

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY**

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June 29, 2020

Los Angeles City Council  
c/o Ms. Holly L. Wolcott, City Clerk  
City of Los Angeles  
200 North Spring Street, Room 360  
Los Angeles, California 90012

**Support for Retention of Funding and Staff for Wildlife Pilot Study  
Fiscal Year Budget 2020-2021, Council File Nos. 20-0600-s13 and 20-0600-s49**

Honorable Councilmembers:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) urges the City Council to find a creative way to retain the Planning Department staff positions and the funding necessary to continue the Wildlife Pilot Study through the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Abrupt elimination of the Study would waste tens of thousands of dollars already invested when the completion of a draft wildlife ordinance is only months away. The benefits to the City's wildlife, and people's enjoyment thereof, would be lost forever.

To prevent the loss of this important Study work to date, even a reduced budget for the program could keep it alive to provide useful results. Such useful results include streamlined housing planning approvals with clarity to project applicants as stated by the City Administrative Officer (CAO):

“The DCP (Department of City Planning) reports that the Wildlife Pilot Study (Study) will streamline the review process, reduce the amount of staff time needed for each project, and potentially reduce the overall processing time line for applicants related to entitlement applications in the Santa Monica Mountains Study Area.”

Without the Wildlife Pilot Study, the City is undoubtedly just casting wildlife habitat connectivity to and from Griffith Park into science-free and data-free winds guided by uninformed and unguided developers - nothing less.

Sincerely,

IRMA R. MUÑOZ  
Chairperson