

Communication from Public

Name: Mason Flink

Date Submitted: 12/02/2022 01:37 PM

Council File No: 22-1469

Comments for Public Posting: Hello there, I am an environmental artist and permaculture designer based in Echo Park. I am a big proponent of using native plants where applicable, but I think it is extremely misguided to ban whole categories of "non-native" plants. Firstly, we have to ask the question, "Native to when?" Species are constantly migrating across the globe, and the entire "native plant" framework often fails to capture the nuance that migration is also a part of life on earth. Secondly, with fossil-fuel induced climate destabilization, which has resulted in rising temperatures, extreme weather and biodiversity collapse, many of our native plants have already had their pollinator partners go extinct, which means we should be thoughtfully aiding the migration of plants from climes warmer than our own as we experience the effects of aridification and global heating. Thirdly, the phrase "except in situations where plants and trees are designed to produce food for human consumption" raises many questions. Who is making the list of plants that are used for human consumption? How is this enforced? A policy like this has the potential to become something that in the end, does not support biodiversity, but actually turns into more monoculture which is what we are trying to avoid. I am all for encouraging more thoughtful stewardship across Los Angeles, but rather than restricting people's options, we should be funding regenerative teaching centers and city-run nurseries staffed by a corp of local gardeners paid by the city to help guide our community's adaptation in the face of climate uncertainty. Let's invest in our collective resilience by encouraging all points of view rather than limiting the tools in our toolbox. Best, Mason Flink