

June 1, 2015

VIA EMAIL



**Mar Vista
Community Council**

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Officers 2014-2015

Chair

Bill Koontz
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Mitchell Rishe
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Secretary

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**Board of Directors
2014-2015**

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Zone 2

Brad Wilhite

Zone 3

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Robin Doyno

Sherri Akers

Yvette Molinaro

Mitchell Rishe

Melissa Stoller

Bill Scheduling

Community Director

John Kuchta



TO: Marcie Edwards, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Marcie.Edwards@ladwp.com

Los Angeles Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners,
rap.commissioners@lacity.org

The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell, Councilmember, 8th District of City of Los Angeles
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The Honorable Tom LaBonge, Councilmember, 4th District of City of Los Angeles
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The Honorable Joe Buscaino, Councilmember, 15th District of City of Los Angeles
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The Honorable Curren Price, Councilmember, 9th District of City of Los Angeles
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The Honorable Gilbert Cedillo, Councilmember, 1st District of City of Los Angeles
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The Honorable Mike Bonin, Councilmember, 11th District of City of Los Angeles
mike.bonin@lacity.org

The Honorable Paul Koretz, Councilmember, 5th District of City of Los Angeles
paul.koretz@lacity.org

Re: Sustainable Landscaping at LADWP and City Facilities

At its February 10, 2015 meeting, the Mar Vista Community Council unanimously passed the following policy motion:

The Mar Vista Community Council notes that the lawn at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) facility at the intersection of Venice and McLaughlin has been replaced with artificial turf, non-native plants and without any grading for rainwater capture. As recent news coverage of L.A. rains showed, one inch of rain generates 8 billion gallons of runoff in the City. This urban runoff is the #1 source of ocean pollution, and could be a valuable source of irrigation, groundwater recharge, and enhancing stream flows. Also, landscapes with living soil can help sequester carbon (http://e360.yale.edu/feature/soil_as_carbon_storehouse_new_weapon_in_climate_fight/2744/). Artificial turf compacts and kills soil microbiology, generating runoff and providing no carbon sequestering benefit. It also creates rather than mitigates the heat island effect caused by the changing climate. LADWP's own turf replacement rebate (https://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/faces/ladwp/aboutus/a-water/a-w-conservation/a-w-c-landscap?_adf.ctrl-state=qhcmd28t2_4&_afLoop=1033234959869636) "encourages" use of "California Friendly© plants, mulch, and permeable pathways," though does not require grading for rainwater capture as well as use of climate-appropriate plants, mulch and efficient irrigation. Native plants provide a much needed habitat for local birds, pollinators and wildlife which should be encouraged.

The Mar Vista Community Council requests that as lawns are replaced at LADWP facilities, and all other LA City facilities, they be required to retrofit following the watershed approach. The watershed approach:

- Uses rainwater as a source of irrigation;
- Creates permeable, living soil using natural woodchip mulch or leaf litter, and permeable hardscaping;
- Utilizes climate-appropriate plants and drip irrigation.

While the City is urging homeowners and businesses to replace turf lawn with sustainable alternatives, it is imperative that the LADWP and the City of Los Angeles utilize this opportunity to set an example by re-landscaping to conserve and capture water while creating a habitat that fosters the pollinators needed to support our ecosystem. Such landscaping will serve to promote environmental awareness and responsible landscaping choices by others in a highly visible setting and will ultimately save the city money in water usage, maintenance, and prevention of storm water runoff fines.

We stand ready to provide contacts and resource information as needed for assistance.

The Mar Vista Community Council wishes to thank LADWP and Councilmember Mike Bonin for their efforts to replace the artificial turf at Distribution Station 59 with sustainable landscaping. We ask that you consider this request when replacing turf lawns at other facilities.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Koontz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and the last name "Koontz" clearly distinguishable.

Bill Koontz, Chair
Mar Vista Community Council