



City of Sierra Madre Agenda Report

Edward Garcia, Mayor
Kelly Kriebs, Mayor Pro Tem
Gene Goss, Council Member
Kristine Lowe, Council Member
Robert Parkhurst, Council Member

Michael Amerio, City Treasurer

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: James Carlson, Management Analyst

REVIEWED BY: Jose Reynoso, City Manager

DATE: April 25, 2023

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION 23-12 DECLARING THE MISMANAGEMENT OF LOCAL BEAR POPULATIONS A THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution 23-12, including the request to the Fish and Game Commission to agendaize an item for the next scheduled meeting and transmittal of Resolution 23-12 to the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Secretary for Natural Resources, the Fish and Game Commission and elected state representatives.

ALTERNATIVES

The City Council may decline to adopt Resolution 23-12 and provide direction to staff.

SUMMARY

At the April 11, 2023, City Council meeting, the City Council received a report from the Sierra Madre Police Department and considered a resolution urging the California Fish and Wildlife Department to improve the management of the local Black Bear population. Staff received direction from the City Council to add additional content to Resolution 23-12 and return for City Council review.

ANALYSIS

Staff has amended Resolution 23-12 to include local statistics of public safety calls for service, incidents reported involving a bear entering a home or vehicle, and recent bear-human conflicts. Staff has also adjusted the request within the Resolution to “demand” instead of “urge”. The updated Resolution includes a declaration of the mismanagement of local Black Bear populations as a threat to public safety. And finally, the updated Resolution 23-12 includes a request to have this matter agendaized with the California Fish and Game Commission as well as transmittal of the approved Resolution to the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Secretary for Natural Resources, the Fish and Game Commission and elected state representatives.

FINANCIAL REVIEW/SOURCE OF FUNDING

There is no financial impact on the adoption and distribution of Resolution 23-12.

PUBLIC NOTICE PROCESS

This item has been noticed through the regular agenda notification process. Copies of this report can be accessed on the City's website at www.cityofsierramadre.com.

ATTACHMENTS

RESOLUTION 23-12, A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE, DECLARING THE MISMANAGEMENT OF LOCAL BLACK BEAR POPULATIONS A THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

**RESOLUTION NO.
23-12**

**RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA
MADRE, DECLARING THE MISMANAGEMENT OF LOCAL BLACK
BEAR POPULATIONS A THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

WHEREAS, the City of Sierra Madre is located adjacent to the San Gabriel Mountains, whose jurisdictions include the Angeles National Forest, the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and the San Gabriel Wilderness; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, in various organizational structures and titles, has overseen wildlife management since 1878; and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the California Fish and Game Commission imported Black Bears to Southern California in 1933, disrupting the intrinsic ecosystems of the San Gabriel Mountains and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sierra Madre has acted in good faith to adhere to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's guidance to create and maintain best practices to prevent the threat to public safety of urbanized Black Bears in our community, including publicizing the "Living with Bears" campaign, hosting numerous workshops for our residents, creating the Sierra Madre Wildlife Management Plan, adopting a local ordinance prohibiting the feeding of wildlife, posting informational signage, and establishing a program to distribute bear-resistant solid waste cans city-wide; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Sierra Madre have responded diligently to remove attractants to wildlife and have forcefully and compassionately made all efforts to keep bears from becoming urbanized; and

WHEREAS, despite the community's extraordinary efforts, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to 106 calls for service regarding bears in 2021, including 6 incidents of a bear entering a building or car, followed by 130 calls for service in 2022, including 17 incidents of a bear entering a building or car and several incidents of a bear at an elementary or middle school; and

WHEREAS, in six years, the City of Sierra Madre, with a population of 11,000, has had four bear-human conflicts, three of which resulted in significant injuries to the persons.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Sierra Madre does resolve as follows:

SECTION 1. Declaration. The proliferation of Conflict Bears, Habituated Bears, and Public Safety Bears in the City of Sierra Madre and adjacent agencies is a threat to public safety.

SECTION 2. Demand. The City of Sierra Madre demands that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife act immediately to take any and all necessary actions to eliminate this threat to public safety.

SECTION 3. Request. The City of Sierra Madre requests the Fish and Game Commission agendaize this item at their next regularly scheduled meeting to provide City officials the opportunity to address the issue.

SECTION 4. Transmittal. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Secretary for Natural Resources, the Fish and Game Commission, and the elected state representatives.

Approved and adopted on the 25th day of April, 2023

Edward Garcia, Mayor, City of Sierra Madre, Ca

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number No. 23-12 was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City of Sierra Madre City Council on the 25th day of April, 2023 by the Sierra Madre City Council following a roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Laura Aguilar, City Clerk