

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

Consideration and possible action to resume the City's Peafowl Trapping Program for 2017.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

- (1) Receive and file a final summary report on the 2016 Peafowl Trapping Program; and,
- (2) Review the 2017 Peafowl Census Report, and direct Staff to resume the humane trapping and relocation of up to 150 peafowl for 2017.

FISCAL IMPACT: Resuming the trapping of peafowl for 2017, which will occur after July 15th, has been included in the draft FY17-18 budget under the Code Enforcement program.

Amount Budgeted:	\$136,000 (\$37,000 for Peafowl Trapping Program)
Additional Appropriation:	N/A
Account Number:	101-400-6130-5101 <i>mn</i>

ORIGINATED BY: Julie Peterson, Code Enforcement Officer *jp*
REVIEWED BY: Ara Mhrianian, AICP, Director of Community Development *Ara*
APPROVED BY: Doug Willmore, City Manager *DW for*

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- A. 2017 Peafowl Census Report (page A-1)
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BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

On August 4, 2015, the City Council adopted the Peafowl Management Plan (PMP) which is a City-initiated plan to humanely manage the peafowl population within the City. This is achieved by reducing and maintaining the peafowl population to the levels identified in the 2000 Peafowl Census Report (134 total birds, citywide). The PMP supports the coexistence of peafowl within the semi-rural character of the City by:

- Encouraging public education and deterrent measures; and,
- Humanely trapping and relocating up to 150 birds per year in order to maintain the 2000 peafowl population.

At that same meeting, in response to the uptick in the City's peafowl population (based on the 2014 census) and the increase and tenor of resident complaints, the City Council

directed Staff to begin the trapping of up to 150 peafowl within the following five neighborhoods: Portuguese Bend, Crestridge, Sunnyside Ridge, Grandview, and Vista Grande. The trapping and relocation of peafowl has subsequently occurred annually.

2016 Peafowl Trapping Program

On September 14, 2015, the City began implementing its Peafowl Trapping Program. The five City-owned traps, one for each of the five neighborhoods participating in the program, are placed in the enclosed rear yard of a private residence for approximately a two-week period, and afterwards relocated to another property within the same neighborhood. For 2016, trapping occurred between July 2016 and February 2017, until the 150-bird cap was reached. The table below summarizes and compares the number of birds trapped by neighborhood for both the 2015 and 2016 trapping periods.

Peafowl Trapping Summary Count						
Year	Grandview	Vista Grande	Crestridge	Portuguese Bend	Sunnyside Ridge	Total
2015	24	48	27	27	24	150
2016	1	82	7	8	54	152
Total	25	130	34	35	78	302

The 150 birds trapped during 2016 included 52 males, 82 females, and 18 juveniles (two additional birds were inadvertently trapped in 2016). As stated in the PMP, the birds trapped were collected by the City’s vendor (Wildlife Services) within 24 hours and relocated to ranches in the San Diego, Ventura, and Santa Barbara Counties. Per the Council-adopted PMP, Staff approved the locations to which the birds were relocated¹.

2017 Peafowl Census Report

Pursuant to the PMP, each year the City is required to conduct a census survey to assess the current peafowl population trends, and based on past census reports, determine whether trapping should resume. This year’s peafowl census survey was conducted between April 2 and April 11, 2017, by Wildlife Services. The census was conducted based on two types of observations. The first was counting roosting peafowl in trees at sunrise, and the second was using a systematic grid pattern during the late afternoon to evening hours. Attached to this report is a detailed description of the census count (Attachment A). It should be noted that there may be an undercount of approximately 10% due to breeding females and limited physical access. This year’s census includes the Monaco neighborhood because of the volume of peafowl-related complaints in this area. The table on the next page summarizes the results of the recent census.

¹ This information is confidential to protect the privacy of the property owners receiving the relocated birds.

