

**CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 04/21/2020
AGENDA HEADING: Regular Business

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

Consideration and possible action to review the 2019 Peafowl Trapping Program and 2020 Peafowl Census Report.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

- (1) Receive and file a final summary report on the 2019 Peafowl Trapping Program and the 2020 Peafowl Census Report; and,
- (2) Direct Staff to pause the peafowl trapping program for 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT: The peafowl census for 2021, which will occur in March 2021 has been included in the draft Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget under the Code Enforcement program.

Amount Budgeted:	N/A
Additional Appropriation:	N/A
Account Number:	N/A

ORIGINATED BY: Kevin Le, Code Enforcement Officer *KL*

REVIEWED BY: Terry Rodrigue, Interim Director of Community Development *TR*

APPROVED BY: Ara Mhramian, AICP, City Manager *AM*

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- A. 2020 Peafowl Census Report (Page A-1)

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 residents’ 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. Starting in 2017, the trapping and relocation of peafowl has occurred annually within those five neighborhoods, and has subsequently included the Monaco neighborhood.

2019 Peafowl Trapping Program

The five City-owned traps are placed in the enclosed rear yard of various private residences for approximately two-week periods. As required in the PMP, the birds trapped are collected by the City’s vendor, Wildlife Services, within 24 hours. The peafowl are then relocated to ranches in San Diego, Ventura, Kern and Santa Barbara counties. The table below summarizes and compares the number of birds trapped by neighborhood between the 2015 and 2019 trapping periods.

Peafowl Trapping Summary Count							
Year	Grandview	Vista Grande	Crestridge	Portuguese Bend	Sunnyside Ridge	Monaco	Total
2015	24	48	27	27	24	0	150
2016	1	82	7	8	54	0	152
2017	0	44	0	0	20	48	112
2018	0	39	0	12	12	1	64
2019	0	34	10	1	14	2	61
Total	25	247	44	48	124	51	539

The 61 birds trapped during 2019 included 24 males, 35 females and two juveniles. The 2019’s program resulted in approximately the same number of birds trapped in 2018. This lower level of trapping is partly because there are fewer residents volunteering to allow traps to be set, the long-term effectiveness of the program over the past five years, and some trapping occurring in neighboring cities.

2020 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 determine whether trapping should resume. This year’s peafowl census survey was conducted between March 15 and

March 20, 2020, 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. The table below summarizes the results of the recent census, tracks the annual census results since 2014, and compares the 2020 census with the 2014 baseline.

2020 Peafowl Census Summary Table							
	Grandview	Vista Grande	Crestridge	Monaco	Portuguese Bend	Sunnyside Ridge	Total
2020 Males	1	16	1	2	22	21	63
2020 Females	3	9	2	1	21	22	58
2020 Total	4	25	3	3	43	43	121
2019	0	40	11	4	45	36	136
2018	1	40	3	3	46	37	130
2017	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 2020	- 13	-46	-38	n/a	-42	-21	-157
% Difference b/n 2014 and 2020	-76%	-65%	-93%	n/a	-49%	-33%	-56%

As depicted above, there has been an overall 56% reduction in the City's peafowl population compared to the baseline census conducted in 2014, (a census did not occur in 2015).

During the 2019 trapping program, a significant amount of feedback was received from residents requesting the City discontinue or pause the trapping to allow the population to stabilize. In light of the lower than usual number of birds counted in the program's neighborhoods, Staff recommends that for the following reasons, the City pause the trapping program for 2020 until a new census is conducted in 2021:

1. Not trapping in 2020 and conducting the 2021 census will provide an opportunity to evaluate the peafowl population data and adjust the long term program.

2. Feedback from the community shows support for the pause in trapping to determine if the population has stabilized.
3. Given the need to tighten budgets in light of challenges related to the COVID-19 health crisis, the FY 2020-21 budget can be reduced by approximately \$37,000.

If the City Council pauses the trapping program for 2020, a census will be conducted in March 2021 for the City Council's consideration in Spring 2021 to determine whether the trapping program should resume in 2021.

CONCLUSION:

In recent years, the peafowl trapping and accompanying census program has significantly reduced the peafowl population in the City. Based on the reasons stated above, staff recommends pausing the 2020 trapping program.

ALTERNATIVES:

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

1. Direct Staff to continue peafowl trapping program for 2020.
2. Identify alternatives to trapping for Staff to research, and for the City Council to consider at a future meeting.
3. Reduce the number of birds to be trapped for 2020 to fewer than up to 150.

RANCHO PALOS VERDES 2020 PEAFOWL CENSUS

Provided by Wildlife Services

This census took place between March 15 and March 20, 2020. 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 canvased. 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	4	1 male & 3 females
CRESTRIDGE	3	1 male & 2 females
PORTUGUESE BEND	43	22 males & 21 females
VISTA GRANDE	25	16 males & 9 females
SUNNYSIDE RIDGE	43	21 males & 22 females
MONACO	3	2 males & 1 female
TOTAL COUNT	121	

RANCHO PALOS VERDES 2020 PEAFOWL CENSUS

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

GRANDVIEW

3-15-20	7:00 am	three females	27110 Grayslake
3-16-20	6:22 pm	one male & one female	27019 Grayslake

Overall total one male & three females

CRESTRIDGE

3-15-20	6:36 am	one male	5350 Crestridge Rd
3-16-20	6:10 pm	one male	5202 Middlecrest Rd
	6:11 pm	one female	5201 Middlecrest Rd
	6:12 pm	one female	5350 Crestridge Rd

