



Beachwood  
Canyon

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

April 29, 2021

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

We, as the BEACHWOOD CANYON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, were surprised and dismayed at the deletion (once again) of funding for City's Wildlife Pilot Study Program and Wildlife Corridor Pilot Ordinance

We are **surprised** at the lack of understanding by the Mayor's office of how important this program is to the environmental health of the city—which ultimately affects the people of our city.

It was also surprising because of our city's commitment to the Green New Deal—of which this program would be a fundamental building block.

Also, surprising in that it aligns with your Sustainability Plan of 2019, directing Planning to deliver a draft ordinance to the City Council by June 30, 2021. These are the steps necessary to protect the City's biodiversity which, in turn, supports the health and sustainability of the people, wildlife, and ecosystems of Los Angeles.

Ensuring the protection of open space is critically important for the people in our city. Open space has been vital to so many of our communities during the pandemic—providing essential community spaces for safe socially distanced gatherings. The Wildlife Pilot Study Program re-affirms the need for continued preservation and increased access that will ensure that Angelenos will experience the physical and mental health benefits of nature. Native landscapes help us regulate our climate, purify our air and water, pollinate our crops and create healthy soil (Lawler et al., 2014). In addition to the direct benefits from access, the preservation of our native habitats—and the species that rely on them—is critical to our long-term health and wellbeing (Martin et al., 2020).

The Plan also will prevent catastrophic wildfires by creating better buffer zones in the hillsides.

We are **dismayed** because the Wildlife Pilot Study is a **two**-year program. The first year was ultimately funded by the City Council. If not funded again to complete the study, we will have wasted last year's funding—which is fiscally irresponsible.

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We know these times are challenging for Los Angeles and we applaud your work in protecting human health and safety. As we continue to fight the immediate threat posed by the pandemic, we must also look ahead.

By supporting the City's long range Wildlife Corridor Program, the City can join other leaders in forward-thinking efforts in biodiversity and environmental health, such as Governor Newsom's 30 by 30 conservation goals, and Representative Schiff's steadfastness in passing the Rim of the Valley Preservation Act.

As our Mayor—the Mayor of Los Angeles, your job is to see the future. The Wildlife Pilot Study Program gives you and other city leaders the tools to legislate for that future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Missy Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Missy Kelly

President,

Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association