

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Sylmar Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea (16), Nay (1), Abstain (), Ineligible (), Recusal ()

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Type of NC Board Action: For

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Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: #19-0307

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

We support Council File #19-0307 as written, which requests timely multi-jurisdictional status reporting on critical safety measures along the Pacoima Wash. To summarize those requests, the report should include: 1) the status and enforcement of trespassing laws and efforts to strengthen enforcement capabilities; 2) responsibilities and funding for installing and maintaining fencing and other safety infrastructure related to deterring trespassing and; 3) the status of City infrastructure located throughout Pacoima Wash and an assessment of any necessary repairs or improvements required to address damage caused by trespassing in the Wash.

Further, we support the request in Council File #19-0307 that the Bureau of Sanitation and the City Administrative Officer be instructed to identify and report on available funding sources to address safety issues in the Pacoima Wash, including an analysis of the feasibility of utilizing Measure W funds.

MOTION PUBLIC WORKS & GANG REDUCTIO

The Pacoima Wash (Wash) is a tributary of both the Tujunga Wash and the Los Angeles River. The Wash enters the City of Los Angeles in Sylmar and continues south through the City of San Fernando and into the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Pacoima and Arleta. The ease of obtaining unauthorized access to Pacoima Wash is well documented and poses ongoing public safety, infrastructure, and water quality concerns. Currently, inadequate fencing serves as the only barrier between the public and the Wash, with its flood control channels.

Unsecured access points along the Wash, especially at both Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Foothill Boulevard have led to a series of increasing problems in Council District 7, such as trespassing, illicit activity, water quality concerns, illegal dumping, homeless encampments, and harm to City infrastructure. Despite frequent warnings during recent rainstorms, people often trespass into the Wash leading to life threatening situations. Recently, the Los Angeles Fire Department rescued two people from Pacoima Wash who entered near Foothill Boulevard. Beyond the immediate safety threat, trespassers gain full access to the Wash creating water quality concerns and in some situations, threatening City owned infrastructure.


These problems are representative of the issues present throughout Pacoima Wash. Despite the pervasiveness of these problems, identifying a comprehensive long-term solution to improve the safety and security of these areas, and enforcing trespassing laws has proved challenging as Pacoima Wash crosses numerous jurisdictions. Any solution will require the cooperation and coordination of multiple governmental entities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation, with the assistance of the Bureaus of Engineering and Street Services and all other relevant City Departments, with the cooperation of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the City of San Fernando, and the California Department of Transportation be instructed to report on the following:

1. Current responsibilities for and efforts to enforce trespassing laws through Pacoima Wash and recommendations for coordinating and strengthening enforcement capabilities and efforts within Pacoima Wash;
2. The status of existing fencing and other safety infrastructure intended to deter trespassers, as well as details regarding the agencies or entities responsible for the installation and maintenance of such infrastructure. The report should include recommendations to implement a multi-jurisdictional effort to fund, install, and maintain fencing needed to keep the public out of the flood control channels; and
3. The status of City infrastructure located throughout Pacoima Wash and an assessment of any necessary repairs or improvements required to address damage caused by trespassing in the Wash.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation and the City Administrative Officer be instructed to identify and report on available funding sources to address these issues, including an analysis of the feasibility of utilizing Measure W funds.

PRESENTED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:

