

Supplemental Communications (2)

(The following are communications received after **12pm October 2 - 5pm October 6.**)

Lapira, Katrina

From: Alnas-Benson, Tiana
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Lapira, Katrina
Subject: Planning Commission Agenda - Regular Meeting October 7, 2020

Good Afternoon,

The agenda and related materials for the Planning Commission Meeting on October 7, 2020 are available online. You may access the information by clicking on the link below or by copying and pasting it to your browser:

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3 -
_Commissions/Commission_for_Planning/2020-10-07%20PC%20Agenda%20linked.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_-_Commissions/Commission_for_Planning/2020-10-07%20PC%20Agenda%20linked.pdf)

Previous agendas and content can be found here:

https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/Commissions/Commissions_Planning_Commission_Homepage.aspx

Respectfully,

K. Tiana Alnas-Benson | Office Specialist II
City of Berkeley | Land Use Planning Division
1947 Center Street | Berkeley, CA 94704
talnas-benson@cityofberkeley.info

Gender pronouns: she, her, hers

Lapira, Katrina

From: Pearson, Alene
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Lapira, Katrina
Cc: Alnas-Benson, Tiana
Subject: FW: 10-07-2020 Planning Commission - Item #3 public comment on non-agenda
Attachments: 2020-10-07_Planning_non-agenda Public Comment.pdf

KL – Can you add this to the Supp? I deleted the PPT.

From: Erin Diehm <erindiehm@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 12:36 AM
To: apearson@cityofberkeley.info <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>
Subject: 10-07-2020 Planning Commission - Item #3 public comment on non-agenda

Dear Ms. Pearson,

I am writing to submit public comment on non-agenda matters, Item #3, for this Wednesday's Planning Commission meeting. Can you please forward this email to the commissioners?

During normal times I would bring print outs of the attached slides with me, to pass them out to the commissioners as a visual for my brief statement. Since we are now meeting via Zoom, as a substitute, would it be possible for Staff to share the attached slides real-time when I speak to them, as a kind of "virtual handout"? Attached are pptx and pdf formats, the script is below.

SLIDE 1 - INTRO

There is a bird emergency. Window glass kills up to 1 billion birds annually. It's been almost a year since City Council approved and referred the Bird Safe Berkeley Requirements to the Planning Commission. Please prioritize this matter to expedite the adoption of the Bird Safe Berkeley Requirements

SLIDE 2 - BIRD EMERGENCY

There is a bird emergency. Since 1970 there are almost 3 billion fewer birds in the skies. That's almost one-third of all birds in North America; a staggering loss that suggests the very fabric of North America's ecosystem is unraveling.

More recently, hundreds of thousands of migrating birds are showing up dead on the ground in New Mexico, Colorado and Texas, significantly underweight and apparently starved.

SLIDE 3 - WINDOW STRIKES

Bird collisions with windows is a leading cause of human-induced bird deaths. (Second only to outdoor cats.) Window strikes kill up to 1 billion birds every year. That's 2.7 million birds every day.

SLIDE 4 - COUNCIL REFERRAL

The good news is that Berkeley is taking action. The Bird Safe item came before Council last November and was strongly supported. It was referred to the City Manager and the Planning Commission for review and codification.

SLIDE 5 - TAKE ACTION

We need you to act. Several other Bay Area cities have already adopted bird safety ordinance: San Francisco, Oakland, and Richmond. Emeryville's went into effect 3 months ago. Alameda adopted theirs in 2018 and it serves as the model for the proposed one here in Berkeley.

Many multi-story buildings are coming through the approval process. Most will be covered in glass. We need you to act quickly and decisively to protect the birds. Please prioritize the referral on bird safety. We are counting on you to be environmental leaders.

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance. And thank you for your service.

