

Attachment "C"

BABCNC
30x30 DRAFT letter
August 25, 2024

Dear Councilmembers,

We appreciate Councilmember Hutt's motion to reactivate this Council File. Protecting open space provides environmental protection, climate change mitigation, recreational opportunities and community resilience, among other benefits, and protecting the City's open space will yield benefits now and for future generations.

Protecting 30% of the City's open space presents a challenging problem. We offer the following suggestions on how to proceed with implementation:

1. Map the lands that meet the definition of "preserved open space" per 30x30 guidelines.
2. Determine how much land/water should be preserved in order to meet 30x30 goals.
3. Collaborate with SMMC, MRCA, Baldwin Hills and Urban Watershed Conservancy, San Gabriel, Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and Coastal Conservancy to create a comprehensive Master Plan for Open Space Acquisition in the City of Los Angeles.
4. Inventory all existing funding sources. Explore how to use existing funding including QUIMBY and Prop K funds. If obstacles for using these funds are identified, appropriate ordinance modifications should be approved by the City Council. List of funding sources should be made available to environmental organizations, other government bodies and to City employees.
5. Explore creating an ordinance that would provide reasonable incentives to developers in exchange for funding for open space acquisition projects and/or dedication of open space to conservation organizations, etc.
6. Explore adoption of ordinance that imposes mitigation fees when environmentally sensitive parcels are being impacted in addition to on-site mitigation (e.g. tree replacements).
7. Consider participating in California Department of Fish and Wildlife ("CDFW") programs such as Regional Conservation Investment Strategies, Mitigation Credit Agreements, etc. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Regional-Conservation>.
8. When adopting Community Plans, identify and designate "desirable open space." City should also include strategies to preserve said open space (besides just let someone else do it).
9. Rezone land acquired by conservation organizations and other environmental non-profits to "Open Space."
10. Rezone City-owned vacant lots with environmental value to "Open Space."
11. As part of the Open Space Element update, establish concrete goals for achieving preservation of 30 percent of City land/water
12. Consider acquiring land through eminent domain in appropriate circumstances for acquiring vacant land with high environmental value.