

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

June 24, 2021

TO: SBCCOG Board of Directors

FROM: SBCCOG Steering Committee

RE: Consideration of SBCCOG Providing a Regional Approach to Coyote Management

On May 11, 2021, the letter accompanying this memo – was received from the Mayor of Torrance asking that the SBCCOG consider coordinating a regional approach to education and information of best practices concerning coyote management in the South Bay.

## Background

In December of 2016, the SBCCOG started working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to coordinate a regional approach. Meetings were held with guest speakers to share best practices throughout 2017 and into 2018. In 2018, the SBCCOG applied for grants to continue the work and also to be able to create educational materials for the South Bay for cities to share and provide a common message to their constituents. We were unsuccessful in getting any grants at which time we suspended any further work on this issue.

In September 2020, Torrance staff contacted the SBCCOG and asked for us to consider a regional approach. Previous work was discussed and it was agreed that the SBCCOG would send a survey to member cities with questions prepared by Torrance. The survey accompanies this memo. It was felt at the time that there was no significant interest in financing a regional effort and the SBCCOG did not have the resources to do it without a funding source.

At the Steering Committee, Board member Cruikshank said that Rancho Palos Verdes could take the lead in working with other cities. There is a concern that the county is no longer planning to fund the trappers and there should more advocacy for this on a regional basis.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on the priorities of the cities and the lack of resources at the SBCCOG, it is recommended that the Board decline adding this issue to the work program at this time but that the SBCCOG staff work with Rancho Palos Verdes to see if the SBCCOG can help with disseminating information among the cities via email, if there are grant opportunities and if facilitating a joint procurement of a trapper would be a possible direction to go in.



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T O R R A N C E

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PATRICK J. FUREY  
MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS  
HEIDI ANN ASHCRAFT  
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TIM GOODRICH  
MIKE GRIFFITHS  
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May 11, 2021

Ms. Jackie Bacharach  
Executive Director  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
2355 Crenshaw Blvd. Suite 125  
Torrance, California 90501

*Jackie*  
Dear Ms. Bacharach,

The City of Torrance has taken progressive actions to address urban coyotes. However, the travel, behaviors and habitat of urban coyotes is a topic of importance for the South Bay region, and the SBCCOG member cities could greatly benefit from an ongoing opportunity to share best practices, educate their communities, and take action as an organized entity in response to potential legislative proposals.

The goal of a coordinated regional approach is to share educative and informational best practices. Based on science and data, the behaviors of the public at their homes, businesses and in parks and open spaces are the leading cause of attracting and establishing urban coyote habitat.

Coordination by member cities could be made a part of an existing SBCCOG committee or a new group could be formed and include the relevant department and staff for each city.

We appreciate the consideration of the SBCCOG and are available to provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

  
Patrick J. Furey  
Mayor

City	Are residents report coyote activity?	Any attacks or fatalities attributed to coyotes?	Would your city be interested in helping kick-start this regional effort?	Does your city have a budget/funding source available to support the development of a website, hotline, and educational materials?
Carson	Yes, residents routinely report coyote activity throughout the City. The City in turn, submits a report to a State tracking system "Coyote Cacher". The state tracking system keeps data and maps the sighting throughout the state. When several reports are identified within a specific area or community, we request the assistance of a license trapper to conduct an inspection and initiate a trapping campaign if possible.	There have been reports of smaller domestic pets and feral animals being taken by coyotes over past few years, however only 1 reported in the past 9 months	The City of Carson is already a member of the coyote program introduced by the SouthBay Council of Governments (SBCOG).	There is no budgeted amount dedicated to the abatement of coyotes. The hiring and services of a licensed trapper is done as needed and via a purchase order process.
El Segundo				
Gardena				
Hawthorne	Yes	No	Not at this time	No
Hermosa Beach	Yes. Reports increased in the spring and early summer months, but tapered off as fall approached. We have received approximately two dozen comments/complaints about coyotes this year.	We received one unverified report this year of a coyote attacking a cat.	We are interested but are below regular staffing levels in key areas so it would not be feasible for us to sign up for a project.	We do not.
Inglewood	see attachment	see attachment	I would be interested in assigning someone to help jump start the program; However, like most cities, we have a budget shortfall projected for next year, so the cost of a new program would be a challenge we would have to overcome.	like most cities, we have a budget shortfall projected for next year, so the cost of a new program would be a challenge we would have to overcome.
Lawndale	We don't get a lot of calls from residents about coyotes, typically only about 3 calls per year.	There have been no attacks or fatalities by coyotes against humans for our entire history as a City. We do occasionally find dismembered pet carcasses that we attribute to coyote attacks on other animals but they are very rare.	The City is happy to assist neighboring communities with programs that are beneficial to the entire South Bay Area, but due to budget cuts we would be hard pressed to find the available staff to assist with starting up a brand new regional program.	Due to the pandemic, the City has had to cut a number of programs and even some staff. At this time it would be very difficult for the City to financially assist with any sort of regional program such as this, especially since our need for this is so minimal.
Lomita	We do get some comments, but not often. – mostly social media complaints, etc.	One maybe a year or so ago, but I have not heard of any specific incidents since	This is not a huge priority for Lomita right now.	We do not have a budget for this purpose
Manhattan Beach				
Palos Verdes Estates	Yes, residents report coyote activity in the following ways: 1) Calls to Dispatch (PVE logs them all & inputs them to Penn Cities reptg website; 2) Penn Cities reptg website; 3) PVEPD mobile phone app; 4) PVE officer on patrol repts coyote sightings/activity	No confirmed attacks or fatalities on humans	I think a regional approach to coyote management is key. We would be willing to participate, but due to limited time, not lead.	No
Rancho Palos Verdes	Yes. They report coyote activity on the City's web-based app available on the City's website.	Pets taken / No attacks on human life	Yes	Yes
Redondo Beach				
Rolling Hills				
Rolling Hills Estates	Yes, residents are reporting activity in our City via a joint Peninsula coyote reporting site	Some reports received include attacks and fatalities of pets attributed to coyotes	Not at this time. We work closely with the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures.	Not at this time. The City promotes educational material on our website, social media, and electronic newsletters.
Torrance				