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ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

Los Angeles City Council
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Attention: Sharon Gin, Legislative Assistant
Planning and Land Use Management Committee

CASE NUMBER: **CF-13-0844**
SOUTH LOS ANGELES CANARY ISLAND PINE STREET TREES
MARTIN LUTHER KING (MLK), JR. BOULEVARD BETWEEN
HOOPER AND NICOLET AVENUE; DEGNAN BOULEVARD BETWEEN
MLK, JR. BOULEVARD AND 43RD STREET; LEIMERT BOULEVARD
BETWEEN MLK, JR. BOULEVARD AND 43RD STREET; AND CRENSHAW
BOULEVARD BETWEEN VERNON AVENUE AND 59TH STREET

At the Cultural Heritage Commission meeting of **April 3, 2014**, the Commission discussed the proposed designation initiated by the Council for the above-mentioned sites for possible declaration as a Historic-Cultural Monument.

The Cultural Heritage Commission failed to reach a consensus by a majority vote. Pursuant to Chapter 9, Article 1, Section 22.171.10 (e) 2, if the Commission fails to act on a Council-initiated application, it shall be deemed to have recommended denial of the proposed designation.

The City Council, according to the guidelines set forth in Section 22.171 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, shall act on the proposed inclusion to the list within 90 days of the Commission action. By resolution, the Council may extend the period for good cause for an additional 15 days.

Commissioner Kennard moved to adopt the staff recommendation, with an amendment to include within the proposed designation the trees on Crenshaw Boulevard between Vernon Avenue and 59th Street. The Cultural Heritage Commission vote on the motion was taken as follows:

Moved: Commissioner Kennard
Seconded: Commissioner Louie
Nays: Commissioner Hamacher
Absent: Commissioners Barron and Scott

Vote: 2-1



Fely C. Pingol, Commission Executive Assistant
Cultural Heritage Commission

Attachment: Staff Report

c: Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr., Tenth Council District
Councilmember Bernard C. Parks, Eight District
Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr., Ninth District
Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services
GIS

2014 APR 10 10:10 AM
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**Los Angeles Department of City Planning
RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

COUNCIL MOTION: 13-0844

HEARING DATE: April 3, 2014
TIME: 10:00 AM
PLACE: City Hall, Room 1010
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA
90012

Location: MLK Jr. Blvd. between Hooper and Nicolet Avenues; Degnan Blvd. between MLK, Jr. Blvd. and 43rd St.; Leimert Blvd. between MLK, Jr. Blvd. and 43rd St.; Crenshaw Blvd. between Vernon Ave. and 59th St.
Council District: 8, 9, 10
Community Plan Area: Multiple
Area Planning Commission: South Los Angeles
Neighborhood Council: Multiple
Legal Description: N/A

PROJECT: Historic-Cultural Monument Application for the SOUTH LOS ANGELES CANARY ISLAND PINE STREET TREES

REQUEST: Declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument

OWNER: Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services
1149 South Broadway, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015

PREPARED BY: Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources
200 N. Spring St. Room 620
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RECOMMENDATION That the Cultural Heritage Commission:

1. **Declare portions of the property including** MLK Jr. Blvd. between Hooper and Nicolet Avenues; Degnan Blvd. between MLK, Jr. Blvd. and 43rd St.; and Leimert Blvd. between MLK, Jr. Blvd. and 43rd Pl., a Historic-Cultural Monument per Los Angeles Administrative Code Chapter 9, Division 22, Article 1, Section 22.171.7.
2. **Adopt** the report findings.

MICHAEL J. LOGRANDE
Director of Planning



Ken Bernstein, AICP, Manager
Office of Historic Resources



Lambert M. Giessinger, Preservation Architect
Office of Historic Resources

Attachments: Historic-Cultural Monument Application

FINDINGS

The Canary Island Pine trees on Degnan Blvd. between MLK, Jr. Blvd. and 43rd St.; on Leimert Blvd. between Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and 43rd Pl.; on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. between Hooper and Nicolet Avenues successfully meet the following Historic-Cultural Monument criteria:

- 1) They reflect "in which the broad cultural [and] social history of the ... community is reflected or exemplified." and/or
- 2) are "identified ... with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history"

CRITERIA

The criterion is the Cultural Heritage Ordinance which defines a historical or cultural monument as any site (including significant trees or other plant life located thereon) building or structure of particular historic or cultural significance to the City of Los Angeles, such as historic structures or sites in which the broad cultural, economic, or social history of the nation, State or community is reflected or exemplified, or which are identified with historic personages or with important events in the main currents of national, State or local history or which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction, or a notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age.

SUMMARY

Located in South Los Angeles, the South Los Angeles Canary Island Pine Street Trees proposed monument consists of four groups of trees along lengths of Degnan, Leimert, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Crenshaw boulevards. The trees were planted within three different time periods. The trees on Degnan Blvd. are the oldest, planted approximately in 1936 as part of the original development of the Leimert Park planned community. Leimert Blvd. trees were planted in approximately 1960 as a civic improvement after the dissolution of the Yellow Car No. 5 line. Trees along Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. were planted in 1989 and 1990 as a community-led beautification project and memorial to Dr. King. Trees on Crenshaw Blvd. were planted both in the 1960 and 1990 time periods, partly as civic improvement, partly as community-led beautification.

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. over 400 pines are planted, exclusively on the sides of the street from Hooper Ave. to the east and Nicolet Ave. to the west, save for two trees planted in an intersection island at Leimert Blvd. There are several species of trees present along the full seven miles of MLK, Jr. Blvd. The number and density of Canary Island Pines from block-to-block is highly variable. Pines may be planted on one or both sides of the street, or share the block with other species of trees or, in a few locations, not be present at all. The majority of blocks, however, have some number of Canary Island Pines on one side or both.

The Canary Island Pines on Degnan Blvd. are located between MLK, Jr. Blvd. and 43rd St., planted on both sides of the street and in the median. Trees in the parkway are planted at more frequent intervals than those in the median. The trees are large enough that at some points they create a continuous canopy. The pines end before an alley just north of 43rd St. where the residential parcels end and commercial begin.

South Los Angeles Canary Island Street Trees

COUNCIL MOTION: 13-0844

Page 3 of 5

The pines on Leimert Blvd. are planted on both sides of the street and in the median. Like Degnan Blvd., trees in the parkway are planted at more frequent intervals than those in the median. The density of the sidewalk trees appears to generally rival that of Degnan Blvd., creating a continuous canopy in many areas despite the trees being younger and slightly smaller. At four or five points in the median there are small groupings of different species trees among the pines. The application states the pines on Leimert Blvd. are located between MLK, Jr. Blvd. and 43rd St., but we feel the boundary could be extended one block south to 43rd Place.