Best regards,
Erin
857-472-1953 (m)

Planning Commission, Public Comment on non-agenda matters
October 7, 2020
E. Diehm, Resident, Berkeley CA

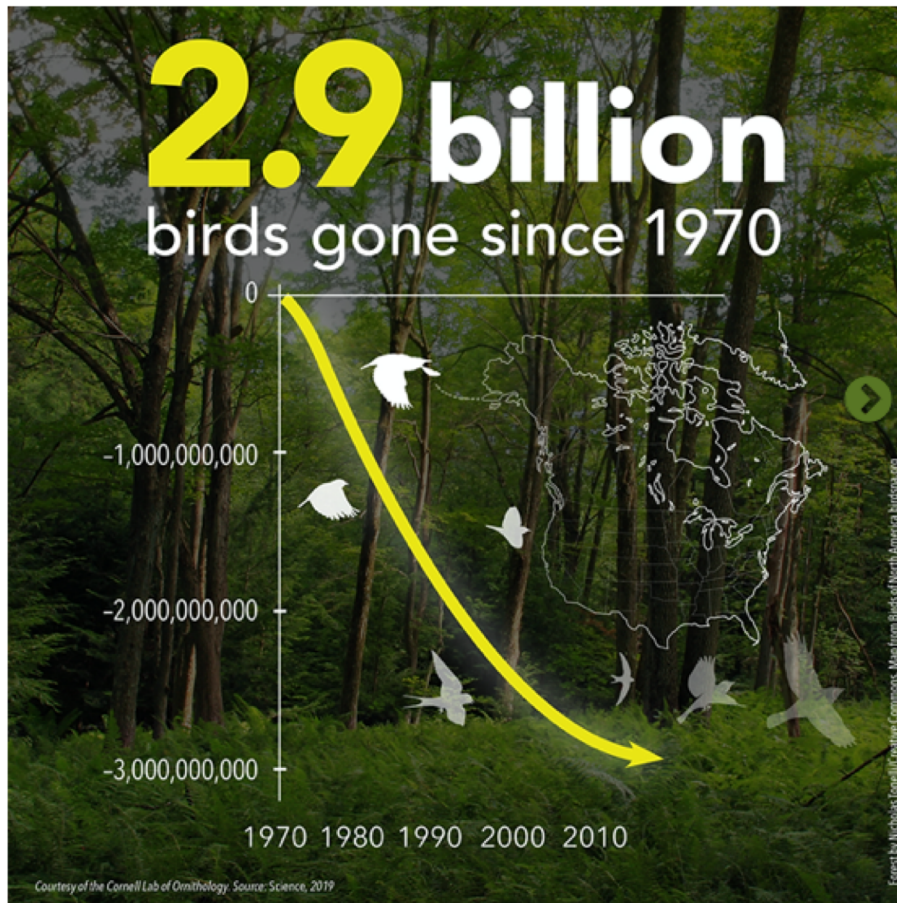
There is a bird emergency

Window glass kills up to 1 billion birds annually

It's been almost a year since City Council approved and referred the **Bird Safe Berkeley Requirements** to the Planning Commission

Please prioritize this matter to expedite the adoption of the **Bird Safe Berkeley Requirements**

There is a Bird Emergency



<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/bring-birds-back>

The New York Times

New Mexico Mystery: Why Are So Many Birds Dropping Dead?

Scientists say that the wildfires in the West combined with drought and record heat waves could be triggering one of the Southwest's largest migratory bird die-offs in recent decades.

Birds are dying by the thousands across New Mexico and parts of Colorado and Texas, and no one is sure why. Allison Salas/New Mexico State University

By Simon Romero

Sept. 15, 2020

ALBUQUERQUE — Huge numbers of migratory birds are dropping dead around New Mexico as scientists scramble to determine what is triggering one of the Southwest's largest bird die-offs in recent memory.

After people began finding the dead birds in recent days in locations ranging from hiking trails to suburban driveways and golf courses, the mystery of what is causing the die-off has intensified.

“Nearly one-third of the wild birds in the United States and Canada have vanished since 1970, a staggering loss that suggests the very fabric of North America’s ecosystem is unraveling.”

