August 4, 2017

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Joe Buscaino Councilman, District 15
638 S. Beacon, Room 552
San Pedro, CA 90731

Re: No-net-loss biodiversity strategy (Native Plants)

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council (NWSPNC) would like to express gratitude for the renovation being conducted on the Gaffey Street corridor. We look forward to experiencing the new improvements and hope that the renovations will be a point of pride for both local residents and visitors alike.

It is in this spirit that the NWSPNC urges the city and its partners to incorporate plants specifically native to the San Pedro Peninsula in all landscape design. The NWSPNC encourages partnership with native plants experts to do so, using plants sourced from local seed stock. Not only would the use of plants native to the area support biodiversity and water conservation, but it would also give the major entrance to our beloved port town the unique look that it so deserves.

As you may be aware, an estimated three to ten species are declared extinct every day; and, scientific experts estimate that half of all species on earth could be extinct by the end of the century. Such a severe blow to the planet’s biodiversity would have a grave and irreversible impact on the ecological systems that sustain human life. Humans rely on the genetic diversity of plants and animals to support a healthy food supply and provide key pharmaceutical ingredients, among other resources. Thus, using local native plants in all landscaping is a simple and pragmatic approach to a global phenomenon that affects us all.
The Gaffey Street renovation project presents an excellent opportunity to enhance biodiversity, as called for in a motion recently passed by the City Council, CF# 15-0499. Such motion calls for the city to prioritize projects “where linkages between habitats can be restored, created, or strengthened.” Accordingly, the Gaffey Street corridor connects a Significant Ecological Area, the Harbor Lake Regional Park, and a Coastal Resource Area, the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Coastline, per the Significant Ecological Areas and Coastal Resource Areas Policy Map used by the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. Thus, by reevaluating the Gaffey Street landscape design, San Pedro may be a leader in Los Angeles’ efforts to develop a no-net-loss biodiversity strategy.

Thank you for your time. Please get back to us regarding this important matter by August 30, 2017. We look forward to your correspondence.

Sincerely,

Raymond Regalado, President
On behalf of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council

CC:  -Rebecca Draper, Director of Neighborhood Improvement Projects - LANI
     -Supervisor Janice Hahn
     -Elvin W. Moon, Regional Planning Commissioner Supervisor District 4
     Department of Regional Planning, 320 West Temple St, Los Angeles, CA 90012
     -Esther Hatch, President, Harbor Area Planning Commission
     -Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC)
     c/o Board of Public Works, 200 N. Spring St., Rm. 361, Mail Stop 465, Los Angeles, CA
     -President, Central Neighborhood Council
     -President, Coastal Neighborhood Council
     -Al Sattler, Sierra Club Palos Verdes / So Bay Chapter, PO Box 2464, PV Peninsula, CA 90274
I MOVE that the MOTION (Koretz–Blumenfield–Bonin–Huizar) relative to strategies to protect and improve biodiversity in the City, and the feasibility of implementing the City Biodiversity Index, CF 15-0499 and Item No. 25 on today’s Council agenda, BE AMENDED to adopt the following recommendations in lieu of the recommendations contained in the Motion:

- INSTRUCT the Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) to confer with the Mayor’s Sustainability Team, and the following City departments, to report to the Council in 120 days on options/programs to sustain and enhance biodiversity in the City, including the City’s areas of responsibility outside the City (for example, the Owens Valley):
  - Planning Department,
  - Bureau of Street Services (BSS)/Urban Forestry Division,
  - Department of Recreation & Parks,
  - Port of Los Angeles,
  - Department of Water & Power,
  - Los Angeles World Airports,
  - Zoo Department,
  - Chief Legislative Analyst; and
  - Other relevant City departments;

- INSTRUCT the BOS, in conjunction with the specified City departments, to solicit input from local universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and relevant governmental agencies including the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum to develop:

  1) Citywide evaluation metrics for a biodiversity index (modeled after the Singapore Index); including options on how to protect and enhance citywide biodiversity and mitigate negative impacts;

  2) Policies/projects to enhance biodiversity should consider the following priorities/strategies, among others:
     - where communities currently lack access to natural areas and open space;
     - where linkages between habitats can be restored, created or strengthened; and
     - where biodiversity provides a particular benefit to larger ecosystem functions and services;

  3) Options for community engagement and outreach strategies, with an emphasis on outreach to communities which currently lack access to natural areas and open space.

PRESENTED BY: PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: MAY 10 2017
Significant Ecological Areas and Coastal Resource Areas
Policy Map

Figure 9.3

The County considers the biological resources in the Santa Catalina Island and Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zones to be of significance. The management and review of biological resources in the Coastal Zones differs from the countywide Significant Ecological Area regulatory program. Biological resource management and regulation in the Santa Catalina Island Coastal Zone is implemented through the Santa Catalina Island Local Coastal Program. Biological resource management in the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone is currently implemented through the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program.

* The SEAs within cities are shown for reference and visual continuity, and are intended for informational purposes only.

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Source: Department of Regional Planning, February 2015

NOTE: Islands are not shown in their true locations.