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**Sustainability Committee  
MEETING AGENDA  
Monday, December 12, 2022  
7:00 PM**

**Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone**

<https://zoom.us/j/98507165481>

**Meeting ID: 985 0716 5481 and Press #**

**Or dial 669-900-6833 to Join the Meeting  
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[studiocitync.org](http://studiocitync.org)



*Committee Members: Adele Slaughter (Boardmember Resident/Business Owner, Chair), Alexander Black, (Resident), Chris Trent (Resident), Susan Schalbe (Stakeholder), Jesse Sandford (Resident), Chip Meehan (Boardmember, Business Owner/Resident), Melanie Winter, (Business Owner/Resident), Tony Knight (Resident), Andrew Epstein, (Business Owner/Resident), Scott Mandell (Board Member & President, ex-officio)*

- 1) Call to Order & Roll Call (1 min)
- 2) Announcements by Government Representatives or guests (5 min.)
- 3) Public comment within the committees jurisdiction on items not on agenda

4) Motion: on Zoo Alternative 1.5. Currently the only option available for comment is Alternative 1.5. In earlier discussions Alternative 1 was and remains superior to any other proposed alternatives, however, 1.5 is what the city is asking the community to comment on at this time.

**WHEREAS**, the project refers to development of 16.5 undeveloped mature California woodland and chaparral acres for new development located in the eastern portion of Griffith Park, which is a watershed and home to a number of threatened and rare species and provides habitat for a wide range of native vegetation and wildlife, including mountain lion.

**WHEREAS**, older woodlands and chaparral provide the most above ground carbon potential on Earth, with mature and woodlands and older trees driving most accumulation of carbon in the critical next few decades. Left vulnerable to development, though, they cannot fulfill these vital functions

**WHEREAS**, The California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) defined thresholds are to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 2020 to 1990 levels, with a further 80 percent CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by 2050. That means every ton of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted back into the atmosphere by older woodlands and chaparral conversion, plus the loss of future increases in tree carbon sequestration, represents a measurable potential adverse environmental effect.

**WHEREAS**, CDFW is California's Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State [Fish & Game Code, §§ 711.7, subdivision (a) & 1802; Public Resources Code, § 21070; California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, § 15386, subdivision (a)]. CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (Id., § 1802). Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW is charged by law to provide, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect State fish and wildlife resources.

**WHEREAS**, the Zoo has failed to adequately respond to many deficiencies in the Focused Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), including deficiencies found by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and now erroneously proposes to move forward by requesting comments be limited to the chapters included in the current focused FREIR.

**WHEREAS**, the CDFW finds evidence that adverse impacts of the California Area expansion will be significant.

**WHEREAS**, the CDFW finds removing the coast live oak plant community found in the project area may increase sediment, debris, and pollutant input into streams; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDFW is concerned that the Project would result in erosion and pollutants that could affect the quality of the Los Angeles River, streams in the canyons and open space surrounding the L.A. Zoo, and will likely adversely impact an ephemeral drainage located at the bottom of the existing canyon.

**WHEREAS**, the CDFW finds the Project may result in loss of riparian habitat.

**WHEREAS**, the CDFW finds it unlikely that there is ample land available to mitigate the loss of area affected at the proper mitigation rate of 5:1 by area affected under CEQA protocols and 4:1 tree replacement under the City's Protected Tree Ordinance.

**WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles Audubon Society finds that it is not appropriate to blast a canyon through a ridgeline in the Santa Monica Mountains for a condor display in the name of conservation, particularly when the captive breeding of Condors in the back-of-the-house areas at the L.A. Zoo has been successful for over 30-years.

**WHEREAS**, "moving" wildlife out of the path of immediate harm as proposed in the FEIR is not a mitigation measure because any suitable destination site would likely already be occupied. Absent appropriate mitigation wildlife will die; and

**WHEREAS**, the survival and well-being of the City's residents depends directly on ecosystem services, including oxygen generation, water purification, topsoil creation, biodegradation, and waste removal. These and many other services are built directly from an integrated community of natural biodiversity. Biodiverse landscapes provide benefits to residents such as increased productivity, fewer sick days, greater sense of place and community, and a shared sense of place.

