



Dear L.A. County Board of Supervisors,

While growing up, my geologist father made sure I grew up with a love of science. Every Christmas he gave me science kits; microscopes, magnets, growing crystals. He taught me about the different kinds of rocks so that I could identify them on road trips. One thing I was most grateful for was how he taught me about plants in the wild and how he took me to museums. He took me to the La Brea Tar pits early on in life. Eight-year-old me was fascinated with the fantastical world that was displaced by a changing ecosystem. My mind imagined saber tooth cats, giant sloths, and dire wolves converging on a patch of tar to succumb to the tragic deaths documented by the fossil record.

Now, as a science teacher, I recognize the importance of the voluntary learning I experienced at the La Brea Tar pits as tantamount to shaping my lifelong love of science education. On behalf of Brentwood School and the Belledgrun Center of Innovative Leadership, I am writing to express my strong support for the La Brea Tar Pits Master Plan.

As a science educator, I have partaken in bringing classes to the Natural History Museum and La Brea Tar Pits which have been invaluable in helping my students understand evolution, ecology, and LA history over the past 17 years. As a teacher, I attended many workshops ranging from birding to building native gardens to the importance of asphalt to indigenous people. Some of my students have even been inspired to give back and volunteer at the Tar Pits.

As home to the world's largest collection of Ice Age fossils and the only active urban excavation site, La Brea Tar Pits has been a unique educational and cultural treasure for a century.

The visionary Master Plan will greatly enhance the capacity for world-class research and educational programming by doubling lab facilities, enlarging exhibition space, and expanding immersive, hands-on opportunities for students to participate in real-time scientific discovery. The grounds, too, will be transformed into a premier learning environment with educational displays and historical native plants, along with new recreational spaces and amenities open to the entire community.

The Master Plan will bring immense benefits to Los Angeles County, increasing access and educational opportunities for L.A.'s diverse population and global visitors, providing significant economic impact, and creating the preeminent venue for the public to engage with the wonders of science and appreciate the importance of safeguarding our planet in an era of climate Change.

We are excited to continue our partnership with NHM and urge you to approve the plan to modernize La Brea Tar Pits.

Sincerely,

Laura Feucht  
Brentwood School Science Teacher  
BCIL Curriculum Innovator and Collaborator