

Communication from Public

Name: Jamie T. Hall
Date Submitted: 11/05/2020 03:40 PM
Council File No: 19-1134
Comments for Public Posting: Please find the attached letter submitted on behalf of the the Sierra Club - San Fernando Valley Group/Angeles Chapter.



SIERRA CLUB
San Fernando Valley Group/Angeles Chapter

Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee
c/o Ms. Holly L. Wolcott, City Clerk
City of Los Angeles
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

January 21, 2020

**RE: CEQA Appeal for Project Located at 11472 West Laurelcrest Drive, Council file 19-1134,
BPW – 2019-0508**

Honorable Councilmembers,

Sierra Club supports the above referenced appeal of the Board of Public Work's determination that the tree removal permit is categorically exempt from environmental review because of the environmental sensitivity of this unique natural resource.

Sierra Club strongly supports the position taken by the appellant, the Community Forest Advisory Committee, the Hillside Federation and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in this appeal and urges you to support the appeal, and require adequate environmental review before the proposed project can be considered for approval. We note that Board of Public Work's chairman James objected to the project and issuance of the tree removal permit.

Sierra Club is seriously concerned by impacts to sensitive natural communities without environmental analysis under CEQA and encourages you and your consultants to meaningfully consider the findings and conclusions made by appellants' experts, Land Protection Partners and Cooper Ecological that the project site has a sensitive natural community on it and that impacts to sensitive natural communities are significant under CEQA and that those impacts would not be mitigated through application of the protected tree ordinance.

Sierra Club requests that the protocol level environmental surveys provided by California Fish and Wildlife be put in place for all hillside communities to identify sensitive natural communities.

Finally, Sierra Club asks that the tree removal permit process be amended to allow for true protection for the trees with protected status. There are several ancient oaks on this property which will be impacted or removed. There are many other smaller oaks, black walnuts that also have protected status. At this time, when climate change may have reached the tipping point, leading to a planet that is inhospitable to human and other life on earth, it behooves us to take much more care when deciding if any trees can be removed. For this reason above all we are in support of the appeal and urge you to go through the CEQA process.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Katzen
Chair
San Fernando Valley Group of
The Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter

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