

Communication from Public

Name: Isabelle Duvivier

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Comments for Public Posting: As our climate changes and our watering requirements change, I believe city contractors and staff should also reflect a new maintenance regiment. 1. While it is important to save water, it is vital to our health and welfare that we retain our mature trees. In places like public parks and schools water restrictions need to be adjusted and irrigation systems changed to irrigate trees. We don't need grass everywhere in our parks but we should have some grass in places where people like to sit, and children play. In private space, watering trees needs to be encouraged. 2. Regarding medians: trees need to be watered. Irrigation systems need to be switched out to allow for drip irrigation around trees and native shrubs installed to replace grass. Instead of mowing and blowing at a rapid pass and hedging every bush once a week, landscapers should only do no more than quarterly structural pruning with care. I have witnessed many city landscape contractors mow the dead grass and trim trees when they're in bloom or during a heat wave or during nesting season. I would like to see contractors be more seasonably sensitive so that they're not removing flowers during the spring and they're doing their trimming in the winter and fall. 3. Additionally, city contractors should be models citizens for the ways we would expect the average residents to maintain their landscapes. these landscapers should not be allowed to use gas blowers since it's against the law, bad for public health, noisy and bad for wildlife. In fact even electric blowers should be discouraged. 4. Lastly it's very important to re-train city contractors and landscape professional, and/or the residence adjacent to LEAVE THE LEAVES on the ground under trees so that the earth beneath these trees does not end up parched and dusty. This leaf litter is good for the trees it replenish is the soil and keeps the moisture in the ground even when it's hot.
thank you