



Friend—

Although the Middle East is very far away, the world has become very small, and many people in LA and in our network are deeply affected by what is happening across the globe, so our hearts are with those here as well as those suffering in the Middle East.

Native Plants event SATURDAY, November 4, from 2 to 5 pm at the Rio de Los Angeles State Park

We are going to be outdoors, among native plants, talking with NCSA board member Charles Miller and others about the role **native plants** play in maintaining **biodiversity** and **stormwater capture**, why this matters for our changing climate, and what we can do about it, both as a city and as individuals in our neighborhoods. Learn more and RSVP at ncsa.la/native_plants_11-04_2023. **Want to carpool?** RSVP and get the carpool link!

Last month, we learned we did not have a formal opportunity to contribute to the development of the first draft of the **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**, which strikes us as problematic, but at least we are part of the conversation and will continue to be. You can check out a recording of the meeting on our YouTube channel from our event page at ncsa.la/climate_hazards_vulnerabilities_10-8_2023.

What would the Dodger Stadium gondola do for us?

It turns out that people have very different opinions on the subject! Join a special [transportation committee](#) meeting **TOMORROW, Thursday, from 7 to 9**

pm to hear the different perspectives and to join the conversation. Information about how to join is at ncsa.la/dodger_stadium_gondola_11-02_2023.

La Brea Tar Pits Master Plan

Our [trees committee](#) asked the NCSA representatives to support [this letter](#) on the [La Brea Tar Pits Master Plan](#), which we did. Stay tuned!

Aurora Corona of the Pico Union Neighborhood Council and the mystery of the bioswales

Kudos to **Aurora Corona** of the **Pico Union Neighborhood Council**, who must be one of the most tenacious people in the city of Los Angeles! The **Pico Union NC's Quality of Life and Safety Committee** noticed some odd rectangular cement structures along Venice Blvd from Figueroa to Arlington during a 2021 community clean-up, and 14 months later, after numerous calls and emails to various departments, they found out what they were—unfinished **bioswales** designed to **capture stormwater** and **recharge groundwater** as part of Mayor Garcetti's \$79.8 million [Complete Streets Program](#). Construction had begun in 2018 with a target completion date of 2020. As it turns out, [23 bioswale structures](#) were to be built along six major corridors in nine Council districts (1, 3, 6, 8, 9,10,12,13, and 15) and to be maintained by LA Sanitation & Environment. The Avalon corridor project was never started. Most of the structures have been sitting as abandoned cement canals for years—graffitied and filled with garbage. The downtown LA one is finished—verdant, mulchy, and beautiful. Thank you to **Wendy Castro** of the Mayor's Office (now in **Council District 1**) for responding to Aurora and taking this on and also to **Jose Rodriguez** of **Council District 1** for helping coordinate the three relevant departments (LA Sanitation & Environment, Bureau of Engineering, and Bureau of Street Services)! The Venice corridor is back on track (we think). We have a contact for the others and are cautiously optimistic!

Murphy oil drilling site

Despite a packed room and the fact that residents near oil wells on the west side have more health protections than those near the Murphy site, **South Los Angeles Area Planning Commissioners** voted to continue operations at the site without those same protections, backing off of the City's own letter of

determination. You can see our letter (requested by our [energy committee](#)) [here](#). This begs the question, whose interests is the commission serving? It also raises (again) a question about needed LA City **charter reforms** regarding commission appointments.

the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA)
<https://www.ncsa.la/>