On Crenshaw Blvd., pines are planted sparingly between Vernon Ave. and 59th St. in the median and in one intersection island where the boulevard merges with Leimert Blvd. Spacing and placement is not consistent. For two of the longer medians there is a general pattern of two or three pines planted at the pole ends of the strip, with either bare grass or a few different-species trees in between, but beyond that there is no distinctive pattern to the placement of the pines. It appears that there are approximately thirty Canary Island Pines within the Crenshaw Blvd. boundaries.

DISCUSSION

Three of the four proposed groups of Canary Island Pines, as defined below, successfully meet one or two of these specified Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: "identified ... with important events in the main currents of ... local history" and/or "a site in which the broad cultural [and] social history of the ... community is reflected or exemplified."

The Canary Island Pines on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. between Hooper and Nicolet Avenues successfully meet two of the specified Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: they are "identified ... with important events in the main currents of ... local history" and are a resource "in which the broad cultural [and] social history of the ... community is reflected or exemplified."

- Though the character of the Canary Island Pines along Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. changes from block-to-block, taken as a whole, across the full seven miles of the proposal area, the general conceptual intent of the trees as a defining feature for the boulevard is apparent. The consistent return where possible to the same species and spacing/density along the length is sufficient to convey an impression of a shared context. The unifying factor behind these plantings is the "King Boulevard Memorial Project" which was conceived, developed, and implemented by community-led organizations. The variable character of the pines' placement is a direct result of this project as volunteers were limited in where they were they were allowed to plant. Therefore, for their association with the 1990 King Boulevard Memorial Project planting, which attracted thousands of citizens and involved City and County government, government officials, neighborhood councils, community groups, and local and national media, the Canary Island Pines along Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. between Hooper and Nicolet Avenues are identified with important events in the main currents of local history.
- In addition, for the continual recognition of the trees as significant and worthy of special consideration by City government and other organizations, and as a character-defining feature of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. streetscape, the Canary Island Pines along Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. between Hooper and Nicolet Avenues are a community resource in which the broad cultural and social history of the community is reflected or exemplified.

South Los Angeles Canary Island Street Trees

COUNCIL MOTION: 13-0844

Page 4 of 5

The Canary Island Pines on Degnan Blvd. between Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and 43rd St. successfully meet one of the specified Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: as “a site in which the broad cultural [and] social history of the ... community is reflected or exemplified.”

- The Degnan Blvd. trees are consistent in form, placement, and density and, due to their large size and maturity, exhibit an historic character. The original design intent of Degnan Blvd., as a key, green parkway that leads to the central commercial and cultural hub, is accomplished by and evidenced in the trees. For their association with the original design and development of Leimert Park, and as an intact, character-defining feature of the original design and development of Leimert Park, the Canary Island Pines along Degnan Blvd. between Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and 43rd St. constitute a site in which the broad cultural and social history of the community is reflected or exemplified.

The Canary Island Pines on Leimert Blvd. between Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and 43rd Pl. successfully meet one of the specified Historic-Cultural Monument criteria: as “a site in which the broad cultural [and] social history of the ... community is reflected or exemplified.”

- The pines on Leimert Blvd. are generally consistent in form, placement, and density, and are quite similar in character to those on Degnan Blvd. The design suggests the trees were planted so that Leimert Blvd. would mimic and complement nearby Degnan Blvd., and become a green parkway and key local character-defining element. There are three Canary Island Pines planted in the street median between 43rd St. and 43rd Pl. which denote a terminus to the landscaping that should be included in the boundaries. For the Canary Island Pines along Leimert Blvd. between Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and 43rd Pl., as a major civic improvement resulting from the region-wide abandonment of rail for auto and bus, derived from and integrated into the original Olmsted brothers' central parkway design for Leimert Park, these trees constitute a site in which the broad cultural and social history of the community is reflected or exemplified.

The Canary Island Pines along Crenshaw Blvd. do not successfully meet any Historic-Cultural Monument criteria. While some of the trees may be associated with civic improvement or community-led activities, the arrangement and number of Canary Island Pine trees on Crenshaw Blvd. between 46th and 59th Streets lack integrity of form, design, and character to sufficiently convey the claimed associations. The subject trees are too scattered and too few, lack any recognizable internal plan or design, and do not exhibit any physical or conceptual link to a recognizable historic context that meets an appropriate level of significance under the Cultural Heritage Ordinance's criteria.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (“CEQA”) REVIEW

State of California CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15308, Class 8 “*consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.*”

State of California CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15331, Class 31 “*consists of projects limited to maintenance, repair, stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, conservation or reconstruction of historical resources in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic buildings.*”

