

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lois Becker

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2023 03:55 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0129

**Comments for Public Posting:** Attached please find letter from Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners' Association in support of saving Senderos Canyon.



**Date: March 17, 2023**

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

**Re: BASPOA Supports L.A. City Council File 23-0129, SENDEROS CANYON**

On behalf of Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners' Association (BASPOA) I urge your support for the motion to identify strategies and government funding sources to enable the purchase of Senderos Canyon for preservation as open space. This motion was put forward by the Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky of Council District 5 and seconded by our own CD11 Councilmember, the Honorable Traci Park.

Bel Air Skycrest is situated in the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains, one mile west of the Sepulveda Pass/405 freeway and immediately adjacent to the Mulholland Institutional Corridor. From this unique wildlands-urban vantage point, Bel Air Skycrest residents have, over the past several decades, experienced an onslaught of negative impacts resulting from the ongoing densification, degradation, and destruction of our hillside and canyon environs.

We have also had the privilege of experiencing an amazing antidote to these urban ills in the form of Mission Canyon, a 500-acre closed landfill which has been rehabilitated for open space preservation and recreational use. This new park will constitute the final link in an uninterrupted chain of protected open spaces spanning the *Western* Santa Monicas. Thanks to Mission Canyon and places like it, we know the benefits, both physical and psychological, of being in nature; know first-hand the value of such experience to our personal sense of well-being and connection.

Unfortunately, due to the way Los Angeles has grown historically, spreading westward from the city center, the *Eastern* Santa Monicas have been subject to the impacts of *overdevelopment* for a significantly longer period of time than the area we live in; and, as a result, the eastern part of the range has far less remaining open space overall. The open space that does remain is more fragmented, making for drastically less of the habitat and habitat connectivity required to enable wildlife to survive and safely traverse their territories. In short, the Santa Monicas – especially the Eastern Santa Monicas – need help!

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy recently adopted a [resolution](#) identifying Senderos Canyon as ***one of the most regionally significant unprotected habitat areas*** within the Santa Monica Mountains range, containing ***the most ecologically significant riparian corridor*** in the Santa Monica Mountains east of the 405.

Science is only just beginning to truly understand the superior resilience of our native Coastal Mediterranean Ecosystem in withstanding wildfire and climate change (as compared to the invasive plants that replace it in more developed areas). We are only just beginning to fully appreciate the vital role played by biodiversity in the health of the planet and the crucial role protected open space plays in guaranteeing essential habitat and habitat linkage for the survival of wildlife, especially endangered species, species of concern and more, including cougars, bobcats, deer, coyotes, hawks, owls and so many others.

Preserving Senderos Canyon will preserve essential habitat and 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), a tremendous boon to the Eastern Santa Monicas.

In addition, saving Senderos Canyon will further Governor Newsom's goal of conserving 30% of California's land and coastal waters by 2030. And it will further President Biden's [America the Beautiful](#) initiative to help combat the global climate and biodiversity crisis.

For all these reasons, **Senderos Canyon is an ideal candidate for conservation on the local, state and federal levels.** Please do not let this opportunity slip away.

If the resources of the Santa Monica Mountains are to be ensured for future generations, it is absolutely critical that you act quickly to acquire and preserve open space opportunities like Senderos Canyon. BASPOA urges you, as stewards of these mountains, to find the resources needed to purchase this important open space and preserve it, for the future of our city and our planet.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lois Becker".

Lois Becker, BASPOA Community Liaison