



Friend—

It's a small world, after all....The Iran war is far away, and those of us who take transit, ride bikes, or have EVs are less likely to be aware of the price of gas. This [article and graphic from Reuters](#) gives us a glimpse of all the ways that oil is a part of our daily lives in ways we probably don't think about, and how the costs of those things might be affected now.

Navigating the Bureaucratic Hurdles of Sustainability Projects & Westwood Greenway Saturday, May 16

Join us at the **Westwood Greenway** (we were rained out last month!) for a conversation about the bureaucratic hurdles of **sustainability projects** and how we can navigate them. Learn how this special park **captures stormwater**, supports **biodiversity**, and builds **climate resilience**. Stick around afterward to help steward the [Westwood Greenway](#) by removing invasive plants and making room for **native plants** to thrive. We'll start at **noon** on **Saturday, May 16**. Learn more and RSVP at ncsa.la/westwood_greenway_05_16_2026.

Last month, we got a behind-the-scenes glimpse of a materials recovery facility (MRF) at [Athens Services](#) and learned a lot about what happens to our waste.

Comment on the Mayor's Climate Action Plan

The Mayor has released her [Climate Action Plan](#). (We got a [preview](#) in January.) Check out this [article](#) in the LA Times about it. And you can [comment](#) on the plan!

New draft of Zone 0 regulations

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection [has released the latest draft](#)

[of the Zone 0 defensible space regulations](#), and it does incorporate feedback from stakeholders in Southern California such as the Sustainability Alliance and is an improvement over previous versions. Join our [trees committee](#) for a deeper dive.

Urban Water Management Plan

After submitting our [artificial turf letter](#) to LADWP as they [revise their Urban Water Management Plan](#), we also signed on to [this letter](#) asking LADWP to consider incorporating a lower future water demand projection, expanding **conservation initiatives** (including programs that address **water affordability**, **biodiversity**, and **nature-based actions**), and exploring future water supply scenarios that **reduce imported water** from both the Metropolitan Water District and the Eastern Sierra. Get involved with our [advocacy committee](#) to participate in these decisions!

More on artificial turf

More information about the dangers of **artificial turf** keeps coming, including:

- [Microplastics harm soil, soil biomes, plant growth, and photosynthesis](#)
- [Mapping urban heat from space reveals dangerous inequities in LA public parks: UC Irvine study finds those in underserved communities can reach burn-risk temps](#)

Attend a community meeting to learn more about the LAUSD Turf Study and provide feedback, either in person or virtually—there is one remaining meeting, **Tuesday, May 12!** Check out this [LAUSD Turf Study flyer](#). You can also go directly to [LAUSD's quick Turf Survey](#).

Rim of the Valley

While the [resolution](#) that [this letter](#) supports (for the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act, which would incorporate the **Rim of the Valley Corridor** into the **Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area**), has already passed, we wanted to be on record, in part because it is aligned with the vision behind the [wildlife ordinance](#) (CF 14-0518). The **wildlife ordinance** appears to have stalled even though City Council had already voted to support an ordinance and

one had been drafted when **Councilmember Yaroslavsky** encountered some opposition, after a decade of work under then **Councilmember Paul Koretz**.

Private use of public helipads

As the Olympics and Paralympics approach, our City councilmembers are proposing ideas to help our city prepare. **Councilmember John Lee** has [proposed allowing private entities access to public helipads](#) in [Council File 25-1181](#), which [we oppose for various reasons](#). Join our [transportation and land use committee](#) for related conversations!

Polluters Pay

At the behest of our [energy committee](#), we sent this [letter](#) expressing our appreciation to **Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky** for supporting the **Polluters** Pay Climate Superfund Act, authored by **State Senator Caroline Menjivar**, who used to be a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) in the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), for those who don't know! It died, but we look forward to similar legislation in the near future, because we need the **industries** perpetuating our **fossil-fuel based economy** to be held accountable in order to get out of the pickle we are in, and it needs to happen quickly.

LA100 plan

We sent [this letter](#) to LADWP about the anticipated LA100 Plan asking them to continue working toward our clean energy goals while being mindful of costs as we get close to achieving **100% clean, renewable energy**, as we understand that the costs might become prohibitive when we approach the 100% target. Join our [energy committee](#) to participate in this work.

Charter reform for neighborhood councils?

The Sustainability Alliance voted to support [this letter](#) in support of neighborhood-council related reforms in the charter, some portions of which were included in the [Charter Reform Commission's final report](#), which City Council is in the process of considering for November's ballot.

the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA)

<https://www.ncsa.la/>