

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Andy Hattala

**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2022 10:10 AM

**Council File No:** 22-1469

**Comments for Public Posting:** As Co-Chair of The Climate Reality Project: Los Angeles Chapter, representing 1,200+ members, I am writing in strong support of the motion and to reiterate the importance of native landscaping in order preserve biodiversity and better address the dual water and climate crises affecting Los Angeles and beyond. According to The American Society of Landscape Architects, native plants have both economic and environmental benefits that cannot be ignored. Native plants generally grow to be healthier and more robust, create and preserve natural habitats and ecosystems, improve the environment-purify air, require less water, prevent water runoff, and store carbon, require less maintenance and upkeep, and come in a variety of colors, textures, heights, and beyond (same as non-natives). The city of Los Angeles, in passing this measure, has a chance to be on the forefront of the native landscaping movement by mandating it citywide, modeling its feasibility and showcasing as well as experiencing the benefits.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** LA City Biodiversity Index California Native Landscaping  
Monarch Butterfly

**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2022 10:39 AM

**Council File No:** 22-1469

**Comments for Public Posting:** Thank you for considering this important motion. As has been noted, Los Angeles is one of just 36 biodiversity hot spots around the world, meaning that we are not only home a rare abundance of diverse species, but that they are under imminent threat. Biodiversity loss is at a critical juncture with more than a million species currently in danger of extinction. With much of the planet dedicated to monoculture-style agriculture, cities turn out to be some of the best places to establish robust, resilient strongholds of biodiversity. For too long, Los Angeles gardens, parks and parkways have attempted to emulate landscapes more appropriate to east coast climates, requiring large quantities of irrigation and providing no support for native flora and fauna. City policy has prioritized shade and leaf litter concerns over native provenance, but the vast spectrum of native species should provide options for most any planting circumstance. Prioritizing native trees will not mean an end to popular exotic species. If every empty parkway tree site or well were to be filled with native species only, (165,191 vacant locations), that would increase the native tree numbers from just 3% to 29%. The end result of planting only natives in parkways still results in the vast majority of the urban forest being non-native trees. There are non-native trees that do provide biological functions (e.g. raptors love tall trees like eucalyptus, pines and cedars for nesting and hunting), and there are instances where non-natives are culturally important, so some exceptions would seem to be acceptable. But we must prioritize native trees, plants and shrubs wherever possible. The future of our city, our planet, and our non-human companions depend on it. Respectfully submitted by Cyndi Hubach

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Edward Gonzales

**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2022 12:00 PM

**Council File No:** 22-1469

**Comments for Public Posting:** I strongly SUPPORT Council File 22-1469 and the requirement make California native plants the default landscaping option. The benefit to residents cannot be overstated in helping preserve our precious and diminishing water supplies: once established, properly chosen native plants need little-to-no additional water. Additionally, native plants can be at least as beautiful if not more beautiful than non-native (and often invasive) landscaping. The explosion of colors during the spring and the subtle green and glowing orange of summer dormancy are inspiring reminders of the plants that were companions to the Native Californians for millennia prior and their connection to the land. Their beauty is enhanced by the knowledge of their benefit to local native wildlife, whose current rapid decline due to habitat loss is both hard to fathom and also presents unknown threats to human life as well. Some examples are the proliferation of non-native insects and mosquitos that, lacking natural healthy competition, can pose untold human disease and blight threats to flora, greatly enhancing the threats from climate change and drought. Protecting and uplifting our indigenous plant companions is a necessary step to improving Los Angeles as a whole.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Stephanie Bartron

