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October 3, 2017

VIA E-MAIL AND U.S.P.S.

Dr. Jan Green Rebstock
City of Los Angeles, Public Works
Bureau of Engineering, EMG
1149 S. Broadway, 6th Floor, MS 939
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Re: Citywide Cat Program

Dear Dr. Rebstock:

The Notice of Preparation states that the key components of the proposed Cat Program include:

- Engaging in or providing funding for the spaying or neutering of free-roaming cats (feral or stray) to be returned where they are found.
- Use of City facilities to provide educational programming on any animal related topic, including free-roaming cats.
- Implementation of a Modified Trap, Neuter, Return ("Modified TNR") program, which includes establishing collaborative relationships with organizations engaged in TNR, utilizing Animal Services Centers for public outreach and training, guidance on how to address resident complaints regarding free-roaming cats, and waiving cat trap rental fees.
- Adopting changes to the City administrative and municipal codes related to accessing funds from the City's Animal Sterilization Fund to spay/neuter free-roaming cats; and allow an an increase in the currently permitted number of cats per household from three to five with certain restrictions.

We have been addressing quality of life issues for the 33,000 residents of the Del Rey neighborhood of Los Angeles since 1972, and in our experience, the scope and content of the environmental analysis must include the following:

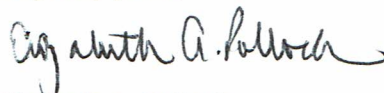
1. Any cat that roams has an impact on the environment, regardless of whether the cat is owned or feral. The impact of roaming cats on the City's populations of birds, rodents, reptiles and insects must be studied. We would advocate enacting a no roaming ordinance throughout the City. In no event do we want free-roaming feral cats to be returned to our neighborhood after they have been trapped and neutered.
2. The impact of roaming cats on public health must also be considered. Cats transmit diseases through their feces (toxoplasmosis), the fleas that bite them (flea-borne typhus), their bites and scratches (cat scratch fever and, in some cases, rabies). Many of our

residents have expressed their dismay to us about finding cat feces in their gardens, having flea infestations caused by cats they do not own, suffering allergic reactions because they cannot keep cats off of their property.

3. Any feeding of unowned cats, whether to attract them into a trap or to maintain them once they have been returned to a neighborhood is completely unacceptable to us. In our neighborhood, a feeder was leaving food in the drain to Ballona Creek, which allowed for the cat urine and feces to wash directly into the creek. Residents have incurred property damage when food left out for cats attracted rats, opossums, skunks and raccoons that in turn damaged roofs, fences and landscaping. Again, the impact of allowing cats to roam must be studied.
4. In addition, unless every single cat that is being fed already has been spayed or neutered, feeding the cats just makes them better able to procreate. We have seen population explosions occur, creating a completely uncontrolled cat colony on a residential street in less than six months. If residents have no way to trap such cats and remove them from the neighborhood permanently, the residents will be at the mercy of the cat feeder, who cannot be compelled to sterilize the animals being fed.
5. We oppose any increase in the cat limit and would encourage the City to enact a licensing and microchipping requirement for cats. As stated above, each cat in the City has an impact on the environment, and neighbors need to have some kind of recourse if they see that a cat rescuer is harboring more than three cats in his/her house or apartment. Currently, if an animal services officer responds to a neighbor's complaint, the harboring person just needs to hide the cats during the time the inspector is expected to visit. With mandatory licensing and microchipping, it would be easier to monitor how many cats there are in the City and how many of them actually have been spayed or neutered.
6. If an ordinance is written to implement the Cat Program, it must include clear definitions that make it possible to identify which cats are owned, stray, abandoned or feral, i.e., who is responsible for the welfare of each cat that comes into the Animal Services shelter. In our opinion, there is no such thing as a "community cat" because the "community" has not agreed to take responsibility for the cats that roam our streets.

Our bottom line is that we need to be able to take an unwanted cat to the animal shelter and know that the cat is not going to be returned to the neighborhood unless it is a pet that is neutered, microchipped and licensed to a particular person who will take responsibility for the animal and not let it roam. Our board of directors reviewed and approved this letter at our board meeting on Monday, October 2, 2017.

Very truly yours,



Elizabeth A. Pollock
President