

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mona D. & Steven J. Miller

**Date Submitted:** 03/12/2023 11:54 AM

**Council File No:** 23-0129

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Bel Air since 1983, I am keenly aware of the changes to this beautiful, tree-filled area over the years. I strongly support the motion filed by our representative in the City Council, Katy Yaroslavsky, to "save" Cenderos Canyon (formerly known as Hoag Canyon). Preservation of Cenderos 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. It makes sense to keep natural corridors for wildlife, and to combat climate change by keeping the open land in this area, rather than subjecting it to development. 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 to the death of mountain lion P-22 and his isolated existence in Griffith Park highlights the problems associated with habitat fragmentation and loss of connectivity. 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. My husband and I certainly chose this area in 1983 because of the greenery and wildlife. As a result of the multi-year drought, Bel Air has already lost an amazing number of trees. We had to cut down several dead trees in our backyard, and our next door neighbors had to cut down at least a dozen trees that had died on the slope behind them. The preservation of this land in its natural state will not only help wildlife, and the unique and gorgeous esthetics of the area, but is better for control of fires and for the multiple reasons set forth above. I live on Roscomare Road, the main thoroughfare through this part of Bel Air. It can barely support the traffic as it currently exists. We have our own "rush hour" every morning and late afternoon/early evening. Whenever there is a problem on the 405, Roscomare turns into a parking lot. We cannot imagine the addition of a golf course, hotel or other development!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Debbie Reinberg

**Date Submitted:** 03/12/2023 02:43 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0129

**Comments for Public Posting:** I live in Bel Air Hills, right across the street from Senderos Canyon. 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. I 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 Senderos 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. 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, Debbie Reinberg

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Diana McWilliams

**Date Submitted:** 03/12/2023 04:04 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0129

**Comments for Public Posting:** Attached is a letter of support for Los Angeles City Council File 23-0129, Save Senderos Canyon.

**Date: March 12, 2023**

**To: Local, State, and Federal Elected Officials**

**RE: Support for Los Angeles City Council File Number 23-0129 Save Senderos Canyon**

Prof. James C. McWilliams and Diana McWilliams urge your support of Los Angeles City Council Member 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 crises.
- 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, which contains the most ecologically significant riparian corridor in the Santa Monica Mountains east of the 405 freeway.
- The recent attention to mountain lion P-22's death and his isolated existence in Griffith Park highlights the problems associated with habitat fragmentation and loss of connectivity.
- Preservation of Senderos Canyon (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 canon 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 capacity (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 remains in Los Angeles.
- The Canyon is also a delight for rough hiking along its creek, which we have enjoyed for many years.

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,

James McWilliams, Slichter Professor of Earth Sciences, UCLA  
Diana McWilliams