

MOTION PUBLIC WORKS

Given the present drought, the City has taken swift action to encourage and compel residents to reduce water consumption. Many residents seek to further reduce their outdoor water consumption by landscaping with drought tolerant and native plant species. These plants also provide ancillary environmental benefits such as increasing habitat for birds and butterflies and reducing urban runoff that pollutes Los Angeles' waterways and beaches.

While the parkway areas between the street and sidewalk have traditionally been planted with turf grass, the present drought requires us to consider alternative landscapes that are more consistent with the Southern California climate and water supply realities.

Many residents have planted drought tolerant landscapes in their parkways as a way to reduce water consumption and beautify their neighborhoods. In some cases, these residents have been cited for violation of LAMC 56.08, pertaining to obstructions in the public right of way, for deviating from the traditional turf landscape. It is unclear to some residents what types of drought tolerant species are allowed and what procedure must be followed in order to plant drought tolerant species in the parkway.


There is a need to balance the interests of public access and pedestrian safety with consideration for water conservation and aesthetics so that parkways in the City of Los Angeles can be safe, beautiful, and environmentally friendly.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services and Bureau of Engineering report back to the Public Works Committee in 60 days to clarify what kinds of landscapes are presently allowed in parkway areas and present recommendations to broaden allowable parkway landscapes to include various drought tolerant and native plant species as well as permeable pavements in a manner consistent with needs for safe pedestrian access.

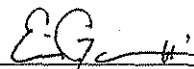
I FURTHER MOVE that BOSS and BOE, in consultation with the Department of Water and Power and the Bureau of Sanitation, prepare a "Resident's Guide to Parkway Landscaping" website to communicate guidelines for landscaping in the public right of way.

I FURTHER MOVE that BOSS temporarily suspend the enforcement of parkway landscape violations relating only to non-turf species until the Public Works Committee can consider the aforementioned reports and develop an ongoing enforcement policy.

Presented By:


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Seconded By:



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