Total 1 male & 2 females

Overall total 1 male & 2 females

PORTUGUESE BEND

3-19-20	6:37 am	one male	21 Kumquat Ln
	6:41 am	one male	7 Lime Tree
	6:44 am	one female	12 Cherry Hill
	6:47 am	one male & one female	49 Cherry Hill
	6:48 am	one male	1 Pepper Tree
	6:49 am	one male	1 Sweetbay
	6:52 am	one male	12 Sweetbay
	6:56 am	one male	28 Sweetbay
	6:58 am	six females	30 Sweetbay
	7:01 am	two males & five females	82 Narcissa
	7:02 am	one male	80 Narcissa
	7:06 am	one male	57 Narcissa
	7:14 am	one male & one female	Gingerroot
	7:16 am	one male	7 Gingerroot
	7:18 am	one male	15 Cinnamon
	7:20 am	two males & five females	6 Clover Tree
	7:22 am	three males	20 Cinnamon
	7:22 am	one male	9 Cinnamon
	7:25 am	two males & two females	12 Cinnamon

Total 22 males & 21 females

3-20-20	5:26 pm	three females	5 Fig tree
	5:29 pm	one male	3 Pomegranate Ln
	5:36 pm	two males & one female	21 Kumquat Ln
	5:38 pm	one female	26 Fraser Ln
	5:40 pm	one male	12 Cherry hill
	5:43 pm	three females	49 Cherry hill
	5:43 pm	one male	8 Tangerine
	5:46 pm	three males	14 Lime tree
	5:53 pm	one male	42 Peppertree
	5:56 pm	one male	6 Sweetbay
	6:00 pm	two females	15 Sweetbay
	6:03 pm	one male	26 Sweetbay
	6:05 pm	one male & one female	34 Sweetbay
	6:08 pm	one male & two females	72 Narcissa
	6:10 pm	one male	82 Narcissa
	6:12 pm	one male & two females	84 Narcissa
	6:13 pm	one male	83 Narcissa
	6:14 pm	four females	57 Narcissa
	6:15 pm	one male & two females	2 Cinnamon
	6:17 pm	one male	20 Clovertree
	6:20 pm	one male	10 Peppertree Dr

Totals 20 males & 21 females

Overall total 22 males & 21 females

VISTA GRANDE

3-18-20	6:36 am	one male	7016 Brookford
	6:40 am	two males & two females	6922 Brookford
	6:42 am	one male	6948 Brookford
	6:45 am	one male	60924 Larkvale
	6:50 am	one male & seven females	28310 Trailriders
	6:57 am	one male	7015 Starstone
	7:01 am	one male	6902 Purpleridge
	7:13 am	one male	78839 Cedar bluff
	7:16 am	one male	6812 Eddinghill
	7:20 am	one male	78505 Plainfield
	7:22 am	two males	28111 Braidwood
	7:22 am	one male	28253 Braidwood
	7:25 am	one male	6744 Lomo
	7:37 am	one male	28020 Ella

Total 16 males & 9 females

3-18-20	6:15 pm	two males	28104 Lomo Dr
	6:33 pm	one male	27907 Monero

6:35 pm	one male	6940 Beechfield
6:40 pm	one male	7028 Golden Meadow
6:41 pm	one male & one female	7003 Brookford
6:42 pm	one male & one female	7002 Brookford
6:45 pm	one female	6947 Brookford
6:45 pm	two males	6948 Brookford
6:48 pm	one male & one female	6942 Brookford
6:50 pm	three females	28206 Ambergate
6:51 pm	one male	6902 Larkvale
6:52 pm	one male	28255 Trailriders
6:53 pm	two males	28310 Trailriders
6:55 pm	one male & one female	6910 Hedgewood

Total 15 males & 8 females

OVERALL TOTAL 16 MALES & 9 FEMALES

Sunnyside Ridge

3-17-20	6:37 am	one male	24 Stallion
	6:45 am	three males & two female	9 Cayuse
	6:55 am	one male & five females	28345 PVDE
	6:57 am	two females	96 Headland
	7:00 am	one male	13 Headland

7:05 am	one male & 6 females	2636 Sunnyside Rdg
7:05 am	four males & four females	2615 Sunnyside Rdg
7:05 am	one male & two females	2618 Sunnyside Rdg
7:10 am	one male	28048 PVDE
7:15 am	six males	28032 PVDE
7:15 am	one female	28024 PVDE
7:15 am	two males	27992 PVDE

Total 21 males & 22 females

3-19-20	6:33 pm	two males and two females	28048 PVDE
	6:35 pm	two females	28345 PVDE
	6:37 pm	two males	26 Headland Dr
	6:48 pm	three males & two females	2 Headland Dr
	6:55 pm	three males & eight females	2615 Sunnyside Rdg
	6:58 pm	4 males	2256 Sunnyside Rdg
	6:59 pm	four males & four females	28000 Stonegate
	7:02 pm	two males & two females	9 Cayuse

Totals 20 males & 20 females

OVERALL TOTAL 21 MALES & 22 FEMALES

Monaco

3-16-20

6:50 am	one male	30330 Cartier
7:00 am	one male	30823 Cartier

Total 2 males

3-20-20

6:25 pm	one male	30131 Cartier
6:34 pm	two males & three females	30422 Cartier
6:40 pm	one male	30823 Cartier

Total 2 males & one female

OVERALL TOTAL 2 MALES & 1 FEMALE

GRANDVIEW	4	1 male & 3 females
CRESTRIDGE	3	1 male & 2 females
PORTUGUESE BEND	43	22 males & 21 females
VISTA GRANDE	25	16 males & 9 females
SUNNYSIDE RIDGE	43	21 males & 22 females
MONACO	3	2 males & 1 female

TOTAL COUNT 121