

Communication from Public

Name: Alexis Wieland

Date Submitted: 11/30/2022 10:27 AM

Council File No: 22-1469

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support the Native Landscaping motion. This simple measure will have real and important impact on our city and environment, all with no additional cost. Simply switching from so called "drought tolerant" plants to endemic species as the preferred option brings with it a surprising large bevy of benefits; including environmental, financial, and community.

Communication from Public

Name: Annette Mercer

Date Submitted: 11/30/2022 09:49 AM

Council File No: 22-1469

Comments for Public Posting: Westwood Greenway, Inc. supports motion 22-1469; please see attached letter



November 30, 2022

Re: LA CF 22-1469, Use of Native Plants for Public Landscaping

Dear Council Members,

Westwood Greenway, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, supporting the City-owned Westwood Neighborhood Greenway in maintaining its native landscaping, modeling for visitors the benefits of sustainable practices and native plants, and providing an outdoor green space for purposes of hands-on education, increased biodiversity, and public benefit. As such, we strongly support CF 22-1469 requiring all city agencies to use only natives in public projects not designed to generate food for humans or to be used as a recreational field.

The Westwood Neighborhood Greenway is a ~~2two~~ two-acre LASAN project immediately adjacent to the Metro E Line Westwood/Rancho Park station in West Los Angeles. It includes two bioswales fed by dry weather flow from a City storm drain and features native plant landscaping on what, five years ago, was essentially a vacant lot used for over 100 years for dumping and agriculture. The Greenway is a showcase for how just providing the right plants can lead to a dramatic increase in butterflies, native bees and other insects, songbirds, and many other species.

Multiplying what we have seen on the Greenway, the use (and proper care) of native plants throughout the City will beneficially impact many aspects of our lives: increased biodiversity and the health benefits of nature, reduced water and air pollution, reduced water usage over time, and recognition of our native heritage.

Sincerely,

Annette Mercer
President, Westwood Greenway, Inc.
www.westwoodgreenway.org

Communication from Public

Name: Alex Rajewski

Date Submitted: 11/30/2022 11:44 AM

Council File No: 22-1469

Comments for Public Posting: Regarding the proposed motion to ban municipal agency from planting non-native plants, I think this measure is well-meaning but shortsighted. I strongly encourage the city council to vote against this motion, but I provide some suggestions for revision below. As a graduate UC Riverside's plant biology PhD program and as an extension Master Gardener for the past 11 years, I believe that the evidence against strictly native plantings in the Los Angeles area is quite strong. I think it is important to distinguish between non-native plants versus invasive plants. Invasive plants are non-native plants "whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health". This was defined by President Clinton's Executive Order 13112 in 1999. Importantly, non-native plants are not categorically invasive, in fact certain non-native plants are very well adapted to the current (and projected future) climate of Los Angeles county. In combination with certain native plants, they can make our landscapes more water efficient, more resistant to climate change, and also provide useful services like reducing urban heat islands, trapping urban pollution, and nourishing bee populations. These benefits are specifically recognized by the Biodiversity Expert Council referenced in the motion, and the implementation of this motion would run counter to the goals of that expert council. This motion could also results in large scale deforestation of existing non-native trees across the city. For instance, of the 510 trees documented by the Bureau of Street Services to grow in Echo Park, 315 are not native to California and would be removed if this motion passes. This would reduce the number of trees in Echo Park by 70% and leave just 195 trees. Importantly, fewer than 30 of those remaining trees actually provide shade for the park. The majority are various palm species. The additional provisions in the motion, including the ban on selling non-native plants, are especially short-sighted. LA, like any city, has a large community of apartment dwellers who buy houseplants for indoor planting and herb gardening, and the ban on non-native sales would result in an effective prohibition on houseplants, most of which are native to tropical regions. Beyond this subtle side-effect, imagine the absurdity of the city council banning Christmas trees, most succulents, most grasses, orchids, monstera, and fiddle-leaf figs. If the ban also extends (as written)

to common edible plants, then we would also ban all citrus, olive, almond, date palms, figs, most culinary herbs, and tomatoes. The end effect of this motion would be to decimate all home gardening and food production across the city. If the motion were revised to prevent the planting of invasive plants, perhaps as designated by the California Invasive Plants Council, and to leave non-native, non-invasive plants unregulated, then the motion would be a strong contribution to ecosystem health in the LA area. I also fully support the limited prohibition on the sale of non-native milkweeds in order to better support the health of our monarch butterfly populations. A wholesale prohibition on non-native plants would do tremendous harm to the ecosystem of the LA region, effectively ban home gardening, and severely hinder most food production in the city.

