

## RESOLUTION

**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 agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's California Performance Review ("CPR") seeks to eliminate the Baldwin Hills Conservancy ("Conservancy"), removing state-level majority participation on the governing board of the Conservancy, eliminating state environmental license plate funds and bond funds to support the Conservancy, and relegating the Conservancy to a local joint power authority status; and

**WHEREAS**, the Baldwin Hills, which are surrounded by the City of Los Angeles, the City of Inglewood, and Culver City, is one of the last vast open spaces in Los Angeles and contains unique and important cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, and scenic resources that are easily accessible to millions of people, with stunning views of the Los Angeles basin, the Pacific Ocean and surrounding mountains; and

**WHEREAS**, the Baldwin Hills offer a unique opportunity within an urban community that is park poor to create a world-class park and natural space for all the people of California to enjoy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy is charged with acquiring open space and managing public lands within the Baldwin Hills area, providing recreation, and restoring and protecting wildlife habitat for the public's enjoyment and educational experience; and

**WHEREAS**, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy is implementing the community-based Master Plan for the Baldwin Hills Park to provide much-needed recreational, community, and cultural facilities, habitat restoration, recreation-related economic development, and educational opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, a remarkably diverse coalition of community and neighborhood stakeholders, environmental, environmental justice, civil rights advocates, and civic leaders came together to stop a state proposal to build a power plant in the park in 2001 and stop a proposal to build a waste transfer station in the park in 2003, sending a powerful message that these underserved areas need public goods, not projects that degrade the community's quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the CPR recommendations pose a substantial threat to the community and the park in the Baldwin Hills, a two-square mile area that is slated to become the nation's biggest planned natural urban park in over 100 years, bigger than Golden Gate Park and Central Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles region is park poor, and there are unfair disparities in access to parks and other open space benefits based on race, ethnicity, income, access to a car, and other factors; and

**WHEREAS**, the CPR recommendations undermine important values, including the need for open space for recreation and physical activity, human health, the environment, crime reduction, economic vitality, and equal justice; and

**WHEREAS**, the CPR recommendations are inconsistent with federal and state civil rights law, which prohibit intentional discrimination based on race, color or national origin, and unjustified discriminatory impacts for which there are less discriminatory alternatives, by applicants for or recipients of state or federal funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the CPR recommendations are inconsistent with state environmental justice law, which defines environmental justice as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of

**WHEREAS**, the CPR recommendations would undermine the intent of the voters who approved Proposition 40, which provides \$40 million for the Baldwin Hills Conservancy and passed with the overwhelming support of communities of color and low-income communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the CPR threatens to eliminate the Baldwin Hills Conservancy in the historic heart of Los Angeles' African-American community to save money, while the Governor has simultaneously signed legislation creating a new conservancy to serve counties in the Sierra Nevada region that could cost the state up to \$10 million a year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's own press release regarding the new Sierra Nevada Conservancy touts that the new Conservancy will promote resource conservation and economic benefits in the counties within the Sierra Nevada region, while California Resources Agency Secretary Mike Chrisman states that people living within the borders of the new Conservancy will be able to protect the environment in which they live while influencing the prosperity of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, all communities are entitled to a fair share of the benefits of conservancies and natural lands and state officials cannot justifiably provide these benefits to some communities, while taking them away from the diverse communities of the Baldwin Hills; and

**WHEREAS**, the CPR recommendations will have a disproportionate negative impact on the communities of color surrounding the Baldwin Hills area, and perpetuate a history and pattern of discriminatory land use planning and policies; and

**WHEREAS**, existing law provides that the Baldwin Hills Conservancy will remain in effect until January 1, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, introduced on February 18, 2005, AB 856 (Bass) would extend the repeal date for the conservancy to January 1, 2011;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles joins a growing coalition of community-based, social justice, and conservation organization in expressing its **OPPOSITION** to RES 12 of the California Performance Review and the recommendation to eliminate the Baldwin Hills Conservancy; and **SUPPORT** for AB 856 (Bass) which would extend the repeal date for the Baldwin Hills Conservancy to January 1, 2011.