

## COMMUNICATION

**TO: LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**

**FILE NO. 09-2143**

**FROM: COUNCILMEMBER JAN PERRY, CHAIR  
COUNCILMEMBER TONY CÁRDENAS, MEMBER  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR AND MEMBER, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE relative to fees currently assessed for landscape projects in which lawns and parkways are replaced with drought-tolerant landscaping or synthetic turf and the feasibility of waiving permitting fees for those projects.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Smith - Perry - Reyes):

1. DIRECT the City Planning Department and the Department of Building and Safety, with assistance from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) as necessary, to report back to the Council within 30 days on fees currently assessed for landscape projects in which lawns and parkways are replaced with drought-tolerant landscaping or synthetic turf, and the feasibility of waiving permitting fees for those projects.
2. DIRECT the City Attorney and the LADWP to report on the legality and feasibility of the LADWP reimbursing the Planning Department for waived permitting fees associated with drought tolerant landscaping.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None Submitted.

### Summary:

On November 3, 2009, your Committee Chair and Member considered Motion (Smith - Perry - Reyes) relative to fees currently assessed for landscape projects in which lawns and parkways are replaced with drought-tolerant landscaping or synthetic turf and the feasibility of waiving permitting fees for those projects. The Motion, attached to the Council file, provides background information on this matter.

During the discussion of this matter, a representative of Councilmember Smith provided background information and encouraged approval of the Motion. Representatives from the Planning Department and the LADWP then responded to several related questions and indicated they will be ready to report back in 30 days. After additional discussion and offering the opportunity for public comment, the Committee Chair and Member recommended approval of the recommendation contained in the Motion. Additionally, it was recommended that the City Attorney and the LADWP report on the legality and feasibility of the LADWP reimbursing the Planning Department for waived permitting fees associated with drought tolerant landscaping, as reflected above.

This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

JAN PERRY, CHAIR  
TONY CÁRDENAS, MEMBER  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
PERRY:	YES
CÁRDENAS:	YES
ALARCÓN:	ABSENT
KORETZ	ABSENT

MLE  
[09-2143\\_rpt\\_ee\\_11-17-09](#)

- Not Official Until Council Acts -