

Encino Neighborhood Council
Proposed Community Impact Statement
[Council File 14-0518](#)

The Encino Neighborhood Council supports the Draft Wildlife Ordinance (the Ordinance) along with the amendments proposed by Council Districts 4 and 5 (Councilpersons Nithya Raman and Katy Yaroslavsky and also thanks them for these significant amendments). The policies contained in the Ordinance incorporating said amendments are many years overdue. For example, none of the movers or seconders of the motion in 2014 are still in office, one has unfortunately passed away. The Encino Neighborhood Council (ENC) has twice endorsed this proposal, first on June 25, 2014 (fyi - 9 years ago with) and again on November 30, 2022. The ENC's endorsement in 2022 was to "support if amended" to replace some of the environmental protection features which had been removed. Those requested features do not appear to have been entirely restored. Nonetheless, the ENC supports approval of the Ordinance by the entire Los Angeles City Council and rapid expansion of its provisions city-wide with appropriate regional modifications.

The point of this is everyone - folks both in favor and opposed to the Ordinance must accept some compromises. While the Ordinance is not exactly what environmentalists and thousands of citizens have requested, the neglect of our foothill environment has gone on way too long with continuing and irreversible environmental damage.

The Ordinance will help wildlife survive in our Santa Monica Mountains through carefully crafted development standards that protect both wildlife and property interests. There are thousands of species of plants and animals that make their home in the Santa Monica Mountains and all foothill areas. Some species can only be found in this area - we are one of few Mediterranean climate zones with additional unique characteristics. Species are at risk of extinction, such as our local population of mountain lions. All of them are disturbed by sprawling and environmentally irresponsible development. This ordinance will ensure that our local flora and fauna maintain access to the connected habitat they need in order to thrive.

Uncontained and unregulated development in very high fire hazard severity zones has increased the frequency and risk of fires. Establishing reasonable rules for landscape and building features will mitigate the impact of fires on wildlife, vegetation and humans alike. Further it may help contain the cost of fire prevention and protection, which is a burden borne by all Angelenos, not only those residing in foothill areas.

Protecting native landscapes is a vital part of reaching L.A.'s goals regarding climate change resilience and water preservation. The Ordinance will help protect the water we drink every day, and the air our children breathe and leave a future of biodiversity. We encourage the swift adoption of the Ordinance with CD 4 and CD 5 amendments, and further ask that it be expanded to sensitive foothill habitat throughout the entire City of Los Angeles including our own Encino area (just on the other side of the 405 freeway).