

Communication from Public

Name: Chatsworth NC
Date Submitted: 09/10/2022 11:07 AM
Council File No: 22-0650
Comments for Public Posting: The Chatsworth NC strongly supports better tree maintenance and preservation of street trees, park trees, and private property trees. See attached letter.



CHATSWORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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September 8, 2022

RE: CF 22-0650 / Tree Maintenance and Preservation

Dear Councilmembers,

The Chatsworth Neighborhood Council strongly supports CF 22-0650. Anything to improve the health and longevity of street trees, park trees, as well as private property trees, is a critical issue now with the excessive heat, drought, and water restrictions. Areas such as Chatsworth and the San Fernando Valley overall is usually 20+ degrees hotter than downtown locations. And ironically, shaded areas from shade trees can be as much as 20 to 45 degrees cooler (air and surface temperatures)! As such, there should be a strong push for tree preservation, especially healthy mature shade trees.

A public education campaign should be launched quickly to provide a better understanding of when trees should be trimmed (i.e. in triple digit heat?), how much should be trimmed, how often, and how best to water trees to avoid wood rot, etc. Too often we see trees that finally get to a stage where they are providing sufficient shade, such as in grocery store parking lots, only to see the trees trimmed back to where the shade canopy is removed. If the code requires that trees be planted and dispersed in a parking lot area to effectively grow to provide 50 percent shade in the parking lot, then why are they allowed to trim back to less than 50 percent? Additionally there should be a live database system that is kept up to date and accessible to the public (akin to street resurfacing data) to show when a city tree or park tree has been trimmed, planted, or removed. Currently Navigate LA does not provide this information and still shows city trees that have long since been removed and not replaced.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hammond
CNC President