Communication from Public

Name: Jonathan Weiss

Date Submitted: 11/30/2022 12:25 PM

Council File No: 22-1469

Comments for Public Posting: I was one of those who (to use a term in the motion) unconsciously replaced local native flora with non-native plant and tree species. Because I sought out drought-tolerant plants for my home, I thought I was doing the best for the environment. I now know better. Especially with the coming influx of federal infrastructure money and county Safe Clean Water Program funds, this motion could not be more timely. For that reason and for all of those stated in the motion, I heartily support it. Jonathan Weiss Secretary Westwood Greenway, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, supporting the City-owned Westwood Neighborhood Greenway in maintaining its native landscaping, modeling for visitors the benefits of sustainable practices and native plants, and providing an outdoor green space for purposes of hands-on education, increased biodiversity, and public benefit.
<https://westwoodgreenway.org/>

Communication from Public

Name: Aleigh LEwis

Date Submitted: 11/30/2022 01:16 PM

Council File No: 22-1469

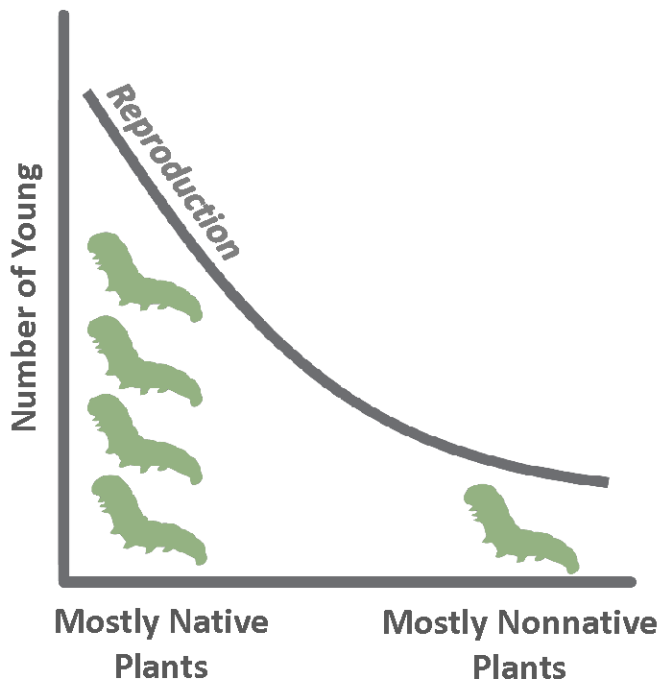
Comments for Public Posting: My name is Aleigh Lewis, founding member of Angelenos for Green Schools, a parent advocate for green schoolyards at LAUSD. I am writing in support of the motion to require all city agencies to use only native in public projects not designed to generate food for humans or to be used as a recreational field. This is an incredibly important motion because every open space that includes native planting, supports Los Angeles re-establishing healthy ecosystems across the city. Pollinators and birds cannot survive if they don't have habitat and food and native plants support their needs. Caterpillars on native species are 2-3x more abundant, which means more food for birds. By requiring native plants in city projects, the city is also promoting healthy soil and water conservation as well as educational opportunities for gardeners and landscape architects. Thank you for your consideration.

Nonnative Plants Reduce Population Growth in Carolina Chickadees

Most songbirds need thousands of insects to reproduce & survive



Carolina chickadee



When yards have nonnative plants, bird prey & reproduction declines

Only yards with more than
70% native plant biomass
sustain chickadee populations



Smithsonian Conservation
Biology Institute



@DLNarango
@PeterPMarra
@SMBC

Narango, DL, Tallamy, DW, and Marra PP. Nonnative plants reduce population growth in an insectivorous bird. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Funded by 

Communication from Public

Name: George Pessin

Date Submitted: 11/30/2022 01:39 PM

Council File No: 22-1469

Comments for Public Posting: There are many non-native, drought tolerant plants that are non-invasive. There are also many us who enjoy growing fruits and vegetables in our backyards. I am vehemently against this draconian measure and do not want to see it passed.

