



Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

October 7, 2019

RE: **Council file 19-1134; 11472 West Laurelcrest Drive / Tree Removal Permit / Appeal**

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

The City's Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC), constituted of representatives from each Council District and the Mayor's Office, seeks to advise on and promote "[a] healthy, safe, and enduring Los Angeles community forest ecosystem for the enjoyment and well-being of all."

Community stakeholders last month brought to CFAC's attention the Board of Public Works' approval of a protected tree removal permit for six Coast Live oak trees on a heretofore undeveloped Studio City parcel proposed as the construction site of a single-family residence. They are now appealing this permit approval.

You will be aware that the City's new CEQA appeal ordinance, LAMC §197.01, recently went into effect. Under the provisions of this ordinance, an automatic stay applies pending the hearing of an appeal of a City determination. This automatic stay would have ensured that a permit would not have been issued and the protected native trees would not have been cut down before the CEQA appeal is

heard by your Committee. However, the City Clerk has advised the appellants that, because the Board determination occurred on September 13 and the City's new CEQA appeal ordinance has an effective date of September 24, the stay provision will not apply. (Copy of City Clerk letter attached.)

Following discussion at its October 3, 2019, meeting, CFAC therefore unanimously passed the following motion, that "based on the environmental sensitivity of this natural resource, CFAC's concern about the cumulative impacts of tree removals on our hillside native habitat, and the fact that CFAC has not had the opportunity to review this project, CFAC requests a stay of the tree removals pending CFAC review and discussion of project documents at its next meeting [November 7, 2019]."

To allow the premature removal of the trees prior to the City's consideration of the pending CEQA appeal would not serve the purposes of the appeal process, and would likewise render moot any recommendations CFAC may wish to make after fuller review at its November meeting.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Thomas', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Aaron Thomas

Chair, Community Forest Advisory Committee

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