**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2022 10:48 AM

**Council File No:** 22-1469

**Comments for Public Posting:** I applaud this measure to support native biodiversity, ecosystem health, climate resilience and watershed management by moving the City of Los Angeles towards planting locally native plants. I would like to propose amending this to ensure that these plants are not beautiful poisoned apples, actively threatening the biodiversity they are intended to support, by adding text to prohibit the sale, purchase and planting of any plants, including plant seed and sod, that have been treated with systemic pesticides in the Neonicatanoid pesticide family. Scientific research has shown that, even when used in small amounts, plants treated with these pesticides produce both pollen and nectar, besides leaves and stems, that are especially toxic to our native pollinator populations, as reported in the Los Angeles Times (8/18/21, Marantos "What you need to start planting and stop spraying to keep bees healthy and happy"). These flowering native plants are especially attractive to our native bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, so it is of extra important that these plants not kill those insects. Further, these poisons are shown to travel up the food chain, affecting both seed-eating and insect-eating birds. Additionally, these chemicals are water soluble, so when applied to the soil they also leach into the surrounding watersheds and have been implicated in fish kill and other damage. Besides being banned in Europe and elsewhere, and the California State Legislature passing AB2146 this summer, banning their non-agricultural use, this bill was not signed into law this year, so these systemic pesticides are still being legally applied to create poisonous landscape plants. Please amend this motion to prevent Neonicatanoid pesticide-poisoned plants, seed, and sod from undermining this excellent motion, by threatening the very species this is intended to support and protect. Thank you!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kristen Egermeier

**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2022 11:10 AM

**Council File No:** 22-1469

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am in support of this motion in which we are asking the city to switch to planting only native species of trees and ornamental plants. LA needs to be a leader in planting native species, as well as offering native plant education to our community. Biodiversity is incredible important, and while we need to retain species that supply pollination and drought resistant possibilities, we also need to make sure that we do not eradicate our established natives. Therefore, LA should make a move to plant native species in its public areas.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Snowdy Dodson, Calif. Native Plant Society

**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2022 11:13 AM

**Council File No:** 22-1469

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am Snowdy Dodson & I reside in Van Nuys. As VP of the Calif. Native Plant Society, LA/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter, I am speaking in support of the motion to use ONLY native plants in all city sponsored landscaping, with the exception of projects where food is being grown or for use in athletic fields. Calif. native plants should be LA's first & only choice when planting out public spaces because they: • increase biodiversity by attracting & providing food & habitat for a wide range of pollinators, birds, and other animals • are adapted to survive with minimal water once established & thus are adapted to climate change • thrive without the use of pesticides or fertilizers • contribute to carbon sequestration & erosion control • they are lovely & fit in beautifully to our SoCal landscape Planting Calif. Native plants has been a success in numerous public venues leading to a more sustainable & climate-friendly environment for all of our city's inhabitants. Please pass this motion.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kevin DeBacker

**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2022 09:10 AM

**Council File No:** 22-1469

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello. I live in Koreatown and do not agree with this Motion. Though I do understand the need to stop invasive species, banning non-native plants is a completely different thing. If you ban non-native plants you are stopping indoor plants like a fiddle leaf fig (a very popular house plant). Additionally, very few food plants are actually native to California. I believe this Motion needs to be more thoroughly thought through. Please consider the differences between non-native and invasive. I vote no on this ban. Thank you, Kevin DeBacker

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Noel C. Johnston

**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2022 09:11 AM

**Council File No:** 22-1469

**Comments for Public Posting:** With the exception of the final paragraph, this is a fine motion and something that will benefit Los Angeles now and in the future. The closing paragraph is too punitive and does not take into consideration those who want exotics in their homes and yards. Please consider the motion without this paragraph as it would put our local nurseries at a disadvantage, making gardeners go outside the city limits to get the plants they want.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Nick Jensen

**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2022 09:19 AM

**Council File No:** 22-1469

**Comments for Public Posting:** December 1, 2022 Los Angeles City Council 200 N Spring St Los Angeles, CA 90012 Submitted electronically to: LACouncilComment.com, eric.villanueva@lacity.org Support in Concept for CF 22-1469 The undersigned organizations are pleased to support in concept CF 22-1469, which would mandate the use of native plants in the city of Los Angeles. As California grapples with the interrelated crises of drought, climate change and biodiversity loss, native plant landscaping offers a specific and beautiful way to support life and protect natural resources. Even in dense urban areas, native landscaping helps connect fragmented wildlife habitat while improving people's access to nature. California's native plants bring the beauty of California's world-renowned natural areas into urbanized areas. Not only do native plants give us a sense of place, native landscaping requires less water, maintenance, and pesticides than landscaping that utilizes non-native species. We are heartened to see the ambitious language mandating the use of native plants in CF 22-1469. However, we believe some of the requirements in the resolution need additional thought and nuance. While we support the spirit of the resolution, we feel that more consensus needs to be developed with the specific guidelines before we can support it in full. We would welcome the opportunity, following a more thorough review of the proposed language, to collaborate with the authors and provide meaningful and constructive feedback. We are excited about this opportunity for Los Angeles to be a nationwide leader in the promotion of native plant landscaping. Sincerely,  
Nick Jensen, PhD Conservation Program Director California Native Plant Society  
Evan Meyer Executive Director Theodore Payne Foundation  
Jack Smith Ecological Restoration and Nursery Manager TreePeople