**WHEREAS**, the Earth faces a global extinction crisis never before witnessed by humankind, with scientists predicting that more than 1 million species are in extreme danger of extinction in the coming decades; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a recent article in The New York Times, California has the most imperiled biodiversity of any state in the contiguous United States; and

**WHEREAS**, watershed and wildlands are important carbon sinks that can help moderate the impacts of climate change by absorbing more carbon from the atmosphere than they release, and are linked to increased precipitation and water availability; and

**WHEREAS**, wildlands and watersheds serve an essential role in preserving natural resources and wildlife habitats, protecting clean water and clean air, and providing access to nature and an essential connection-for people of all ages and abilities to the life-enhancing benefits of nature and the outdoors; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has been working to address climate change and improve its relationship to the natural world, by protecting and enhancing its biodiversity through the creation of its Biodiversity City Index and wildlife corridors; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Newsom have launched initiatives to protect 30% of natural areas by 2030 as recommended by scientists to better protect against these possible mass extinctions; and

**WHEREAS**, the protection of the 16.5 acres of wildland would help meet Governor Newsom's vital 30x30 goals and complement the City's biodiversity protection and wildlife habitat connectivity initiatives; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the SCNC and cannot support Alternative 1.5 in its current form and is **AGAINST** Alternative 1.5.

This is to be submitted as a CIS to City Council File: 21-0828  
<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=21-0828>

Link to Audubon CIS: [https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0828\\_PC\\_PM\\_10-18-2022.pdf](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0828_PC_PM_10-18-2022.pdf)

Link to Los Feliz CIS: [https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0828\\_CIS\\_09282022105249\\_09-28-2022.pdf](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0828_CIS_09282022105249_09-28-2022.pdf)

Link to Atwater Village CIS: [https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0828\\_CIS\\_09242022073545\\_09-24-2022.pdf](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0828_CIS_09242022073545_09-24-2022.pdf)

Link to Pico Union CIS: [https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0828\\_CIS\\_08052022115203\\_08-05-2022.pdf](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0828_CIS_08052022115203_08-05-2022.pdf)

5) Discussion: SCNC and SCBA work hand in hand with State officials to beautify freeway on and offramps and medians that have been neglected for years.

A Caltrans program is in place where drought tolerant plants and hardscape are being installed to both beautify, save water and prevent the homeless from living on the freeways. (Andrew Epstein)

Here is a link to an [NBC4 story](https://www.nbclosangeles.com/investigations/la-freeways-homeless-encampments-trash/2974343/) about this program.  
<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/investigations/la-freeways-homeless-encampments-trash/2974343/>

6. Discussion of the concerns with installing Artificial Turf in Los Angeles (Chip Meehan and Alexander Black)

- 1) recap of 12/8 Harvard Westlake River Park Ad Hoc meeting; research for HW project has substantiated our earlier concerns and created urgency to take action
- 2) develop "how to" document to show institutions how to get their existing and prospective turf tested
- 3) action steps to secure moratorium while testing of turf is completed contacting
  - (1)Harvard Westlake
  - (2)Campbell Hall
  - (3)Notre Dame
  - (4)LAUSD
- 4) Send notice re: Artificial Turf to council of sustainability committees
  - i) develop advocates with:
    - (1)CD 2
    - (2)CD 4

- (3)County Supervisor
- (4)State Senator
- (5)State Assembly
- (6)Mayor's office
- (7)City Planning

5) Develop relevant organizations and links for inclusion on the sustainability committee web page

6) Family Community Service volunteer days-one Saturday morning per quarter

i) Co-branded with Tree People

ii) need outreach to local schools (need definition of work anticipated to assess age appropriate volunteer pool-appropriate age TBD)

iii) First may be January 7, to catch kids before they go back to school. If too soon, we can regroup and reschedule.

7) Final comments by Committee members—

Report by Chair on Projects that effect sustainability issues in Studio City

8) Adjournment (1 min)

**Studio City Neighborhood Council Committee Meeting Agendas are posted for public review on the SCNC website at [studiocitync.org](http://studiocitync.org) and at the Radford Studio Center gate on Colfax Avenue, as well as, at the gate on Radford Avenue.**

**VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

In conformity with the September 16, 2021 enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to the concerns over Covid-19, the Studio City Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted entirely with a call-in option or internet-based service option.

Every person wishing to address the Neighborhood Council must dial 669-900-6833, and enter the meeting ID, followed by pressing # to join the meeting. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting. Press \*6 to mute and unmute and \*9 to raise and lower your hand.

**PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS** – The public is requested to dial \*6, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board. Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

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**NOTICE TO PAID REPRESENTATIVES** – If you are compensated to monitor, attend or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

**PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS** – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5 [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying), non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting, currently [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying), cannot be viewed at 4024 Radford Ave. Editorial Bldg. 2, Room 6. Studio City, CA 91604; but can be viewed at our website: [www.studiocitync.org](http://www.studiocitync.org) or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Scott Mandell via email. [smandell@studiocitync.org](mailto:smandell@studiocitync.org)

**PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS** – Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

1. Radford Studio Center outside the Radford and Colfax gates.
2. <http://www.studiocitync.org>
3. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at [Subscribe to Other Meetings, Agendas, and Documents | City of Los Angeles](#)