

Communication from Public

Name: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Date Submitted: 12/05/2019 12:05 PM
Council File No: 03-1459-S3
Comments for Public Posting: Please accept the attached comments from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy regarding the motion in favor of strengthening the City's Protected Tree Ordinance (Council File No. 03-1459-S3).

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

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December 4, 2019

Los Angeles City Council
Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee
c/o Mr. Michael Espinosa
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File 03-1459-S3 - Strengthening of Protected Tree Ordinance

Hon. Chairperson Blumenfield and Councilmembers:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) strongly supports the subject motion by Councilmember Koretz to strengthen both the letter and enforcement of the City's Protected Tree Ordinance (Ordinance No. 177404). Though well-intentioned, the current Ordinance does not assign protected status to an adequate amount of native tree species, and is only enforced selectively, if at all, by City departments. As it stands now, the City's "Protected Trees" are only protected until a private party applies for a permit to cut them down.

A stronger ordinance is needed that fully accounts for the adverse ecological and greenhouse gas impacts of removing trees, including impacts to habitat connectivity, wildlife movement, and species diversity. Strong enforcement, and cooperation amongst City Departments to this end are likewise sorely needed, or else any such ordinance is of no practical use.

The Conservancy respectfully urges the Committee to fully support this motion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Edelman".

PAUL EDELMAN
Deputy Director
Natural Resources and Planning

Communication from Public

Name: Padric Gleason Gonzales

Date Submitted: 12/05/2019 02:16 PM

Council File No: 03-1459-S3

Comments for Public Posting: Yes please! Protect trees to reduce urban heat islands and provide natural habitats for insects and birds. Los Angeles needs stronger forestry management and a proactive strategy on trees. The best way to do this is in collaboration with local communities. I support this motion.

Communication from Public

Name: A. Reese

Date Submitted: 12/05/2019 04:04 PM

Council File No: 03-1459-S3

Comments for Public Posting: I support this motion for the Urban Forestry Division to work with the Planning Department and the Department of Building and Safety to convene and consult with stakeholder groups and to report back in 75 days regarding recommendations to strengthen the Protected Tree Ordinance. And I request the City institute a moratorium on the removal of all trees until these recommendations come back and are instituted unless the trees are dead or diseased as determined by an independent arborist.