

Communication from Public

Name: South LA Tree Coalition

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Council File No: 15-0499-S2

Comments for Public Posting: July 31, 2023 To: City of Los Angeles Planning & Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee Re: TREE AND BIODIVERSITY PLANNING AND THE CITY'S URBAN CANOPY AND TREE CANOPY COVERAGE; CF 15-0499-S2

Dear Councilmembers: It is with enthusiasm and encouragement that the South LA Tree (SLAT) Coalition supports the thorough and progressive analysis set forth in this report back, as the City takes true strides forward in strengthening protections of the urban forest and planning for a resilient and equitable future. The South LA Tree Coalition appreciates the work of City departments and the City Forest Officer in aggregating the range of tree-specific, and tree-related research, projects, planning elements, ordinances, measures, protocols and practices that in cohort create the realities that we're faced with today. There is much happening in the City and trees have not always been prioritized or understood as critical infrastructure elements, and have often been unintended collateral. The recommendations established in this report demonstrate a keen understanding of gaps and shortfalls in City efforts, and clearly define strategic priorities to remedy these issues and establish industry best practices. The South LA Tree Coalition supports these recommendations, and would like to recommend that the City builds on inter-departmental collaborations by also working closely with communities and organizations in identifying community-specific Tree Canopy Equity Regulations to develop tailored approaches to achieving canopy equity, such as creating a Tree Canopy Equity Overlay for portions of the City, like South LA, which continue to experience drastically reduced levels of shade coverage and its associated impacts. We look forward to more progress and next steps, and richer collaborations made possible through these efforts. We thank you for your consideration, Robin Gilliam & Theresa Maysonet South LA Tree (SLAT) Coalition southlatrees@gmail.com P.O. Box 19068 Los Angeles, CA 90019 About SLAT The South LA Tree Coalition (SLAT/"South LA Trees") is a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded by women of color. Since its origins in 2021, in response to the removal of a grove of Protected Sycamore trees in South LA as a result of a development project, the SLAT Coalition works through grassroots efforts to prioritize the preservation, protection and

growth of the local urban forest and its tree canopy in South LA – a designated tree-poor region of the City. The SLAT Coalition aims to grow community awareness and agency in strengthening the role of trees as part of larger efforts including environmental justice, climate resiliency, biodiversity, and community wellness.



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