

California Native Plant Society

Los Angeles/ Santa Monica Mountains Chapter
15811 Leadwell St., Van Nuys, CA 91406
August 16, 2020

City Council of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Via email
RE: August 18, 2020 Agenda Item 03-1459-S3

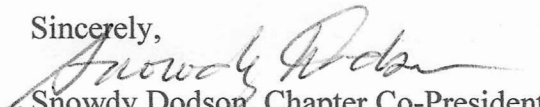
Dear Los Angeles City Council Members:

On behalf of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter, I am writing to ask that you instruct the Bureau of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division to work with the Department of City Planning and the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety to convene and consult with stakeholder groups, including the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, arborists, community groups, environmental groups such as CNPS, FOLAR, Northeast Trees, Friends of Griffith Park, TreePeople, members of the Community Forestry Advisory Committee and the Mayor's expert biodiversity group, to report within 75 days regarding recommendations for strengthening the Protected Tree Ordinance, including, but not limited to: determining methods to preserve overall native tree cover and habitat areas, limiting damage to trees retained during development, and possibly adding protected trees based on circumference and species notability.

We also urge you to put enforcement teeth into any revised Protected Tree Ordinance and to afford protection to planted out native trees as well as those that are growing naturally. Without punitive enforcement, native trees can be mowed down with impunity by unscrupulous developers and contractors. Many in our community are serious advocates for planting native trees in our gardens, as street trees and in public settings. Those trees deserve equal protection from destruction as they provide the same habitat and environmental value as the naturally occurring flora.

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a non-profit organization of over 10,000 laypersons and professional botanists with 35 statewide chapters. Our mission is to increase the understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them in their natural habitats through education, science, advocacy, horticulture and stewardship. We urge you to further expand native tree protection in order to enhance California's native habitat and contribute to the ecosystem health of our City.

Sincerely,


Snowy Dodson, Chapter Co-President

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Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