South Los Angeles Canary Island Street Trees
COUNCIL MOTION: 13-0844
Page 5 of 5

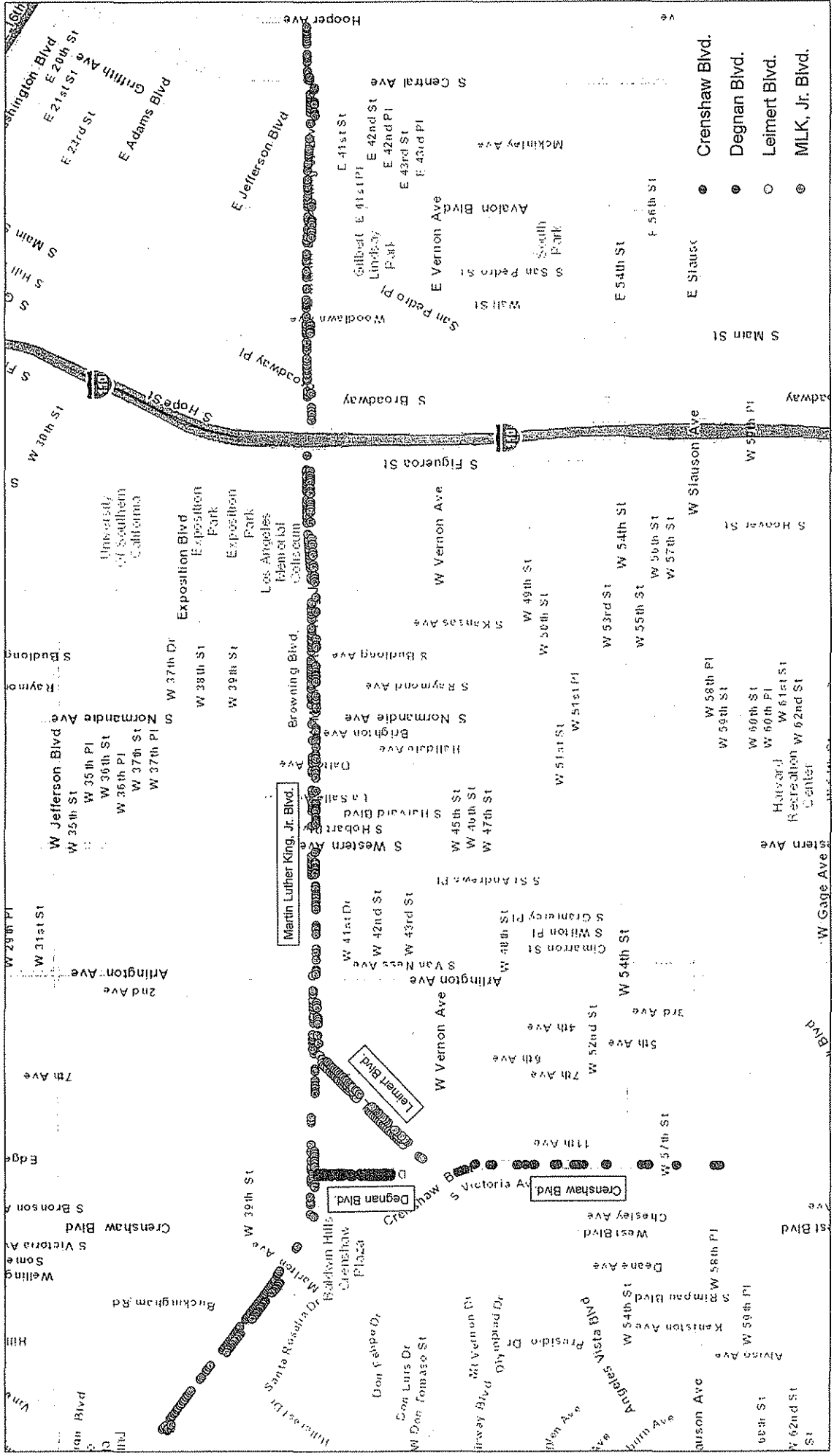
The designation of the South Los Angeles Canary Island Street Trees as a Historic-Cultural Monument in accordance with Chapter 9, Article 1, of The City of Los Angeles Administrative Code ("LAAC") will ensure that future construction activities involving the subject property are regulated in accordance with Section 22.171.14 of the LAAC. The purpose of the designation is to prevent significant impacts to a Historic-Cultural Monument through the application of the standards set forth in the LAAC. Without the regulation imposed by way of the pending designation, the historic significance and integrity of the subject property could be lost through incompatible alterations and new construction and the demolition of irreplaceable historic structures. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards of Rehabilitation are expressly incorporated into the LAAC and provide standards concerning the historically appropriate construction activities which will ensure the continued preservation of the subject property.

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 8 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals of maintaining, restoring, enhancing, and protecting the environment through the imposition of regulations designed to prevent the degradation of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

The use of Categorical Exemption Class 31 in connection with the proposed designation is consistent with the goals relating to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of Historic buildings in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings.

BACKGROUND

On December 18, 2013 the City Council adopted a motion directing the Department of City Planning to "prepare a report and application relative to the inclusion of the Canary Island Pine trees located on Martin Luther King Boulevard and all trees planted along Crenshaw, Leimert, and Martin Luther King Boulevards, in the list of Historical-Cultural Monument[s]." On February 24, 2014, the Office of Historic Resources completed the application. On March 6th, 2014 the Cultural Heritage Commission and Office of Historic Resources Staff toured the site.



Disclaimer: This map should be used for illustrative purposes only. It was produced with ESRI ArcMap and third-party satellite imagery and does not represent a full or official accounting of the subject trees.



Canary Island Pines

SIGNIFICANCE WORK SHEET

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

Complete One or Both of the Upper and Lower Portions of This Page

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE SOUTH LOS ANGELES CANARY ISLAND PINE STREET TREES IS AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE OF NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT

N/A ARCHITECTURE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE (SEE LINE 8)

AND MEETS THE CULTURAL HERITAGE ORDINANCE BECAUSE OF THE HIGH QUALITY OF ITS DESIGN AND THE RETENTION OF ITS ORIGINAL FORM, DETAILING AND INTEGRITY.

AND/OR

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE SOUTH LOS ANGELES CANARY ISLAND PINE STREET TREES WAS BUILT IN YEAR BUILT NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT

c. 1936 & 1990 WAS IMPORTANT TO THE NAME OF FIRST OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER

DEVELOPMENT OF LOS ANGELES BECAUSE Canary Island Pine trees along MLK Jr. Boulevard were planted in memorial to Dr. King in 1990 by hundreds of citizen volunteers and cared for by volunteers for 10 years after. The trees constitute the largest living memorial to Dr. King in the nation and are a continuing reminder of the fellowship and cooperation the citizens and government of Los Angeles exhibited in the execution of the project. The trees represent a continuation of the street tree landscaping character established in the historic development of Leimert Park, one of the first comprehensively planned communities in Los Angeles.

**HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT
APPLICATION**

TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

IDENTIFICATION

1. NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT SOUTH LOS ANGELES CANARY ISLAND PINE STREET TREES
2. STREET ADDRESS MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD, DEGNAN BLVD, LEIMERT BLVD, CRENSHAW BLVD.
CITY LOS ANGELES ZIP CODE multiple COUNCIL DISTRICT 8, 9, 10
3. ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. _____
4. COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT _____
BLOCK _____ LOT(S) _____ ARB. NO. _____
5. RANGE OF ADDRESSES ON PROPERTY 4611 W MLK Jr. Blvd. to 1287 E MLK Jr. Blvd. / 4055 S Leimert Blvd. to
4339 S Leimert Blvd. / 4061 S Degnan Blvd. to 4279 S Degnan Blvd. / 4415 S Crenshaw Blvd. to 5879 S Crenshaw Blvd.
6. PRESENT OWNER LOS ANGELES BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES
STREET ADDRESS 1149 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
CITY LOS ANGELES STATE CA ZIP CODE 90015 PHONE (800) 996-2489
OWNERSHIP: PRIVATE _____ PUBLIC _____ X
7. PRESENT USE _____ ORIGINAL USE _____

DESCRIPTION

8. ARCHITECTURAL STYLE N/A
(SEE STYLE GUIDE)
9. STATE PRESENT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE OR STRUCTURE (SEE OPTIONAL DESCRIPTION WORK SHEET, 1 PAGE MAXIMUM)
1. Approximately 400 Canary Island Pine trees planted in the sidewalk on both sides of MLK Jr. Blvd. between
Hooper and Nicolet Aves. Spacing and grouping is not uniform along the length due to utility considerations.
2. Canary Island Pine trees on Degnan Blvd. between MLK Jr. Blvd. and 43rd St. Tree plantings are mostly
uniform in spacing, placement and density.
3. Canary Island Pine trees planted along the sidewalk and in the median on Leimert Blvd. between MLK Jr. Blvd.
and 43rd Pl. Plantings are fairly uniform; however between 43rd St. and 43rd Pl. there are no sidewalk pine trees.
4. Canary Island Pine trees planted in the median of Crenshaw Blvd. between Vernon Ave. and 59th St. Canary
Island Pines are planted sparingly, generally ranging between one to five trees per block.

**HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT
APPLICATION**

NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT SOUTH LOS ANGELES CANARY ISLAND PINE STREET TREES

10. CONSTRUCTION DATE: MLK 1990, DEGNAN 1936, LEIMERT 1960: FACTUAL: ESTIMATED:

11. ARCHITECT, DESIGNER, OR ENGINEER DEGNAN BLVD: OLMSTED BROTHERS COMPANY

12. CONTRACTOR OR OTHER BUILDER _____

13. DATES OF ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHS _____
(1 8X10 BLACK AND WHITE GLOSSY AND 1 DIGITAL E-MAILED TO CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION@LACITY.ORG)

14. CONDITION: EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE

15. ALTERATIONS MEMORIAL TREES ON MLK JR. BLVD. HAVE BEEN REPLACED WHEN NECESSARY AND
SOME NEW TREES HAVE BEEN ADDED SINCE THE 1990 EVENT.

16. THREATS TO SITE: NONE KNOWN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT VANDALISM PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT
 ZONING OTHER _____

17. IS THE STRUCTURE: ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE MOVED UNKNOWN

SIGNIFICANCE

18. BRIEFLY STATE HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE; INCLUDE DATES, EVENTS, AND PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE (SEE ALSO SIGNIFICANCE WORK SHEET. 750 WORDS MAXIMUM IF USING ADDITIONAL SHEETS)

Canary Island Pine trees along MLK Jr. Blvd were planted in 1990 by some 3,000 volunteers, including Mayor Bradley; as the culmination of the King Boulevard Memorial Project. The project Board included neighborhood assoc. members; the Steering Committee included the Mayor, City Council Members and Commissioners, and County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. The trees extended the landscaping character established in Leimert Park in the early 1930s on Degnan Blvd, which was mimicked later on Leimert and Crenshaw in the post-war era.

19. SOURCES (LIST BOOKS, DOCUMENTS, SURVEYS, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH DATES) Archived material from Crenshaw Neighbors Inc, TreePeople and King Blvd Memorial Project. USC Digital Archive, thesource.metro.net, erha.org, LA Times, CS Monitor, Washington Post, NY Times, Daily Telegraph, CNN, Pittsburgh Post, 1989-2012.

20. DATE FORM PREPARED 02/24/2014 PREPARER'S NAME Office of Historic Resources
ORGANIZATION City of Los Angeles STREET ADDRESS 200 N. Spring Street, Room 620
CITY Los Angeles STATE CA ZIP CODE 90012 PHONE (213) 978-1200

E-MAIL ADDRESS: PLANNING.OHR@LACITY.ORG

CITY OF LOS ANGELES HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION 2/24/14

SOUTH LOS ANGELES CANARY ISLAND PINE STREET TREES

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Los Angeles Canary Island Pine Street Trees are eligible for designation as a Historic-Cultural Monument for their association with historic suburban planning and development, significance as historic designed landscapes, and identification with important events in Los Angeles history.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Canary Island Pines are "identified ... with important events in the main currents of ... local history" and are a resource "in which the broad cultural [and] social history of the ... community is reflected or exemplified."

The Canary Island Pine Trees planted along both sides of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. from Hooper Ave to the east and Nicolet Ave to the west were planted by volunteers as a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr. The idea for a memorial along the boulevard was conceived in the 1980s by neighborhood association Crenshaw Neighbors, Inc. In 1983 the group advocated to the City to beautify the boulevard. By 1986 the group focused on advocating the planting of trees. The concept of trees planted the length of the boulevard as a memorial to Dr. King was the focus by early 1989, and is mainly attributed to Crenshaw Neighbors, Inc. member Eudora Russell. To facilitate the project the group began collaborating with the non-profit environmental organization TreePeople, and by March 1989 the memorial concept as it essentially exists was solidified. The King Boulevard Memorial Project was created shortly after and the plan and scope of the memorial completed. The group collaborated with the Bureau of Street Services, the Mayor's office, and other local representatives. The steering committee for the Project was composed of elected and appointed officials: Mayor Tom Bradley, Councilpersons Robert Farrell, Ruth Galanter, Nate Holden, and Gilbert Lindsay; Board of Public Works Commissioners Ed Avila and Myrlie Evers, and County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. Funds for the Project were raised from individual donors and corporate, non-profit, and government sponsors.

The plan consisted of planting 390 Canary Island Pine trees in one day- January 13, 1990- along seven miles of MLK Jr. Blvd. in locations approved by the Bureau of Street Services. There were two small pre-events prior to the 1990 event. On April 29, 1989 eleven trees were planted at an event attended by Tom Bradley and attorney general John K. Van de Kamp. The event served two purposes, to promote the memorial project and to kick off a state-wide campaign called "California ReLeaf." 100 more trees were planted on December 8, 1989, again to promote the upcoming memorial project. This event was attended by Mayor Tom Bradley, as well. The main event occurred on January 13, 1990, part of week-long festivities celebrating the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday on January 15th. Reportedly, over 3,000 people participated in the event.

In 1995, a 5th anniversary celebration and tree planting event occurred on January 14th. Honorary chair for the event was former Mayor Tom Bradley and Mayor Richard Riordan attended, as well. 31 trees were added to the memorial and four memorial signs were unveiled and later installed by the City along MLK Jr. Blvd. Trees have been added or replaced as part of regular maintenance throughout the life of the project.

Care for the trees was coordinated by the King Boulevard Memorial Project and TreePeople until late 2000 when responsibility was transferred to the Bureau of Street Services. In 2005 the King Boulevard Memorial Project ceased operating.

In 2012 the Space Shuttle Endeavor was slated to be delivered from LAX to the California Science Center. It was necessary to remove or modify infrastructure and street trees to complete the move. As the route for the shuttle was being determined agreements between neighborhood organizations, the City, and the California Science Center Foundation were negotiated regarding replacement of removed trees and other concerns. The significance of the Canary Island Pines along MLK Jr. Blvd. as a memorial were recognized by all parties and the movement of the shuttle up MLK Jr. Blvd. was engineered specifically to avoid removing any of the pines and to require only minimal modification. Subsequently in the final memorandum of understanding between several neighborhood organizations and the Los Angeles Mayor's office it was directed the City would make a good faith attempt in seeking Historic-Cultural Monument status for the Canary Island Pines. This culminated in the City Council adopting a motion on December 18, 2013 directing the Department of City Planning to "prepare a report and application relative to the inclusion of the Canary Island Pine trees located on Martin Luther King Boulevard and all trees planted along Crenshaw, Leimert, and Martin Luther King Boulevards, in the list of Historical-Cultural Monument[s]."

