



**Shadow Hills Property Owners Association**

*Dedicated To Preserving Rural Community*

JANUARY 25, 2008

Shadow Hills Property Owners Assoc.  
P.O. Box 345  
Sunland, California 91041-0345

City Clerk, Room 395  
200 N. Spring St.  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

Re: CFI 06-2445/CFI 06-2445-S1

Good day officer of the City Clerk's Office,

The Shadow Hills Property Owners Association respectfully requests that the enclosed document be filed with the associated file CFI 06-2445/CFI 06-2445-S1.

Thank you for your time,

Elektra G.M. Kruger, President  
Shadow Hills Property Owners Assoc.



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City Clerk, Room 395  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: CFI 06-2445/CFI 06-2445-S1

In the last few years there has been a marked growth in the Urban Forest of the City of Los Angeles which is seeing an even greater spurt as a result of the Mayor's Million Tree Initiative. But merely planting a tree is not the end of the line for sustaining a healthy and safe Urban Forest. Professionals quote an ideal maintenance cycle of three to seven years per tree. In the past 25 years, the City has funded a street tree pruning frequency that has run anywhere from five-and-a-half years to ~~thirty-two~~ years with a mean of about eleven years. Trees on City owned facilities such as libraries has seen no maintenance except on an emergency basis for years because there has not been adequate funding for the Department of Recreation and Parks responsible for their care. This level of inadequate pruning maintenance of our Urban Forest has led to service request backlogs that may never again be met because of the increased funding required on a per tree service for trees having suffered deferred maintenance and due to reduced man-power hours now available for routine maintenance because their efforts have shifted to dealing with increased emergencies of tree/limb failures – again a result of deferred routine maintenance. Tree and limb failures have resulted in a 120% increase in liability claims filed against the City since 2000. An insufficient pruning cycle places the City at increased risk of financial responsibility for property damage or even bodily harm or death. Wouldn't increased funding for a proper level of tree maintenance balance out in the long run with reduced financial responsibility for claims filed due to tree and limb failures? In an effort to increase the health and safety of the Urban Forest I quote from a Bureau of Street Services report: "..... in the best interest of the City, the Division (Division of Urban Forestry) recommends increasing the street tree maintenance funding levels by reducing the pruning cycle to five years. This would save money, time, property and, potentially, lives." I further quote: "..... the increase in annual pruning funding will ultimately reduce the overall cost of the Urban Forest program by minimizing **reactive pruning** (bold print = mine), emergency response calls and claims filed against the City.



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The Shadow Hills Property Association supports the Motion presented by Councilmember Jan Perry (CFI 06-2445) requesting that the Department of Public Works revisit the current City Street Tree Policy in order to more closely conform to the City's changing street tree needs and challenges including such things as dealing with deferred maintenance, with increased requests for service by the LAPD in high-crime areas, routine maintenance on Municipal building sites and any long-term maintenance needs that will arise from plantings per the Million Tree Initiative.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elektra Kruger", is written over a horizontal line.

Elektra Kruger, President  
Shadow Hills Property Owners Assoc.

Cc: Budget and Finance Committee  
Councilmember Jan Perry, Mover CFI 06-2445  
Councilmember Tom LaBonge, 2<sup>nd</sup> CFI 06-2445  
Councilmember Wendy Greuel, CD2



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Department of Public Works  
c/o City Clerk, Room 395  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: CFI 06-2445/CFI 06-2445-S1

Hon. Members of the Department of Public Works,

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Thank you for your time and consideration,

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