



clerk CIS <clerk.cis@lacity.org>

Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 25-0962

1 message

LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
To: Clerk.CIS@lacity.org, kay.hartman@palmsnc.la

Fri, Sep 5, 2025 at 1:27 PM

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enabled by the Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or resolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website. Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Council's rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at empowerla@lacity.org.

***** This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. *****

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Palms

Name: Kay Hartman

Email: kay.hartman@palmsnc.la

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(7) Nay(0) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 09/03/2025

Type of NC Board Action: Against Unless Amended

Impact Information

Date: 09/05/2025

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 25-0962

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary:



CIS Opposing CF25-0962 and CF25-0974.pdf

43K

CIS opposing CF25-0962 AND CF25-0974 unless amended

The goals of the ShadeLA program are admirable and justified. Increasing shade canopy in Los Angeles is a cost effective and important mitigation for climate change and supports making Los Angeles a more livable city. However, we are also in a climate-driven biodiversity crisis of emergency proportions. CF25-0962 and CF25-0974 make no mention of this or the essential role of planting native tree species to support biodiversity. Native trees are just as capable of meeting ShadeLA's tree canopy goals but also provide critical biodiversity that non-native trees can never provide. Yet, ShadeLA has thus far deferred species decisions to LA City departments and community organizations that do not prioritize native species and instead promote a "right tree for the right place" approach that is a euphemism for continuing to plant the same 25 non-native (to California) tree species planted around the world in urban forests. The current draft of the referenced Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) does not even mention native species despite consistent stakeholder feedback requesting that the City plant native species at UFMP community outreach sessions performed by the Office of Forest Management. We simply cannot afford to launch yet another tree planting program in Los Angeles that adds even more exotic species to our public spaces when native fauna relies on native flora in a biodiversity crisis located in one of the most important biodiversity hotspots on the planet. We currently have only 3% native species street trees and under 15% native species park trees. Scientific consensus confirms that a region needs a minimum of 70% native flora to support local biodiversity in an urban forest. With over 90 native tree species available for use as street trees identified by the Los Angeles Community Forest Advisory Committee, there is no need to ever plant a non-native tree in a public project in Los Angeles. ShadeLA offers a great opportunity to address both shade and biodiversity. Without changes, it will address the former crisis while making the latter crisis worse. We urge the council to specify that ShadeLA plantings should consist of 100% California native species.

Though it exceeds the scope of ShadeLA, another impediment to achieving the shade canopy Angelenos deserve is the destruction of mature trees that happens when new housing is developed. Developers are sometimes even allowed to replace mature trees with small trees in containers. To provide true shade, we need to plant trees in the ground. This often becomes impossible because subterranean structures are built to the property boundaries and there is no room for tree roots. Addressing the canopy without addressing development's role in reducing it means we're looking at one side of the coin when both sides are critical. We need to enact subterranean setbacks so our trees have a chance to thrive.