The Canary Island Pines on MLK Jr. Blvd. also exist within a previously established historic context as a continuation and integration of the landscape character established by the Olmsted Brothers company in their design for Leimert Park.

The above history demonstrates that the Canary Island Pines on MLK Jr. Blvd., as the result of the 1990 King Boulevard Memorial Project planting in which City and County government and government officials were actively engaged, are "identified ... with important events in the main currents of ... local history." Further, for having been continually recognized over many years by City government and other organizations and associations as significant, they are a community resource "in which the broad cultural [and] social history of the ... community is reflected or exemplified."

Degnan Blvd. Canary Island Pines constitute "a site in which the broad cultural [and] social history of the ... community is reflected or exemplified."

The Canary Island Pine street trees on Degnan Blvd. were not included in the Council-adopted motion; however, their historic significance precedes, influences, and informs the significance of the trees on both Leimert and Crenshaw Blvds, so they are included in the application. Leimert Park was one of the earliest comprehensively planned communities in Southern California. Development began in 1927 by Walter H. Leimert and the community was designed by the renown Olmsted Brothers company. Leimert Park Village and Leimert Plaza Park were intended to be the cultural and commercial core of the community. Degnan Boulevard was designed as the central parkway leading to the commercial core. Beginning at MLK Jr. Blvd. (previously Santa Barbara Blvd.) and ending south at 43rd St, sidewalks on both sides of Degnan feature grassy landscape strips planted with Canary Island Pine trees. A wide, grassy median runs the same length, this too planted with Canary Island Pines. Moving south on Degnan the traveler would be surrounded by a cover of pines until emerging at 43rd St where the boulevard opens into Leimert Park Village. The terminating vista in the design, which Degnan Blvd. leads directly to, is Leimert Plaza Park.

The Canary Island Pines along Degnan Blvd. were planted according to original designs by the Olmsted Brothers. A 1928 illustrative relief plan from Leimert Park Administrative Headquarters clearly shows Degnan Blvd. with the same landscaping configuration as exists today. It has been determined the pines were planted sometime between 1929 and 1938. Historic photos show no trees on Degnan Blvd. in 1929, but there are established pines by 1938. Over half of the apartment buildings lining Degnan Blvd. between Stocker and 43rd Streets were built between 1930 and 1939. Assuming landscaping would be concurrent with significant residential development, we are assigning a conservative estimated planting date of 1936 for the Canary Island Pines along Degnan.

As an intact key, character-defining feature of the important early Los Angeles planned community of Leimert Park, the Degnan Blvd. Canary Island Pines constitute “a site in which the broad cultural [and] social history of the ... community is reflected or exemplified.” Furthermore, the community considers the Canary Island Pines along Degnan Blvd. to have been integrated into and part of the King Boulevard Memorial Project due to volunteer events associated with the Project occurring on Degnan Blvd.

Leimert Blvd. Canary Island Pines constitute “a site in which the broad cultural [and] social history of the ... community is reflected or exemplified.”

Leimert Blvd. was designed by the Olmsted Brothers company as the central public transit corridor for Leimert Park. Leimert Blvd. crossed diagonally through the center of Leimert Park so that access to the single rail line would be optimized. The Los Angeles Railway (Yellow Cars) 5 line ran from Eagle Rock to Hawthorne on a route that took it on the median through Crenshaw, onto Leimert, and then east onto Santa Barbara Blvd. (now MLK Jr. Blvd.). In 1955 the 5 line Yellow Car ceased service. While Leimert Blvd. did have grassy landscape strips during the Yellow Car era, they were planted with a deciduous tree, possibly poplars. The Canary Island Pines were planted after the 5 line was abandoned, probably concurrently with landscaping of the median after tracks were cleared. Leimert Blvd., like Degnan Blvd., is planted with Canary Island Pines along the sides and down the median from MLK Jr. Blvd. to 43rd St. Tree selection, density, and configuration appear to deliberately mimic that of Degnan Blvd. From an historic aerial photo it appears tracks on Leimert Blvd. were removed by 1956, indicating the street may have been reconfigured shortly after the rail line was abandoned. Most pines on Leimert approach the size of those on Degnan Blvd., so it is reasonable to posit they could have been planted as early as 1956. Providing a generous amount of time between abandonment of the rail line and reconfiguration of the street (five years) establishes a conservative estimated planting date of 1960 for the pines along Leimert Blvd.

When the Los Angeles Railway was abandoned and the City sought to reconfigure Leimert Blvd., one established Olmsted-era design feature was substituted for another. Specifically the central public transit corridor of Leimert Blvd. was redesigned to mimic and complement Degnan Blvd. as another central parkway leading from Santa Barbara Blvd. (MLK Jr. Blvd.) to the commercial core of Leimert Park Village. As a major civic improvement resulting from the region-wide abandonment of rail for auto and bus, derived from and integrated into the original Olmsted brothers' central parkway design, the Leimert Blvd. Canary Island Pines constitute “a site in which the broad cultural [and] social history of the ... community is reflected or exemplified.” Furthermore, the community considers the Canary Island Pines along Leimert Blvd. to have been integrated into and part of the King Boulevard Memorial Project due to volunteer events associated with the Project occurring on Leimert Blvd.

