

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Casey Maddren  
**Date Submitted:** 06/20/2021 10:09 PM  
**Council File No:** 14-0163-S3  
**Comments for Public Posting:** UN4LA submits the attached objections to council file 14-0163-S3.



**United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles**

**[www.un4la.com](http://www.un4la.com)**

**UN4LA Board**

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June 20, 2021

Los Angeles City Council  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: City Council Agenda for June 22, 2021, Item 18  
Sidewalk Repair Program (SRP)/SRP EIR/Sidewalk Repair Policy  
Council Files 14-0163, 14-0163-S3, 14-0163-S4  
OPPOSED

Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles (UN4LA) is writing to express its strong objections to the approval of the FEIR for the Sidewalk Repair Program, the proposed Street Tree Policy, and the associated actions under Item 18 on the June 22, 2021 Council agenda.

The FEIR for the Sidewalk Repair Program is flawed in numerous ways. UN4LA is just one of a number of groups which submitted comments on the Draft EIR, and scores of individuals submitted comments as well. Experts with wide experience in matters pertaining to the urban forest questioned the DEIR's conclusions regarding the number of trees that constitute LA's urban forest,

replacement rates, maturation rates and other matters. The City's responses in the FEIR fail to adequately address these concerns.

We also oppose the adoption of the proposed Street Tree Policy. This ordinance would codify existing unsustainable practices for the next three decades, while relying on old data and misinformation.

UN4LA wants to state clearly that we absolutely believe that LA's sidewalks are a crucial part of the City's infrastructure, and we support efforts to repair them. But the urban forest is also a crucial component of the City's infrastructure, and it has been neglected for far too long. There is widespread agreement about the vital role the urban forest must play in the health of our cities. Trees reduce temperatures, clean our air and promote groundwater recharge.

Approval of the FEIR and the Street Tree Policy will enshrine failed practices and bad policies. Both the FEIR and Street Tree Policy reflect the ingrained bias against trees at the Board of Public Works and Department of City Planning. For all the talk we hear from Councilmembers and the Mayor about the importance of a healthy urban forest, BPW and DCP routinely approve the removal of trees in quantities both large and small. There is no reliable monitoring of the planting of required replacement trees. The Protected Tree Ordinance is rarely (if ever) enforced. The Urban Forestry Department has been underfunded for years, and even though some funding has been recently restored, the City's ongoing budget difficulties could easily lead to the loss of that funding.

For these reasons we urge you to reject the FEIR, the Street Tree Policy, and all other associated actions under Item 18 on the agenda.

Sincerely,  
Casey Maddren, President  
United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles