

MOTION PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

The Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan (MSPSP) was adopted in 1992 to preserve the existing ecological balance and protect prominent ridges, streams, and environmentally sensitive areas, among other goals. The MSPSP established a Design Review Board (DRB) made up of seven appointed members including an appointee chosen by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The DRB is a diverse body with representation from architects, engineers, geologists, and area residents who provide a strong familiarity with this geography and community.

The MSPSP provides a set of environmental protection measures, grading limits, and building standards that are imposed on projects. It also establishes a “design review process” overseen by the DRB to implement over 90 rigorous guidelines that ensure all proposed projects minimize harm to the ecological balance of the Santa Monica Mountains, maintain compatibility with the community, and do not obstruct the views from Mulholland Drive.

On March 30, 2021, the Director of Planning released a memorandum to supersede the 1998 Director of Planning’s memorandum and to reinterpret the Project Permit Compliance and Design Review Procedures for Visible and Non-Visible Projects in the MSPSP by removing non-visible projects from the purview of the DRB. Long-standing practice in the City has been to require virtually all new projects in the area to be subject to the provisions of the MSPSP and reviewed by the DRB (C.F. 98-1384).

This reinterpretation of the MSPSP may reduce the City’s ability to protect our Wildland Urban Interface and manage our threatened natural resources, especially as the City’s wildlife corridor and ridgeline protection policies have yet to be adopted. The City must continue to move towards achieving the principles of natural community conservation planning to effectively protect and conserve our ecology, while continuing to allow appropriate development and growth.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Planning Department report back within 90 days on how the Specific Plan—particularly provisions C, G, H, I, K, and L—is in substantial conformance with the intent to manage development in environmentally sensitive areas in the absence of DRB review for all projects, visible and non-visible.

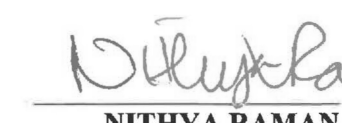
I FURTHER MOVE that the Planning Department report back within 90 days with an update on existing and future natural community conservation efforts such as the Wildlife Pilot Study, Ridgeline Protection Ordinance, and Hillside Construction Regulations, and with recommended strategies to introduce for Citywide implementation; and

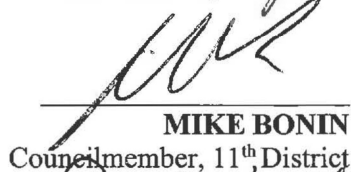
I FURTHER MOVE that the Planning Department report back within 90 days with an analysis that:

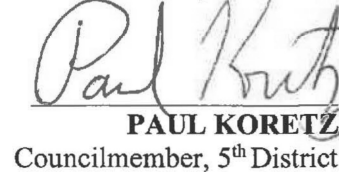
- Assesses and identifies parcels of land that are appropriate for conservation as determined by trustee agencies such as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy;
- Identifies fully protected species—as well as candidate, sensitive, or species of special status as determined by state or federal agencies—within these parcels; and
- Recommends additional measures required to comprehensively conserve and manage the City’s natural biological diversity and encourage compatible and appropriate growth and development within these parcels.

PRESENTED BY:

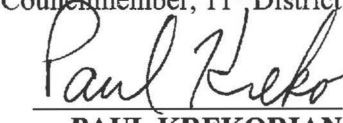

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