



CITIZENS FOR
LOS ANGELES
WILDLIFE

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January 20, 2021

Alan Como, AICP
Los Angeles City Planning Department
221 North Figueroa St, Room 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Via Email

Notice of Preparation Comments – ENV-2019-4565-EIR, The Berggruen Institute (“Project”)

Dear Mr. Como:

Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) is a non-profit environmental organization concerned with the wellbeing of wildlife and wildlife habitat for the City of Los Angeles and beyond. A citizenry of more than 5,000 individuals support our organization’s multiple calls for biodiverse practices and policy to benefit LA City, County, California and the globe. Our wildlife is negatively affected by any project that would brazenly upzone and change established low-density land use into commercial use in one of the most biodiverse regions of our city, which is exactly what The Berggruen Institute is attempting to do. Please accept the following comments to be considered within the environmental analysis for this Project.

The Project significantly reduces the width of wildlife travel routes from the Big Wild open space to the tenuous Bel Air Crest Road and Sepulveda Boulevard undercrossings at the 405 Freeway. The poorly defined improvements to the Project’s main access road will bisect thousands of feet of habitat. Extensive details regarding the proposed road and road lighting are needed to properly evaluate its adverse impacts. The road must be designed to provide ample undercrossings for reptiles and smaller mammals. It must also have no-lighting sections in biologist-determined locations to facilitate frequent wildlife crossing. Such no-lighting sections must work with the terrain, road safety, and support elements. It is essential that all of these details be included in the DEIR.

CLAW also requests that the DEIR includes at least one fully studied Project Alternative that provides for a low-density residential project that does not utilize an improved, impervious two-mile-long roadway bisecting MRCA’s conservation easement.

Sincerely,

Tony Tucci, Chair

CLAW is a public benefit non-profit 501(c)(3) environmental organization that works to protect and restore the environments of wildlife of Los Angeles and California from dwindling open spaces. Our mission is to promote, educate and protect the fundamental importance of wildlife, wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors everywhere.