

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR, PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE relative to implementing tree removal and replacement policies, and developing an urban forestry management plan to sustain and enhance the City's urban forest and tree canopy.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Krekorian – Buscaino):

INSTRUCT the Bureau of Street Services Urban Forestry Division to:

- a. Report relative to the implementation of the City's tree removal and replacement policies, including related support programs, and an accounting of the net losses and increases in tree canopy as a result of those programs.
- b. Develop and report with an urban forestry management plan, backed by relevant data, that will result in a more sustainable urban forest with greater diversity and resiliency, encourage increased plantings in neighborhoods lacking tree cover, and produce a significant net increase in tree canopy throughout the City of Los Angeles over time.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

### SUMMARY

On August 5, 2016, Council considered Motion (Krekorian – Buscaino) relative to implementing tree removal and replacement policies, and developing an urban forestry management plan to sustain and enhance the City's urban forest and tree canopy. Motion states the Bureau of Street Services Urban Forestry Division is responsible for the stewardship of the urban forest in Los Angeles. This work includes maintenance of existing street trees, assessing the overall health of the tree population in Los Angeles, and recommending policies to preserve the health of street trees.

Motion goes on to state that factors such as disease, and the removal of mature trees caused by sidewalk repair and new construction threaten the sustainability of the City's street tree population. Motion movers believe that existing policies and programs should be re-evaluated in order to ensure the sustainability of the City's urban forest. Motion recommends that Council instruct the Urban Forestry Division to report with an overview of how sidewalk repair, new construction, and other policies affect street trees, and with recommendations for an urban forestry management plan. Council referred Motion to the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee for consideration.

At the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee meeting held October 24, 2016, the Committee Chair discussed this matter with a representative of the Bureau of Street Services Urban Forestry Division. The Bureau's representative discussed the findings and recommendations of a related report (Council File No. 14-0163-S11) considered in conjunction with this Motion. The Committee Chair recommended that Council approve Motion.

Respectfully Submitted,



COUNCILMEMBER JOE BUSCAINO, CHAIR  
PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
BUSCAINO:	YES
MARTINEZ:	ABSENT
PRICE:	ABSENT
O'FARRELL:	ABSENT
RYU:	ABSENT

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**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**