2017 Peafowl Census Summary Table							
	Grandview	Vista Grande	Crestridge	Monaco	Portuguese Bend	Sunnyside Ridge	Total
2017 Males	0	25	6	13	31	21	96
2017 Females	0	17	3	9	9	16	54
Total	0	42	9	22	40	37	150
2016	4	82	13	n/a	52	57	208
2014 Census	17	71	41	n/a	85	64	278
Difference b/n 2014 and 2017	- 17	-29	-32	n/a	-45	-27	-128
% Difference b/n 2014 and 2017	-100%	-40%	-78%	n/a	-53%	-42	-46%

As depicted above, there has been an overall 46% reduction in the City's peafowl population, compared to the census conducted in 2014. The reduction can be attributed to the trapping that occurred last year.

Due to the current peafowl population in the surveyed neighborhoods, the anticipated increases after the mating season, and the concerns expressed by residents in these neighborhoods, Staff recommends that the Council resume trapping for 2017 up to the 150-bird cap². If resumed, the humane trapping will begin on July 15th, after the nesting and hatching season has ended, and when chicks are able to function on their own. Similar to the program conducted for 2016, the City will reach out to the community for volunteer properties where the traps can be located. The City will also resume its public outreach and education program, including attending a Rancho Palos Verdes Council of Homeowners' Associations (CHOA) meeting in the near future. Lastly, the trapping services will continue to be provided by the Wildlife Services, who has been extremely cooperative and responsive to the City's needs. The City's contract with Wildlife Services expires on December 31, 2018.

It should be noted that the City has received requests from both the *Monaco* and *Mira Vista* neighborhoods that trapping occur in these neighborhoods. The City intends to trap in these neighborhoods intermittently during the trapping period to help control the overall peafowl population in the City.

² The trapping cap cannot be increased unless additional environmental review is conducted, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

At a past meeting, some City Council members mentioned using a form of avian birth control as an alternative to trapping and managing the peafowl population. The referenced birth control is known in the industry as “OvoControl.” According to Wildlife Services, this product is only approved for use in pigeons, and there may be some major issues that would make this product ineffective for peafowl birth control and potentially detrimental to native bird species. In addition to the fact that the pellets are only meant to be consumed by pigeons, the product must be consumed on a daily basis during breeding season, which would be difficult to control. Further, according to the manufacturer, the pellets can only be placed on a flat cement surface. For these reasons, it is not recommended as an alternative to trapping peafowl.

CONCLUSION:

The success of the 2016 peafowl trapping program and the collection of data for the 2017 peafowl census was largely because of the community participation. Based on the 2017 census count and continued resident concerns in affected neighborhoods, Staff recommends resuming trapping for 2017 up to the 150-bird cap.

ALTERNATIVES:

In addition to the Staff recommendation, the following alternative actions (or some combination thereof) are available for the City Council’s consideration:

1. Identify alternatives to trapping for Staff to research, and for the City Council to consider at a future meeting.
2. Direct Staff to initiate an amendment to the City Council-adopted Negative Declaration in order to increase the 150-bird trapping cap.
3. Reduce the number of birds to be trapped for 2017 to fewer than 150.
4. Direct Staff not to trap birds for 2017.

RANCHO PALOS VERDES 2017 PEAFOWL CENSUS

Provided by Wildlife Services

This census took place between April 2 and April 11, 2017. Two types of observations were used. The first was counting roosting peafowl in trees at sunrise. The second was using a systematic grid pattern during the late afternoon to evening hours.

Listed below are the total counts for each of the six neighborhoods canvassed. These numbers represent the minimum amount of peafowl inhabiting these neighborhoods. It is possible that there could be an undercount of up to 10%. Reasons for this would be breeding age females already nesting, therefore on the ground in dense vegetation and peafowl occupying deep or gated lots preventing physical access. With that being said I am very confident with the accuracy of this count.

