

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: 22-1469 Usurps 14-0518 Planning Department Recommendations CPC-2022-3413-CA, CPC-2022-3712-ZC, ENV-2022-3414-CE *

It is admirable to promote native plants as I have been growing native plants for over 25 years. To restrict the entire City to solely native plants is terribly misguided as there are several other factors that need to be considered and addressed. * Los Angeles is a huge area with vastly differing conditions of temperatures and trans evaporation rates, wind conditions, and various soil types. Native plants grow in areas that are rural because they don't like human interaction. Urban areas, notably City properties including government, parks and parkways are subject to high foot traffic, root compression, dust and other pollutants, also high clearance for vehicles among other considerations. Parks and other City landscaped areas have rotor irrigation installed which may need to be replaced to address native plant needs. Some native plants tolerate more water than others, but they grow at a faster rate, but please be aware that this also causes a faster death rate, requiring replanting. This dichotomy of water use cannot get along happily. Would you require removal of flourishing plantings in order to plant only the native types? Many native plants look dead during their resting period through the summer months and there will be training required that the dead looking plants are not dead, just resting. Watering and trimming schedules are the complete opposite time of most traditionally planted landscape plants. *

Thirty California native trees are not adequate to address all of our tree needs and there are only 20 kinds listed on the Preferred Plant List and not all of them are preferred street trees. It is never recommended to plant more than 10% of an area with one type of tree due to the risk of mass die off due to insects/disease. In residential areas, not all parkways can accommodate the larger trees due to parkway width restrictions. Coast live oak should be pruned after the high stress summer heat period specifically in late summer. You must be aware that the City usually hires contractors to cut all trees at the same time, not according to the tree species. * If you are truly interested in saving our biodiversity, it can not be done without addressing our non native pet population. Our local bird population is has been been affected by loose cats, both pets and feral. The numbers for birds killed by cats is unknown, however, domestic cats are not native.

If you want to help increase the number of songbirds and assist the migrating birds, you must consider additional restrictions for keeping cats. Unleashed dogs are also a concern, as I can testify to witnessing a Jack Russell terrier trotting along Runyon Canyon trail with a California quail in its mouth. * I welcome the Preferred Plant List for guidance, however this motion will alter the Planning Department recommendations for new build and substantial remodeling in the Wildlife Pilot Study. It will change the Planning Department zone 1 recommendation from 50% native plants to 100% native plant requirements. The restriction of all plantings and sales to native plants only may turn the citizens away from landscaping whatsoever, throwing up their hands and installing plastic grass instead, which has not been made illegal. * It is absolutely appropriate to ban the sale of the proposed Prohibited Plant List from stores, nurseries, wholesalers and others that sell landscaping plants, especially the dreaded Nassella (Stipa) tenuissima.