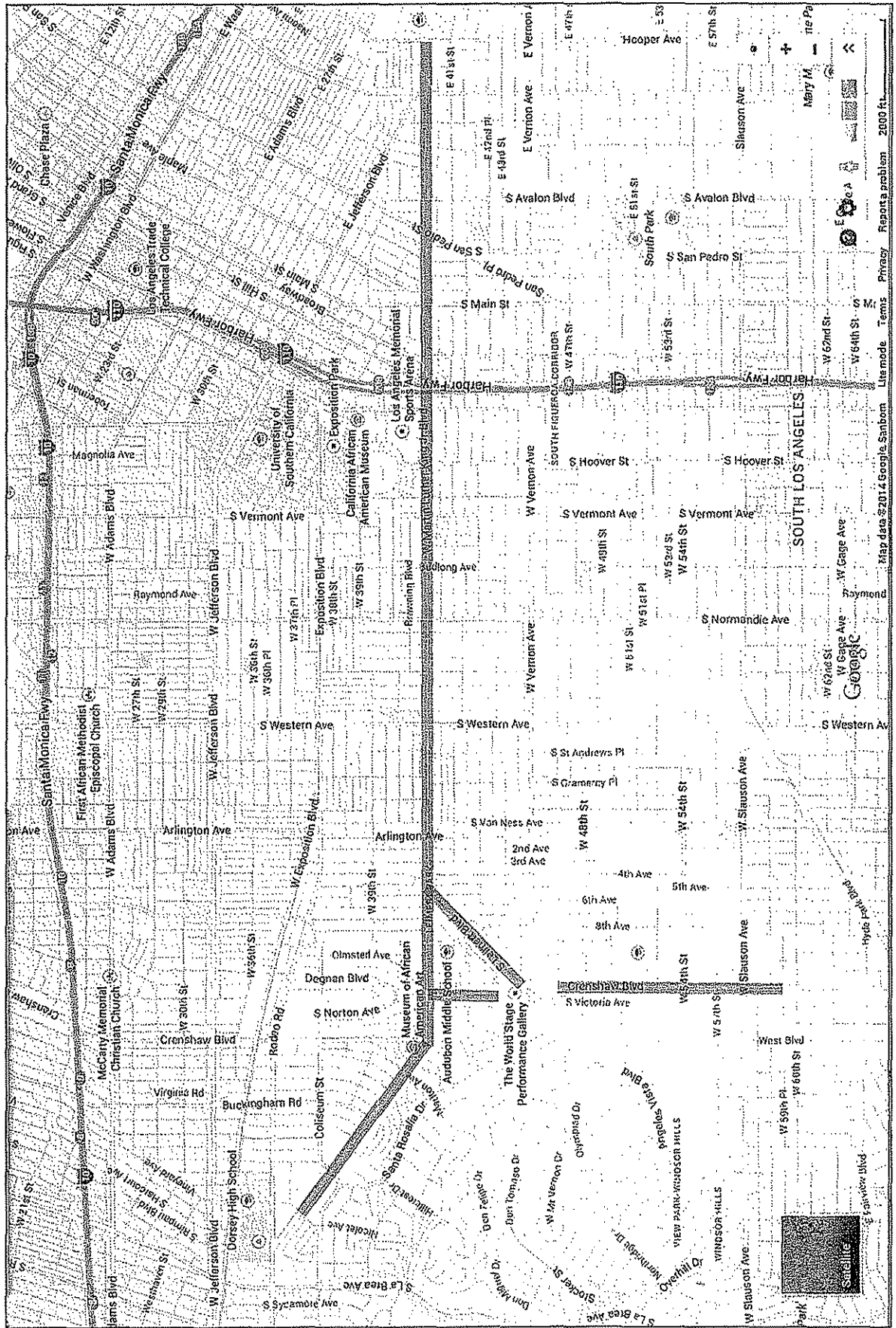
Crenshaw Blvd. Canary Island Pines constitute “a site in which the broad cultural [and] social history of the ... community is reflected or exemplified.”

Crenshaw Blvd. was integrated into the design of Leimert Park as a major thoroughfare along the edge of the community. The major access points from Crenshaw into Leimert Park were at Santa Barbara Blvd. and Vernon Ave below Leimert Plaza Park. South of the park the Yellow Car ran in the median on Crenshaw, splitting off onto Leimert Blvd. where it converges with Crenshaw between 46th and 48th Street. When the 5 line was abandoned, Crenshaw, like Leimert, was reconfigured. The median was planted with grass and trees including some Canary Island Pines. Since then, more Canary Island Pines have been added to the median through volunteer events led by TreePeople, the group that facilitated the memorial planting on MLK Jr. Blvd., and the community considers the pines on Crenshaw Blvd. to be part of the King Boulevard Memorial Project.

The Canary Island Pines on Crenshaw Blvd. from 46th to 59th Street are a complement to the grand tree-lined parkways of Degnan and Leimert Blvds that lead from north to south to the central node of Leimert Village and Leimert Plaza Park. Crenshaw Blvd. is the only southerly approach to Leimert Plaza Park. Canary Island Pines were planted by community members along Crenshaw as an extension of the King Boulevard Memorial Project, and the pines serve as a design cue, from south to north, identifying the significance of Leimert Village and the Project trees along MLK Jr. Blvd. As a major civic improvement resulting from the region-wide abandonment of rail for auto and bus, and as a grassroots community beautification project, derived from and integrated into the Olmsted brothers' landscape design and the King Boulevard Memorial, the Crenshaw Blvd. Canary Island Pines constitute "a site in which the broad cultural [and] social history of the ... community is reflected or exemplified."

Proposed Map of Canary Island Pine Trees Historic-Cultural Monument

Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. between Hooper Ave. and Nicolet Ave.; Leimert Blvd. between Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd and 43rd Place; Degnan Blvd. between Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and 43rd St.; and Crenshaw Blvd. between 46th St. and 59th St., CD 8, CD 9, CD 10



Proposed Boundary of Canary Island Pine Trees Historic-Cultural Monument

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

HOLLY L. WOLCOTT
Interim City Clerk



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

Office of the
CITY CLERK

Council and Public Services
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012
General Information - (213) 978-1133
Fax: (213) 978-1040

SHANNON HOPPES
Council and Public Services
Division

www.cityclerk.lacity.org

When making inquiries relative to
this matter, please refer to the
Council File No.

December 20, 2013

To All Interested Parties:

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under Council File No. 13-0844,
at its meeting held December 18, 2013.

City Clerk
srb

13

12/18/13

File No. 13-0844

PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT relative to including in the list of Historical-Cultural Monument the Canary Island Pine trees located on Martin Luther King Boulevard and all trees planted along Crenshaw, Leimert, and Martin Luther King Boulevards.

Recommendations for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Wesson Jr. - Alarcon):

1. INSTRUCT the Department of City Planning to prepare a report and application relative to the inclusion of the Canary Island Pine trees located on Martin Luther King Boulevard and all trees planted along Crenshaw, Leimert, and Martin Luther King Boulevards, in the list of Historical-Cultural Monument, and to submit the report and application to the Cultural Heritage Commission for review and consideration.
2. DIRECT the Cultural Heritage Commission, after reviewing the application, to submit its report and recommendation to the Council regarding the inclusion of the Canary Island Pine trees in the City's list of Historic-Cultural Monument.

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

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

At the public hearing held on December 10, 2013, the Planning and Land Use Management Committee considered Motion (Wesson Jr. - Alarcon) relative to including in the list of Historical-Cultural Monuments the Canary Island Pine trees located on Martin Luther King Boulevard and all trees planted along Crenshaw, Leimert, and Martin Luther King Boulevards. After an opportunity for public comment, the Committee approved the recommendations contained in the Motion. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration

Respectfully Submitted,

PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
HUIZAR	YES
CEDILLO	YES
ENGLANDER	YES

ADOPTED

DEC 18 2013

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-

JUN 28 2013

13_0844
CD 10

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

MOTION

Section 22.171.10 of the Administrative Code provides that the City Council, the Cultural Heritage Commission, or the Director of Planning, may initiate consideration of a proposed site, building, or structure as a Historical-Cultural Monument. The Cultural Heritage Commission, after reviewing and investigating any such Council-initiated designation, shall approve or disapprove in whole or in part the proposed inclusion and submit a report upon such action to the Council.

