

From: [Rachman, Richard](#)
To: [April Jacobs](#)
Subject: Public comment on the lawn replacement program
Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 3:50:20 PM

CAUTION - EXTERNAL SENDER

Hi,

I'm a plant ecologist and graduate student at Cal State Northridge. I'd like to voice my support for the lawn replacement program, especially the parts about permeable surfaces and native plants. Native plant pallets have been used all across Los Angeles to lower pesticide and water usage since they are adapted to live here and don't require much maintenance. They increase the urban biodiversity since plants and animals have evolved to coexist with them, and can help pollinators like bumblebees and monarch butterflies that are currently either endangered in Los Angeles or scheduled to be on the Endangered Species list. Many native plants that work in urban landscapes are widely available in nurseries in LA and can be quite cost-effective. It seems like a no-brainer.

I don't support the measure to include rebates for pollinator hotels. These can be breeding grounds for diseases, parasites, and predators of pollinators because many folks don't know how to care for their bee hotel. The whole idea could do more harm than good. Xerces Society states that most pollinators are ground-dwelling anyway, so simply having permeable surfaces not only helps water recharge but gives pollinators potential habitat as well. I think getting rid of lawns and cement, replacing those surfaces with permeable soils and rocks as well as native plants needs to be the primary goal. I have few thoughts on owl boxes other than I think more folks should have them!

Thank you so much for your time.

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Richard Rachman
He/Him/His

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