urges your support of Los Angeles City Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky's motion to determine available strategies to preserve the 260-acre Senderos Canyon property (also known as Hoag Canyon) and to identify various options to fund the purchase of the property, including potential County, State, and Federal funding sources. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy calls this land one of the most ecologically significant properties in the City of Los Angeles, and says that the Canyon's natural values contribute greatly to the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains ecosystem. The preservation of this important natural resource is consistent with the mission of our organization (DESCRIBE HOW). We support the acquisition of this land for the following reasons: Saving this open space would further the Governor's 30x30 goal of conserving 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030 and President Biden's America the Beautiful initiative to help combat the global climate and biodiversity crisis. The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy adopted a resolution calling this property one of the most regionally significant unprotected habitat areas within the Santa Monica Mountains range, which contains the most ecologically significant riparian corridor in the Santa Monica Mountains east of the 405 freeway. The recent attention on P-22's death and his isolated existence in Griffith Park highlights the problems associated with habitat fragmentation and loss of connectivity. Preservation of Hoag Canyon will ensure habitat linkage between the Big Wild and Griffith Park extending the Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park and the greater Santa Monica Mountains nature preserve managed by the SMMC and MRCA. According to the City's 2022 Biodiversity Index Baseline Report, just over 20% of the City of Los Angeles is classified as natural (95.48 square miles out of 470.85 square miles in the City). For the baseline assessment of the Index, the City received a score of 37 out of a possible 110 points, indicating that substantial work remains to be done if the City aims to effectively protect and enhance biodiversity and take appropriate action to halt biodiversity loss. Saving this canyon would protect important cultural resources, preserving our shared cultural resources in the

State. Saving one of the last remaining perennial streams in the City would preserve watershed health, protecting aquatic and terrestrial species. Development of the canyon would negatively impact large-scale community health by reducing carbon storage (climate risk), increasing heat island effects, increasing flood and debris-flow hazards, worsening air quality, and eliminating a source of groundwater recharge. Preserving this land as open space will protect against wildfire risk. According to experts 95-97% of all wildfires in California's Mediterranean regions are caused by humans or human infrastructure in the wildland urban interface. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to save what little open space Los Angeles has left. We urge our Federal, State and local representatives to do everything they can to find the resources needed to purchase this important open space. Thank you, Laurent Degryse

Communication from Public

Name: J Stafsudd

Date Submitted: 03/09/2023 04:57 PM

Council File No: 23-0129

Comments for Public Posting: I urge your support of Los Angeles City Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky's motion to determine available strategies to preserve the 260-acre Senderos Canyon property and to identify various options to fund the purchase of the property, including potential County, State, and Federal funding sources. This beautiful canyon is an iconic reserve of nature and greatly contributes to the Santa Monica ecosystem. I support the acquisition and natural preservation of this canyon: - California needs to conserve its remaining natural landscape from further development - especially in Los Angeles County. - As a resident of LA, I treasure our natural landscape when I can still "find it" - I don't want to have to travel to Utah to see "nature". - This canyon is the home to a variety of surviving wild and greenery that I treasure. - .This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to save what little open space Los Angeles has left. I urge our Federal, State and local representatives to do everything they can to find the resources needed to purchase this important open space. Thank you,
Jacqueline Stafsudd

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/09/2023 10:27 AM

Council File No: 23-0129

Comments for Public Posting: Please preserve Senderos (Hoag) Canyon. We need to protect the what is left of environment for the wildlife. Living on the top of the canyon, I see deer, bobcats, coyotes, hawks, vultures., owls etc. Not to mention the increase risk of wildfires if there is a new development in the canyon. Thank you Audrey McKnight, Bel Air resident

Communication from Public

Name: W Morris

Date Submitted: 03/09/2023 11:14 AM

Council File No: 23-0129

Comments for Public Posting: Please work with County, State, and Federal partners to find funding to purchase Senderos/Hoag Canyon. This untouched 260 acres of wild land contains a perennial stream and serves as habitat for mountain lions, bobcats, deer and no doubt many unique species that only live in this area and also serves as a major connectivity corridor for large animals. Preserving this land as open space under the management of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy would save numerous species from extinction and allow the regenerative power of nature to combat the ravages of climate change locally and globally instead of putting more development in difficult terrain which would add very little housing and instead add immensely to the destruction of everything that is already under siege by humans. I agree with the directions of the BABCNC CIS that the property be kept undeveloped, with no facilities, and not have public access. This is sensible due to the very dense old growth flora there in an area labeled as an extremely high fire hazard severity zone. Thank you.