The Canary Island Pine trees located on Martin Luther King Boulevard and all trees planted along Crenshaw, Leimert, and Martin Luther King Boulevards appear to be an important historic-cultural asset and worthy of protection.

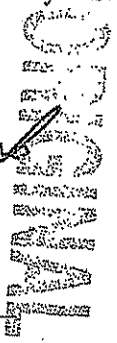
The trees are the largest living memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and were planted eighteen years ago when a multi-racial cadre of hundreds of volunteers joined together and in a single day planted hundreds of Canary Island Pines in South Los Angeles. Led by Los Angeles' environmental nonprofit, TreePeople, volunteers committed to keep Dr. King's dream alive, and for more than twenty years they have mulched, watered and cared for the trees. Today, the results on what was formerly a treeless corridor is now visible from space.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council initiate consideration of the Canary Island Pine trees located on Martin Luther King Boulevard and all trees planted along Crenshaw, Leimert, and Martin Luther King Boulevards, as a City Historic-Cultural Monument under the procedures of Sec. 22.171.10 of the Administrative Code, and instruct the Planning Department to prepare the Historic-Cultural Monument application for review and consideration by the Cultural Heritage Commission.

I FURTHER MOVE that after reviewing the application, the Cultural Heritage Commission submit its report and recommendation to the Council regarding the inclusion of the Canary Island Pine trees in the City's list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

PRESENTED BY: Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
HERB J. WESSON, Jr.
Councilmember, 10th District

SECONDED BY: Richard Alarcon



[Signature]
JUN 28 2013

King Boulevard Memorial Project

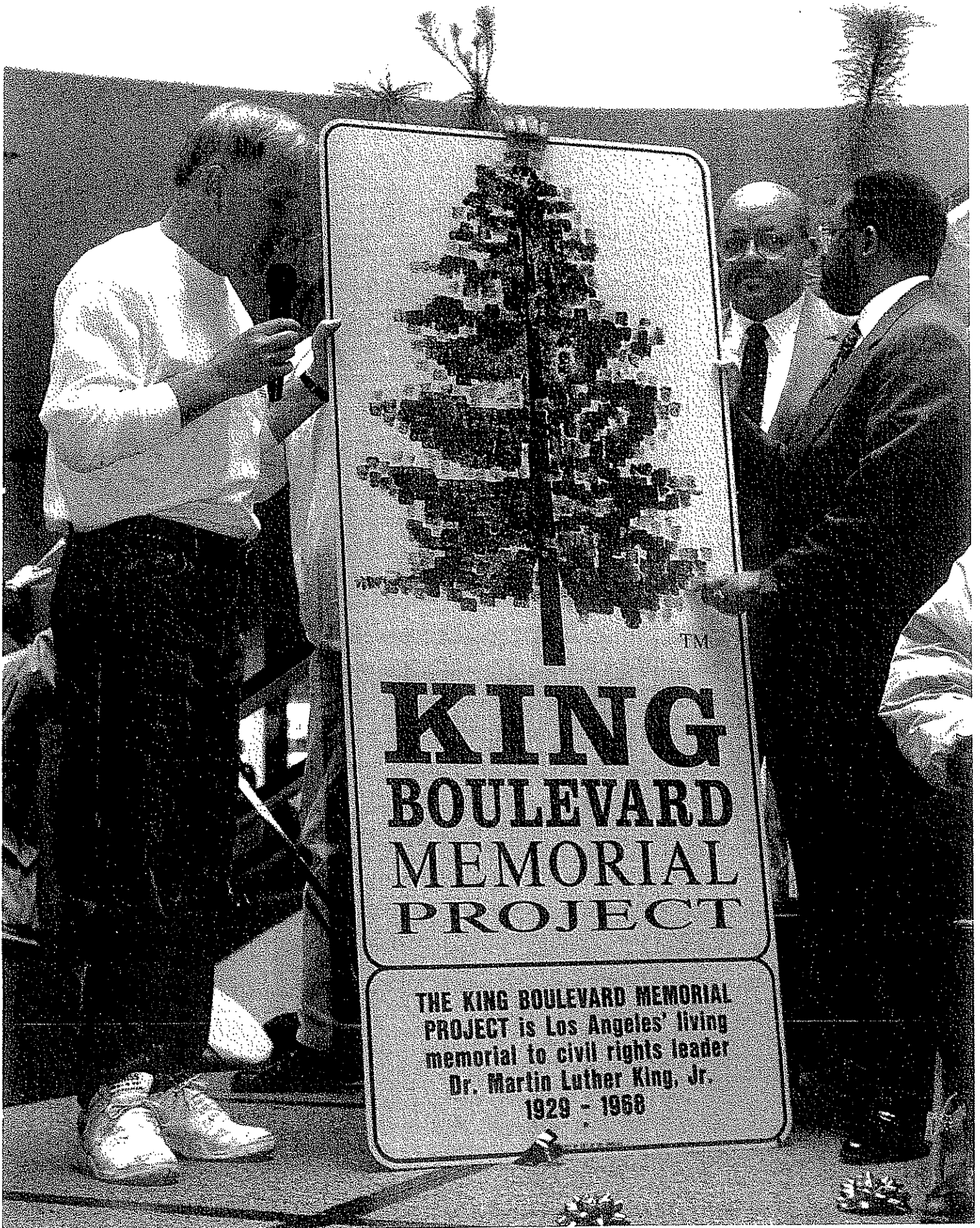
Looking westward—Marlton Avenue to Buckingham Road