December 1, 2022

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N Spring St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Submitted electronically to: [LACouncilComment.com](http://LACouncilComment.com), [eric.villanueva@lacity.org](mailto:eric.villanueva@lacity.org)

### **Support in Concept for CF 22-1469**

The undersigned organizations are pleased to support in concept CF 22-1469, which would mandate the use of native plants in the city of Los Angeles.

As California grapples with the interrelated crises of drought, climate change and biodiversity loss, native plant landscaping offers a specific and beautiful way to support life and protect natural resources. Even in dense urban areas, native landscaping helps connect fragmented wildlife habitat while improving people's access to nature.

California's native plants bring the beauty of California's world-renowned natural areas into urbanized areas. Not only do native plants give us a sense of place, native landscaping requires less water, maintenance, and pesticides than landscaping that utilizes non-native species.

We are heartened to see the ambitious language mandating the use of native plants in CF 22-1469. However, we believe some of the requirements in the resolution need additional thought and nuance. While we support the spirit of the resolution, we feel that more consensus needs to be developed with the specific guidelines before we can support it in full. We would welcome the opportunity, following a more thorough review of the proposed language, to collaborate with the authors and provide meaningful and constructive feedback. We are excited about this opportunity for Los Angeles to be a nationwide leader in the promotion of native plant landscaping.

Sincerely,

Nick Jensen, PhD  
Conservation Program Director  
California Native Plant Society

Evan Meyer  
Executive Director  
Theodore Payne Foundation

Jack Smith  
Ecological Restoration and  
Nursery Manager  
TreePeople

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sarah Wauters

**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2022 09:38 AM

**Council File No:** 22-1469

**Comments for Public Posting:** I have actively supported and planted many trees in my Venice (300+) through the Venice Arbor Committee and the Verdant Venice Group. I support this motion wholeheartedly - everything I have read about the species that live in the LA Basin points to an incredible disaster looming - we must generate greater numbers of native trees and plants in this basin in order to raise the amount of our urban canopy from 3% natives to a greater number. Otherwise, we will preside over extinctions of unique birds, insects and other species. As you know by now, LA is a biodiversity hotspot. As such, the Venice Arbor Committee has passed in draft form (but has not yet been considered by the Venice Neighborhood Council) a motion that is similar to the motion before the City Council now. Please see the attached. I do believe that the last paragraph of the motion should require nurseries to shift to a 50% minimum native plants as opposed to banning the sale of non-natives altogether, because their businesses need to evolve and we may cause a contraction in the nursery businesses. We need them as allies. Sarah Wauters Chair, Venice Arbor Committee Attorney

## Venice Arbor Committee DRAFT MOTION

Whereas Los Angeles faces a biodiversity crisis wherein over 90% of local butterflies, songbirds, and other pollinators have disappeared in the last century due to the replacement of local flora with non-native plant and tree species;

Whereas native landscaping plants and trees can thrive in our urban environment and provide all the benefits non-native trees can offer in terms of canopy shade to offset the heat island effect, beauty, and shade comfort for humans, while providing the only path to sustainability for biodiversity, water and energy savings, and elimination of soil amendment runoff pollution,

Therefore, the Venice Neighborhood Council appeals to the County and City of Los Angeles, all applicable government agencies, public-private partnerships, and private parties planting in public space to discontinue the practice of planting non-native landscaping plants and trees except in situations where plants and trees are designed to produce food or provide a designated recreational playing field, and henceforth these same parties only plant 100% California native landscaping plants and trees within Los Angeles County and City, and specifically within the stakeholder area of the Venice Neighborhood Council district.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Adam Gelbart

**Date Submitted:** 12/01/2022 01:28 PM

**Council File No:** 22-1469

**Comments for Public Posting:** Native plants are necessary for mitigating biodiversity loss and other benefits are numerous when compared to non-native landscaping, including drought tolerance, supporting regional identity, improving mental health, and other ecosystem services. I also support the the use of regional species, not cultivated varieties.