

Communication from Public

Name: Bel Air Ridge Homeowner

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Council File No: 23-0129

Comments for Public Posting: Date: March 21, 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.