



## MOTION

North East Trees is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, founded in 1989 and incorporated in 1991, focused on addressing environmental injustices by increasing urban forestry, propelling design-build inspired by nature, habitat restoration, and workforce development in Los Angeles, with a focus on serving underserved communities, including primarily Northeast Los Angeles, East Los Angeles, and South Los Angeles.

For over three decades, North East Trees has been a pivotal community partner in Council District 1 (CD 1), spearheading initiatives that directly serve residents. Their work includes planting over 100,000 trees, greening schoolyards by removing asphalt, providing paid, entry-level environmental job training to local youth and community members, and leading critical land conservation efforts, such as the stewardship of the 37-acre "Flattop" open-space habitat in the Montecito Heights and Lincoln Heights area.

North East Trees operates a native plant nursery that is essential to its urban forestry and habitat restoration projects, and it maintains its primary office within CD 1 in the community of Cypress Park. The organization is seeking to expand its nursery operations to accommodate its growing impact and meet the increasing demand for its community-greening services.

The Lincoln Heights Jail parcel, located at 401 North Avenue 19, is owned by the City of Los Angeles and falls within CD 1. This large parcel contains multiple structures, including the main historic jail building and two smaller, non-historic buildings on the southern end of the site. The main jail building has been vacant since 2014, and the entire parcel has been in a state of reset after a prior redevelopment plan was terminated in late 2022. This prolonged vacancy has subjected the property to significant public safety issues, including trespassing, break-ins, and vandalism, creating a nuisance and blight on the surrounding community.


Leasing one of the vacant, non-historic, City-owned buildings to a trusted, long-standing community partner like North East Trees provides an immediate, productive, and community-serving use for the site. This action would secure and activate a portion of the vacant property, deter further vandalism, and provide a vital resource for an organization that directly invests its work into improving the environment and quality of life for the residents of CD 1 and neighboring communities.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council direct the Department of General Services, with the assistance of the City Attorney and City Administrative Officer, to negotiate a new nonprofit lease with North East Trees for the use of the City-owned space located at 401 North Avenue 19, the building south of the Lincoln Heights Jail, for the use of nursery operations.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council FIND, pursuant to Los Angeles City Charter Section 371(e)(10) and Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.15(a)(10), that the use of competitive bidding for the proposed license agreement with North East Trees would be undesirable and impractical. North East Trees revitalizes communities by adding tree canopy and green spaces to areas that have historically lacked such things. Allowing them to use City-owned property to continue their work will not only benefit people from the community but will also improve climate resiliency throughout the City.

Given North East Trees background and work experience, it is the most qualified and capable entity to operate this facility.

PRESENTED BY:

  
EUNISSES HERNANDEZ  
Councilmember, 1<sup>st</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

OCT 21 2025