GRANDVIEW	0	
CRESTRIDGE	9	6 males & 3 females
PORTUGUESE BEND	40	31 males & 9 females
VISTA GRANDE	42	25 males & 17 females
SUNNYSIDE RIDGE	37	21 males & 16 females
MONACO	22	13 males & 9 females
TOTAL COUNT	150	

RANCHO PALOS VERDES 2017 PEAFOWL CENSUS

Listed below are the dates, times and addresses of each individual sighting.

GRANDVIEW

4-2-17 No peafowl seen

4-6-17 No peafowl seen

Overall total (zero)

CRESTRIDGE

4-2-17 6:25 am one male 5205 Middlecrest Rd

6:30 am two males & three females 5202 Middlecrest Rd

6:35 am one male 5414 Middlecrest Rd

Total 4 males & 3 females

4-3-17 5:46 pm one male 5230 Middlecrest Rd

6:00 pm one male 28868 Crestridge Rd

6:01 pm one male 28916 Crestridge Rd

6:10 pm one male 5350 Middlecrest Rd

6:11 pm one female 5202 Middlecrest Rd

6:12 pm two males & one female 5201 Middlecrest Rd

Total 6 males & 2 females

Overall total 6 males & 3 females

PORTUGUESE BEND

4-6-17	6:05 am	two males	3 Pomegranate
	6:07 am	one male	2 Cinnamon
	6:18 am	one male	5 Thyme Rd
	6:20 am	one female	9 Cinnamon
	6:31 am	one male	28 Narcissa
	6:40 am	one male	76 Narcissa
	6:41 am	two females	78 Narcissa Dr
	6:44 am	three males & four females	80 Narcissa Dr
	6:45 am	one male	72 Narcissa Dr
	6:56 am	three males & two females	34 Sweetbay
	6:59 am	one male	30 Sweetbay
	6:59 am	two males	29 Sweetbay
	7:00 am	one male	15 Sweetbay
	7:01 am	one male	12 Sweetbay
	7:02 am	one male	6 Sweetbay
	7:05 am	two males	10 Peppertree
	7:06am	two males	7 Peppertree

7:08am	one male	11 Tangerine
7:09am	one male	56 Limetree
7:11am	two males	3 Limetree
7:12am	one male	5 Limetree
7:17am	one male	13 Limetree
7:17am	one male	5 Peppertree
7:19am	one male	42 Peppertree

Total 31 males & 9 females

4-7-17	5:06 pm	one male	10 Peppertree Dr
	5:09 pm	one male	3 Pomegranate Ln
	5:16 pm	two males & one female	21 Kumquat Ln
	5:18 pm	one male	26 Fraser Ln
	5:20 pm	one male	12 Cherryhill
	5:23 pm	one female	49 Cherryhill
	5:23 pm	one male	14 Limetree
	5:26 pm	three males	8 Tangerine
	5:33 pm	one male	42 Peppertree
	5:36 pm	one male	6 Sweetbay
	5:38 pm	one male	15 Sweetbay
	5:40 pm	one male	26 Sweetbay
	5:42 pm	one male & one female	34 Sweetbay

5:45 pm	one male & one female	72 Narcissa
5:47 pm	one male	82 Narcissa
5:48 pm	one male & two females	84 Narcissa
5:50 pm	one male	83 Narcissa
5:51 pm	one female	57 Narcissa
5:55 pm	one male & one female	2 Cinnamon
5:56 pm	one male	20 Clovertree
5:57 pm	one male	16 Taylor
6:01 pm	one male	33 Narcissa
6:11 pm	three males	5 Figtree

Totals 26 males & 8 females

Overall total 31 males & 9 females

VISTA GRANDE

4-4-17	6:13 pm	two males	28104 Lomo Dr
	6:34 pm	one male	27907 Monero
	6:36 pm	one male	6940 Beechfield
	6:40 pm	one male	7028 Golden Meadow
	6:40 pm	one male	7011 Brookford
	6:41 pm	one male	7003 Brookford
	6:41 pm	one male & one female	7002 Brookford
	6:42 pm	one female	6947 Brookford
	6:42 pm	one male	6948 Brookford

