

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
PAUL KORETZ
FIFTH DISTRICT



For Immediate Release

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Paul Koretz to Receive SFV Audubon Society Conservation Award *For Excellence in Environmental Policy Achievement*

June 3, 2022 – On Saturday, June 4, 2022, Councilmember Paul Koretz will receive a Community Champion Conservation Award from the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVA) for his decade setting a new standard of leadership on climate, environmental, water and biodiversity policy for the City of Los Angeles. Volunteer awardees include Conservation Award winner, Pat Bates, and Service Award winner, Rose Leibowitz.

Councilmember Koretz’s environmental achievements from over a decade on the City Council include leadership on: moving LADWP off coal power; launching the effort to recycle and use wastewater from the Hyperion Water Treatment Plant, now called: Operation Next; setting the City Council’s aggressive climate emissions reductions goals; with the Leap LA Coalition, creating the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO) and Climate Emergency Commission to protect the Angelenos most vulnerable to climate impacts, climate policies and extreme heat; working to better regulate and ban neighborhood oil drilling; closing down the leaking San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station; implementing plastic measures including: banning plastic grocery bags, utensils upon demand, and a forthcoming comprehensive plastics reduction policy; initiating Regenerate LA to turn the city’s food waste into healthy, carbon-sequestering soil for use in parks and medians; winning the Cool City Challenge; and most directly supporting the mission of the San Fernando Valley Audubon, initiating the Biodiversity City Index and wildlife habitat connectivity efforts.

He has been instrumental in the hiring of the following environmentally-related staff: CEMO Director and Chief Heat Officer; Chief Sustainability Officers in each City Dept; Petroleum Administrator; City Forest Officer; and Ecologists in LA Sanitation and Planning to oversee biodiversity and wildlife corridors efforts.

“In the face of rapidly-worsening climate change and megadrought, my staff and I have really been keeping our heads down doing work we see as vital not only for our kids, but for ourselves,” **said Councilmember Paul Koretz.** “I am delighted and honored to receive the SFVA award acknowledging all of what I have really seen as my job and mission: to protect and create a healthy, vibrant and resilient future LA, and to inspire other cities to join us in aggressive climate action and nature protection.”

"The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society's Annual Awards event is our chance to thank members of the community who have worked so hard to create a better world for wildlife, and ourselves," said **Paula Orlovich, SFVA President.** "We are excited to have such excellent honorees this year!"

The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society’s mission includes: To promote the conservation of natural resources and to preserve and enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity; To increase appreciation of bird life and the natural environment through education, presentations, guided bird walks and other activities; To foster opportunities for a diverse population to come together for the protection and celebration of avian life.

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