

Communication from Public

Name: South LA Tree Coalition

Date Submitted: 09/27/2022 08:50 PM

Council File No: 22-0650

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Madam President and Councilmembers: The South LA Tree (SLAT) Coalition supports this motion (council file 22-0650) to evaluate the water-related needs, impacts, planning, and public messaging strategies for trees throughout the City. The SLAT Coalition recognizes the critical role that trees play in enhancing the City's green infrastructure in order to drastically reduce the threats associated with extreme heat and weather events, climate change, and environmental justice. We know that access to shade, cooling, greenspace, and natural resources significantly increases resiliency and equity for communities across the City, with the greatest rates of improvement seen in low-income communities and communities of color which are widely known to experience the greatest exposures to environmental hazards, including heat islands, which result in wider health disparities when compared to other communities. We support the development of enhanced strategies to provide for the continued growth and health of the trees throughout the City, including trees in the public domain and private property trees, through effective preservation, maintenance, and planning that employs efficient and innovative watering practices even during long-term water scarcity conditions. As is documented by City reports, the City's tree inventory and academic research – the vast majority of trees in the City are found on private property. We hope that through this analysis, the City will explore opportunities to incentivize the preservation and maintenance of existing private property trees, as well as new tree plantings on private property, in connection with customer utility costs to encourage modified actions, improved trends, and positive results for the City's urban forest. We are encouraged by the vision of City leadership and LADWP in coordinating both long-term and short-term tree-related planning, with scaled water & power policy and funding efforts to create an adaptive and sustainable Los Angeles for all residents. About the SLAT Coalition – The SLAT Coalition is a grassroots community group that developed in 2021 in response to the removal of a grove of Protected Sycamore trees in South LA as a result of a development project. Since then, the SLAT Coalition has worked to prioritize the preservation, protection and growth of the urban forest and its tree canopy in South LA – a designated tree-poor region of the City. The SLAT Coalition works to grow local

awareness and interest in trees as part of larger efforts to strengthen environmental justice, climate resiliency, biodiversity, and community wellness. Thank you, The South LA Tree Coalition southlatrees@gmail.com P.O. Box 19068 Los Angeles, CA 90018

September 27, 2022

Dear Madam President and Councilmembers:

The South LA Tree (SLAT) Coalition supports this motion (council file 22-0650) to evaluate the water-related needs, impacts, planning, and public messaging strategies for trees throughout the City.

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