6:43 pm	one male & one female	6942 Brookford
6:43 pm	one male	6935 Brookford
6:44 pm	one female	6928 Brookford
6:45 pm	one male	28206 Ambergate
6:46 pm	one male	6902 Larkvale
6:47 pm	one male	28255 Trailriders
6:51 pm	two males	28310 Trailriders
6:52 pm	one male & one female	6910 Hedgewood
6:52 pm	one male	6923 Hedgewood
6:52 pm	one male	7003 Hedgewood
6:54 pm	one male	6931 Hartcrest

Total 20 males & 5 females

4-8-17	6:25 am	one female	28070 Ella
	6:35 am	one male	28017 San Nicolas
	6:38 am	three males & two females	28111 Birchman
	6:47 am	two males & one female	28413 Hazelridge
	6:50 am	one male	28027 Hazelridge
	6:53 am	three males & two females	28304 Eddinghill
	6:58 am	one male	28327 Rothrock
	7:00 am	one male	6902 Hedgewood
	7:00 am	two males & five females	28310 Trailriders
	7:05 am	two males & one female	6902 Larkvale

7:09 am	one male & one female	6924 Hedgewood
7:10 am	one male & one female	6903 Hedgewood
7:25 am	one female	7008 Willowtree
7:30 am	one male	6930 Larkvale
7:32 am	one male	28222 Trailriders
7:34 am	two male & one female	28304 Brookford
7:35 am	two males	6942 Brookford
7:40 am	one male & one female	28017 Maycroft

Total 25 males & 17 females

OVERALL TOTAL 25 MALES & 17 FEMALES

Sunnyside Ridge

4-9-17	6:13 am	one male & one female	28029 PVDE
	6:15 am	three females	2 Headland
	6:18 am	one male	7 Headland
	6:24 am	one males & one female	38 Headland
	6:25 am	one male	90 Headland
	6:27 am	one male	96 Headland
	6:30 am	one male	98 Headland
	6:35 am	one male	567 Bronco
	7:21 am	one male	2541 Sunnyside Rdg

7:25 am	one male	2256 Sunnyside Rdg
7:28 am	one male & one female	28048 Stonegate
7:28 am	two males	28048 Stonegate
7:29 am	seven male & 5 females	28056 Stonegate
7:40 am	two males	28345 PVDE

Total 21 males & 11 females

4-6-17	6:55 pm	two females	28345 PVDE
	6:57 pm	two males	26 Headland Dr
	6:58 pm	three males & two females	2 Headland Dr
	7:05 pm	three males & eight females	2615 Sunnyside Rdg
	7:09 pm	one male	2256 Sunnyside Rdg
	7:15 pm	eight males & four females	28000 Stonegate
	7:16 pm	two males & two females	28010 Stonegate

Totals 19 males & 16 females

OVERALL TOTAL 21 MALES & 16 FEMALES

Monaco

4-10-17

5:25 PM	one male	30143 Cartier
5:37 PM	one male	30832 Cartier
5:38 PM	four males	30919 Cartier
5:44 PM	one male	31143 Marne

6:08 PM	one male	30412 Rhone
6:14 PM	two females	30908 Cartier
6:18 PM	five males & two females	31029 Marne
Total 13 males & 4 females		

4-11-17

6:20 am	one male	30131 Cartier
6:20 am	one female	30317 Rhone
6:35 am	two males & three females	30422Cartier
6:37 am	one female	6612 Laurtec
6:40 am	one male	30750 Cartier
6:42 am	four males & four females	30823 Cartier
Total eight males & nine females		

OVERALL TOTAL 13 MALES & 9 FEMALES

GRANDVIEW		0
CRESTRIDGE	9	6 males & 3 females
PORTUGUESE BEND	40	31 males & 9 females
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