



January 3, 2018

Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Protected Tree Ordinance Motion - Council File 03-1459-S3

TreePeople commends Councilmembers Koretz and Bonin for their motion put forth at City Council (November 22, 2017) to strengthen the Protected Tree Ordinance (Ord. #177404). In particular, we are pleased that the motion requests the Urban Forestry Division work with the Planning Department and the Department of Building and Safety to partner with stakeholders, including environmental groups (such as TreePeople), community groups and others to develop these recommendations.

The City has already recognized the need to protect these significant trees which are native to Southern California, and it is well past time to start enforcing the law. Additionally, the ecosystem services the city is currently losing along with these trees are numerous, and this loss will only grow with increasing urban heat and other impacts from climate change.

We applaud the Council's instructions to implement a community engagement process. As one of the leaders in urban forestry for over four decades, TreePeople is looking forward to helping our home city work on this and other current urban forestry issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Weinstein Bloome".

Deborah Weinstein Bloome
Sr. Director of Policy and Research
TreePeople

Cc: Councilman Koretz
Councilman Bonin