Communication from Public

Name: Joanne D'Antonio

Date Submitted: 11/30/2022 02:19 PM

Council File No: 22-1469

Comments for Public Posting: Money and time were spent on the LASAN Biodiversity Study, and the experts that contributed to it confirmed that indeed Los Angeles is in a biodiversity hotspot, the only one in the United States. Consider this analogy: with the knowledge that we are in an earthquake threatened zone, the city has required buildings by code to adhere to standards to withstand earthquakes. Though we have not fully experienced the disaster that will result from ignoring biodiversity loss, we have witnessed the decline of songbirds, monarch butterflies and other vital ecosystem fauna and flora -- which to flourish depend on native plants and trees. We have been warned, and before it is too late, we need to take measures to prevent a future that will ultimately be too unhealthy for humans. Is this the legacy we want to leave our children? Ventura County has already banned tropical milkweed, that is detrimental to monarchs, and by following their example we can make our contribution. Our city's planting of native species will set an example for the residents, who can then be encouraged to also plant native trees and plants. Yes, there will be a learning curve and likely require a different approach like planting smaller saplings with more protections around them. It may mean enlarging tree wells into underutilized parking spaces to make room for oak trees. There is federal money just becoming available for infrastructure, and we need to make sure we utilize it for these purposes because we are a unique endangered biodiversity hotspot. Let us not have our head in the sand or be stubborn to change. We need this new policy that commits to plant native.

Communication from Public

Name: Jennifer H.

Date Submitted: 11/30/2022 03:02 PM

Council File No: 22-1469

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, as a UC California Naturalist who understands the importance of strengthening local biodiversity to bring about better public health and ecosystem health outcomes, I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of Council File 22-1469. Native plants have evolved for thousands of years in our local ecosystem; they are adapted well to this region and are key to this region's future biological health. Please move forward in: - Directing all relevant municipalities to discontinue the practice of planting non-native landscaping plants and trees and, using the ecotope map created in the LA City Index as a guide, plant only appropriate native plants and trees in as many areas as possible. - Requiring that citywide only 100% California native plants and trees be planted for all uses, governmental, commercial and residential. - Directing the Bureau of Sanitation and Environment work with the Biodiversity Expert Council on a pollinator-friendly landscaping plan that prioritizes planting the appropriate milkweed to promote the continued recovery of our beloved Monarch butterfly population. - Directing the City Attorney draft an ordinance banning citywide by 2025 the sale of non-native plants and trees in stores, nurseries, wholesalers, and from other entities that sell landscaping plants. Shifting to the practice of prioritizing the planting/care of native plants has a multitude of benefits, including: 1) Combating the biodiversity crisis that we currently face in LA, wherein wherein over 90% of local butterflies, songbirds, and other pollinators have disappeared in the last century. 2) Improving public health outcomes, allowing Angelenos to experience deep connection, well-being, and happiness around native landscaping. 3) Offering resiliency to drought, heat, and other regional risks through water and energy savings, canopy/shade, and reduced runoff pollution. Please move forward with this motion. Thank you for your time and consideration. Jennifer H. Resident of LA

Communication from Public

Name: Newara O Brosnan-Faltas, Surfrider LA Chapter Manager
Date Submitted: 11/30/2022 03:21 PM
Council File No: 22-1469
Comments for Public Posting: Surfrider Foundation has a long track record of working to protect watershed health and promoting sustainability through practices that protect water resources. Soil amendments used with non-native landscaping are a top source of runoff pollution in the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek watersheds, and these sources of excess nitrogen pollute and threaten marine life in Santa Monica Bay. Native landscaping does not require soil amendments and promotes biodiversity and sustainability in ways no imported flora can. Accordingly, Surfrider Foundation applauds and endorses the Los Angeles Native Landscaping Ordinance, CF 22-1469.