

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Southern California mountain lions face an increasingly difficult and uncertain future; and

WHEREAS, rodenticides, freeways, wildfires, inbreeding and unquelled development are all contributing to the untimely deaths of these apex predators; and

WHEREAS, apex predators are essential to the functioning of a healthy ecosystem by keeping prey numbers in check, weeding out slow, weak and dying animals and thereby increasing the overall health of a population, and moving herds around which keeps them from devastating any one area; and

WHEREAS, functioning and healthy ecosystems are essential to the continued health and well-being of Angelenos and human beings around the world; and

WHEREAS, the City has, through adoption of its biodiversity program, its wildlife habitat connectivity project, and other initiatives prioritized protection of mountain lions and other flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, new research was published in the journal, *Ecological Applications*, suggesting there is an almost one-in-four chance that mountain lions could become extinct in the Santa Monica and Santa Ana mountains; and

WHEREAS, mountain lions living in the Santa Monica and Santa Ana ranges are in genetic peril, unable to range freely and mate due to freeways and lethal traffic; and

WHEREAS, P-56, one of only two remaining two male mountain lions in the Santa Monica mountains, was murdered under a misguided state law allowing property owners who have lost animals to lions to receive a depredation permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the executive director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has proposed that the State create an indemnity fund to reimburse any affected individual who loses an animal to a lion rather than allowing the killing of any more mountain lions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT or SPONSORSHIP of legislation and/or administrative action to amend the state law and end the issuance of depredation permits for mountain lions and establish an indemnity fund to reimburse any affected individual who loses an animal to a mountain lion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City support legislative or executive action to support the listing of the Southern California/ Central Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) of Mountain Lions as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.

PRESENTED BY: 
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District


DAVID E. RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: 


ORIGINAL

FEB 11 2020