

Communication from Public

Name: Chatsworth NC
Date Submitted: 09/10/2022 11:20 AM
Council File No: 15-0499-S2
Comments for Public Posting: The Chatsworth NC strongly supports the much needed effort and focus to protect and grow the city's urban canopy. See attached letter for further detail/suggestions.



CHATSWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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September 8, 2022

RE: CF 15-0499-S2 / Protect and Grow City's Urban Canopy including tree biodiversity
planning

Dear Councilmembers,

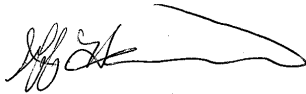
The Chatsworth Neighborhood Council strongly supports CF 15-0499-S2 effort and focus to protect and grow the city's urban canopy. Chatsworth is losing mature, healthy, and often heritage shade trees (as we speak) to development. Back yard trees can be clear cut to make room for ADU's or multiple dwelling units per SB 9. There is zero requirement or consideration to build around to try and preserve such trees. We see too many projects being approved with the complete removal of trees on site with the mindset that as long as they as being replaced, that there is no harm done. The same thing happens with placement of new driveways, sidewalks, not to mention above ground utility equipment, such as DWP transformers, etc. Lastly, enforcement is a painful endeavor for many who try to prevent illegal tree removal or ensure that tree conditions of a project approval are being complied with.

The following are some suggestions to consider:

- Ramp up the Protected Tree Ordinance to include the preservation of all significant trees, 12 inches in trunk diameter or greater. The burden should be on the property owner or developer to show why they cannot preserve the tree.
- Place a value on trees based on the tree size, health, and overall condition. The cost of a significant protected tree should be equivalent to its value plus if illegal removal, punitive fines, such as liens on the property and/or withholding building permits for up to 10 years for worst case scenarios.
- Require parkways plus sidewalks instead of 100% concrete sidewalks. Ensure the parkways are wide enough to provide for shade trees.
- Require greater space for street trees to grow in a given parkway and remove/prohibit concrete tree wells.

- Require the City and projects in the city include a variety of trees, include shade trees in the right locations and a required percentage (i.e. 50%) of native trees. Many development plans include the same trees over and over again, such as crape myrtle and desert museum. Although they may be hardy and drought tolerant, they do not provide enough shading.
- Consider planting fruit trees where appropriate
- All city departments that review projects (LADBS, LASAN, DOT, etc.) should be aware of existing trees on site that are to be preserved and trees that are proposed to be planted so that whatever requirements are imposed, that tree preservation and tree planted is considered in the design review and location.
- The demolition of structures should not include the demolition of significant trees unless a project has been specially approved for such removal. LADBS should require verification and compare the submitted plot plan demolition request to aerial review and google street view.
- Require an actual on-site landscape review for compliance with conditions/plans before issuing a certificate of occupancy.
- Require landscape plans to show all equipment, such as LID planters, underground water retention basins, above ground transformers, LAFD controls, etc. Require landscape plans to also show whether a tree will be planted in the ground or in a planter.
- Require a tree bond for the survival of existing trees and new trees for at least three years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Hammond", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jeff Hammond
CNC President