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Website: <http://cd5.lacity.org>

Email: Paul.Koretz@lacity.org



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, Fifth District

City Hall Office:
200 N. Spring Street
Room 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 473-7005
(213) 978-2250 Fax

Valley Office:
15760 Ventura Blvd.
Suite 600
Encino, CA 91436
(818) 971-3088
(818) 788-9210 Fax

West L.A. Office:
6380 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90048
(323) 866-1828
(323) 852-1129 Fax

Urban Wildlife Biologist/Ecologist Position

Role

The City of Los Angeles is creating a cross-disciplinary Wildlife Protection Ordinance that aims to balance development regulations with protections for the flora, fauna, and other natural resources that make the Santa Monica Mountains and the Angeles National Forest unique features in our urban landscape. The role of the Urban Wildlife Biologist/Ecologist is to bring science-based technical expertise to inform and shape the creation of this new ordinance, and as such, the position calls for an individual who can work with urban planners and guide the development of the program. While the position resides in the City Planning Department, there may be instances where he/she will collaborate with LA Sanitation's Biodiversity Team, as well as the City's Biodiversity Expert Council and Stakeholder Team, and other stakeholders to ensure that the ordinance's policies and procedures result in natural resource protection and enhancement. More specifically, the Urban Wildlife Biologist/Ecologist will perform environmental analyses, research, and surveys, and provide recommendations to protect and enhance natural resources and wildlife within a pilot area in the Santa Monica Mountains and subsequently may expand to a larger project area including the Rim of the Valley. The major goal of the position is to develop adaptable regulations that govern development within the hillsides to protect habitat connectivity, protect habitat quality, and prevent potential injury and death of wildlife through design and development mitigation/requirements.

Responsibilities

1. Analyze and designate areas as sensitive habitat in collaboration with other Department of City Planning staff through data collection and visualization using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and field study from both the larger geographic context of habitat hubs and parcel specific biological resources to best preserve and enhance habitat connectivity.
2. Review project plans to ensure best practices to conserve ecology, and biodiversity of native flora, fauna, and wildlife habitat.
3. Review third party submitted environmental reports to verify and corroborate analysis (i.e. wildlife survey reports, biological resources reports for compliance with CEQA/NEPA, biological assessments, wildlife management plans, nesting bird surveys, special-status species surveys, construction monitoring, soil reports, and tree reports).
4. Draft ordinances, regulations, or proposed techniques for the control of conditions, land uses or development adversely affecting plant and animal species or public health.
5. Provide mitigation strategies for development projects within significant habitat through

site-specific field surveys and research to inform the discretionary project review process.

6. Recommend standards for ministerial development project compliance to minimize the threat to wildlife and significant habitat.
7. Assist in the development of recommendations for expanded tree protection and education beyond the existing City of Los Angeles Protected Trees Ordinance.
8. Manage vegetation and habitat inventories and monitoring programs related to the management of habitat and water resources.
9. Study local habitat and water resources to provide technical guidance and assistance in the preparation of environmental impact reports and other environmental reports regarding habitat and water resources on development projects.
10. Make public presentations on natural resources within the Santa Monica Mountains and greater Los Angeles and assist in providing technical support for community outreach and education, legislative hearings, and legal hearings, if necessary.

Education

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a degree in Conservation Biology, Wildlife Biology, Landscape Ecology, Terrestrial Ecology, Urban Ecology, Environmental Planning, or similar. A master's degree is preferred, but not required.

Qualifications & Experience

- Preference for expertise and field experience in local ecology of the Los Angeles Santa Monica Mountains, and the Angeles National Forest watersheds and ecosystems.
- Knowledge and experience working with wildlife conservation in an urban context, and at both fine (individual homes or parcels) and broad regional spatial scales.
- Experience working within cross-disciplinary project contexts, including comprehensive land use planning, land development, landscape architecture, or engineering projects. Ability to review and understand land planning and site design project documents including site plans, land use maps, remote sensing data.
- Experience or understanding of GIS spatial tools and analysis with respect to natural resources and vegetation preferred.
- Familiarity with watershed management practices including but not limited to riparian, stream and wetland conditions, and plant and animal ecology.
- Knowledge of habitat connectivity and landcover models such as Fragstats, Circuitscape, HERCULES, or similar is a plus.
- Knowledge and/or project experience addressing the California Environmental Quality Act and associated wildlife impact assessments, or similar wildlife protection policies.

Salary & Hours

- \$75,000 - \$100,000 D.O.E.
- The City of Los Angeles offers a generous and competitive benefits package.

- Full Time 40 hours per week.
- 9 months (from the date of hire) with the possibility of continuing exempt-status employment with the Department of City Planning.
- Please note that the position will be housed in Downtown Los Angeles.

How to Apply

Qualified applicants should send a cover letter and resume to paul.koretz@lacity.org. Please use "Urban Wildlife Biologist/Ecologist Position" in the subject of your email.

Application Deadline

The deadline for receiving applications is 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, **August 17, 2019**.

This is an exempt, at-will position. The individual appointed to this position will not accrue any civil service tenure, contractual employment rights, or due process rights. The incumbent may be removed without any finding of cause by the hiring authority.

The City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, creed, color, ancestry, medical condition (cancer), or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.