– From NY Times, Sept 19, 2019, “The Crisis for Birds Is a Crisis for Us All”, by John W. Fitzpatrick and Peter P. Marra
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/19/opinion/crisis-birds-north-america.html>

Bird Mortality – U.S. Fish and Wildlife

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php>

Top Threats to Birds (U.S. only. Ordered by Median Estimate of Bird Mortality Annually. As of 2017.)			
Hazard/Type	Min Range	Max Range	Median/Avg. Estimated
Habitat Loss/Conversion	N/A	N/A	N/A
Collision - Building Glass Loss et al. 2014a	365,000,000	988,000,000	599,000,000
Collisions - Communication towers Longcore et al. 2012			6,600,000
Collisions - Electrical lines Loss et al. 2014c	8,000,000	57,300,000	25,500,000
Collision - Vehicles Loss et al. 2014b	89,000,000	340,000,000	214,500,000
Collisions - Land-based Wind Turbines Loss et al. 2013b	140,438	327,586	234,012
Collisions - Offshore Wind Turbines	N/A	N/A	N/A
Collisions - Solar Panels	N/A	N/A	N/A
Electrocutions Loss et al. 2014c	900,000	11,600,000	5,600,000
Burning -Solar Towers	N/A	N/A	N/A
Poison			72,000,000
Cats Loss et al. 2013a	1,400,000,000	3,700,000,000	2,400,000,000
Oil Pits Trail 2006	500,000	1,000,000	750,000
All	549,140,438	5,182,427,586	3,324,184,012

Building Glass kills
365 million – 1 billion birds every year



<https://rtpi.org/preventing-window-strikes/>

City Council Referral to Planning Commission

November 12, 2019

Page 1 of 8

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Community Environmental Advisory Commission

ACTION CALENDAR
November 12, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC)
Submitted by: Ben Gould, Chairperson, CEAC
Subject: Bird Safe Berkeley Requirements

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer to the Planning Commission and the City Attorney the attached ordinance amending Berkeley Municipal Code Title 23C, adding a new Chapter 23C.27 establishing bird safety requirements for new construction and significant renovations and a new Chapter 23C.28 establishing a dark skies ordinance, for review and approval.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Potential for small additional ongoing costs associated with slightly increased requirements for staff review of new construction proposals to ensure compliance.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Bird safety is aligned with the City of Berkeley's Strategic Plan, advancing our goal to be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

According to the Audubon Society, bird collisions with windows is a leading cause of human-induced bird deaths (second only to outdoor house cats). Berkeley is located in the midst of the Pacific Flyway, a major migratory route for birds including hummingbirds, robins, blackbirds, numerous shorebirds, raptors, and more. When these birds encounter unfamiliar urban areas along the migratory path, they are at particular risk for collisions and death.

At present, there are no bird safety measures required for new construction or renovations. As a result, it is possible that new and existing buildings may incorporate features which pose preventable hazards to local and migratory birds.

Unfettered outdoor lighting also poses known risks to birds, as well as generating unwanted light pollution. The City of Berkeley's Downtown Area Plan¹, as well as

¹ Lighting, City of Berkeley Downtown Area Plan. Accessed August 2019:
https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_and_Development/Level_3_-_DAP/Chapter%2012%20Lighting.pdf

Please Take Action

The screenshot shows the Audubon website header with navigation links: Audubon Near You, Press Room, Shop Audubon, About Us, Take Action, Membership, and Donate. Below the header, the article title "What Does 'Bird-Safe Glass' Even Mean?" is displayed, followed by a subtitle: "From football stadiums to your own kitchen window, here's your guide to bird-safe glass." Social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Email are present. The author information reads "By Clara Chaisson" and "July 25, 2014". A "Popular Stories" section lists several articles: "Pumpkin Bird Feeder Makes a Happy Harvest For Birds", "How to Tell a Raven From a Crow", "How to Make Hummingbird Nectar", "To Help Birds This Winter, Go Easy on Fall Yard Work", and "Learn to Identify Five Owls by Their Calls". A large illustration by Greg Mably depicts three green stars with yellow motion lines above a green window frame with a white cross. The Audubon logo is in the top left corner.

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What Does 'Bird-Safe Glass' Even Mean?

From football stadiums to your own kitchen window, here's your guide to bird-safe glass.

Twitter Facebook Email

By Clara Chaisson
July 25, 2014

Popular Stories

- [Pumpkin Bird Feeder Makes a Happy Harvest For Birds](#)
- [How to Tell a Raven From a Crow](#)
- [How to Make Hummingbird Nectar](#)
- [To Help Birds This Winter, Go Easy on Fall Yard Work](#)
- [Learn to Identify Five Owls by Their Calls](#)

Illustration: Greg Mably

<https://www.audubon.org/news/what-does-bird-safe-glass-even-mean>