July 2003



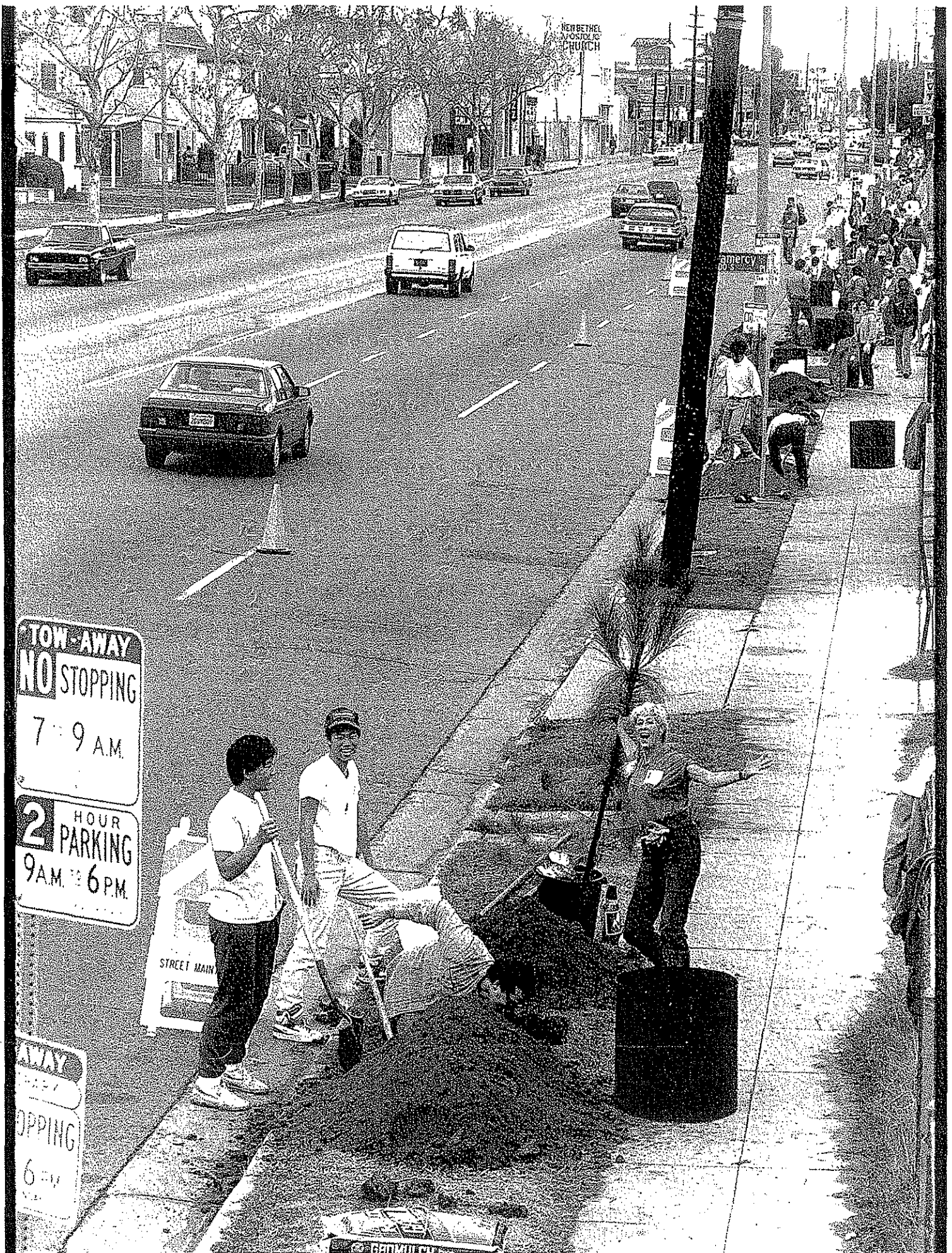
January 1990



TM
**KING
BOULEVARD
MEMORIAL
PROJECT**

**THE KING BOULEVARD MEMORIAL
PROJECT is Los Angeles' living
memorial to civil rights leader
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
1929 - 1968**

HER BETHEL
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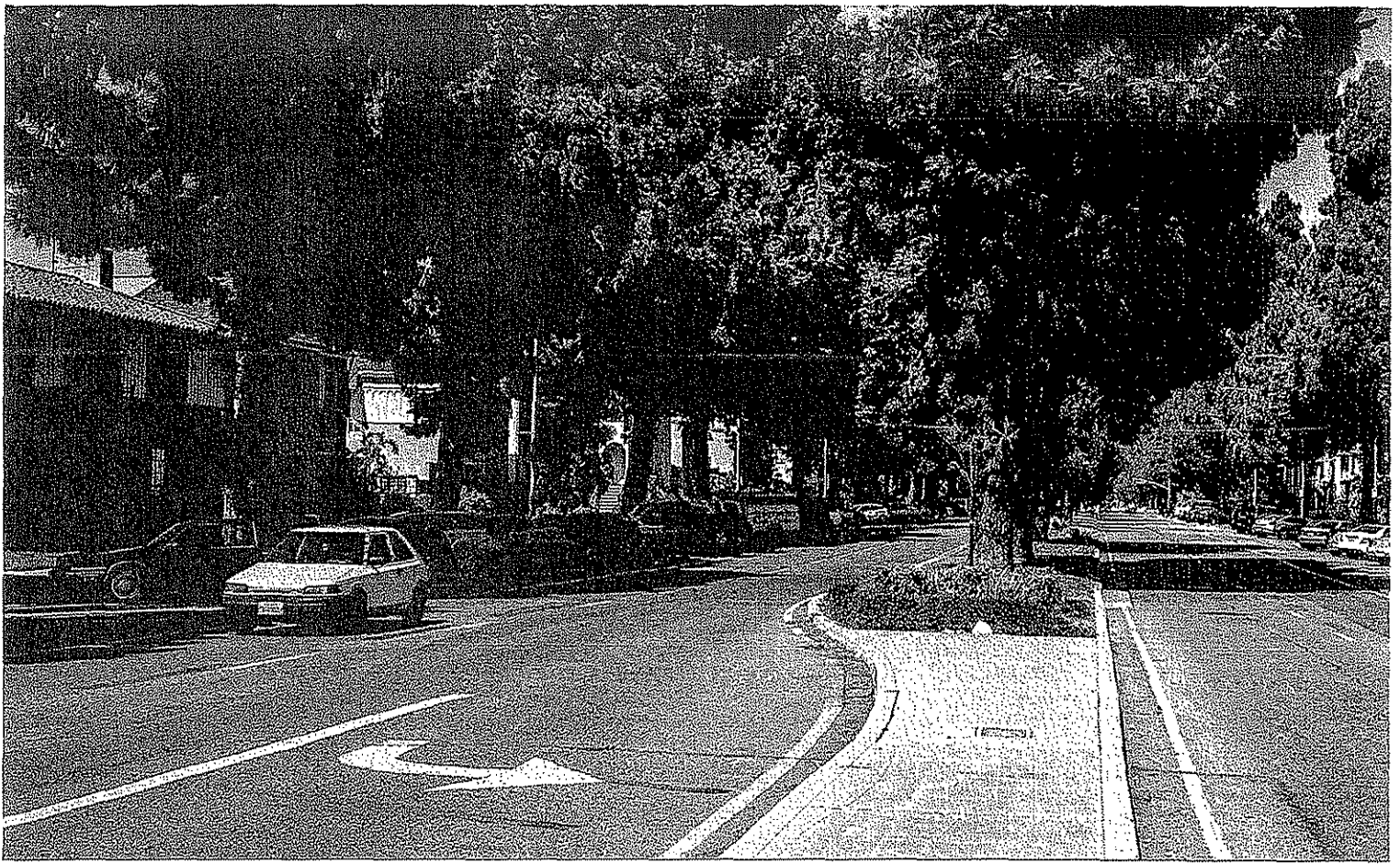


TOW-AWAY
NO STOPPING
7-9 A.M.

2 HOUR
PARKING
9 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

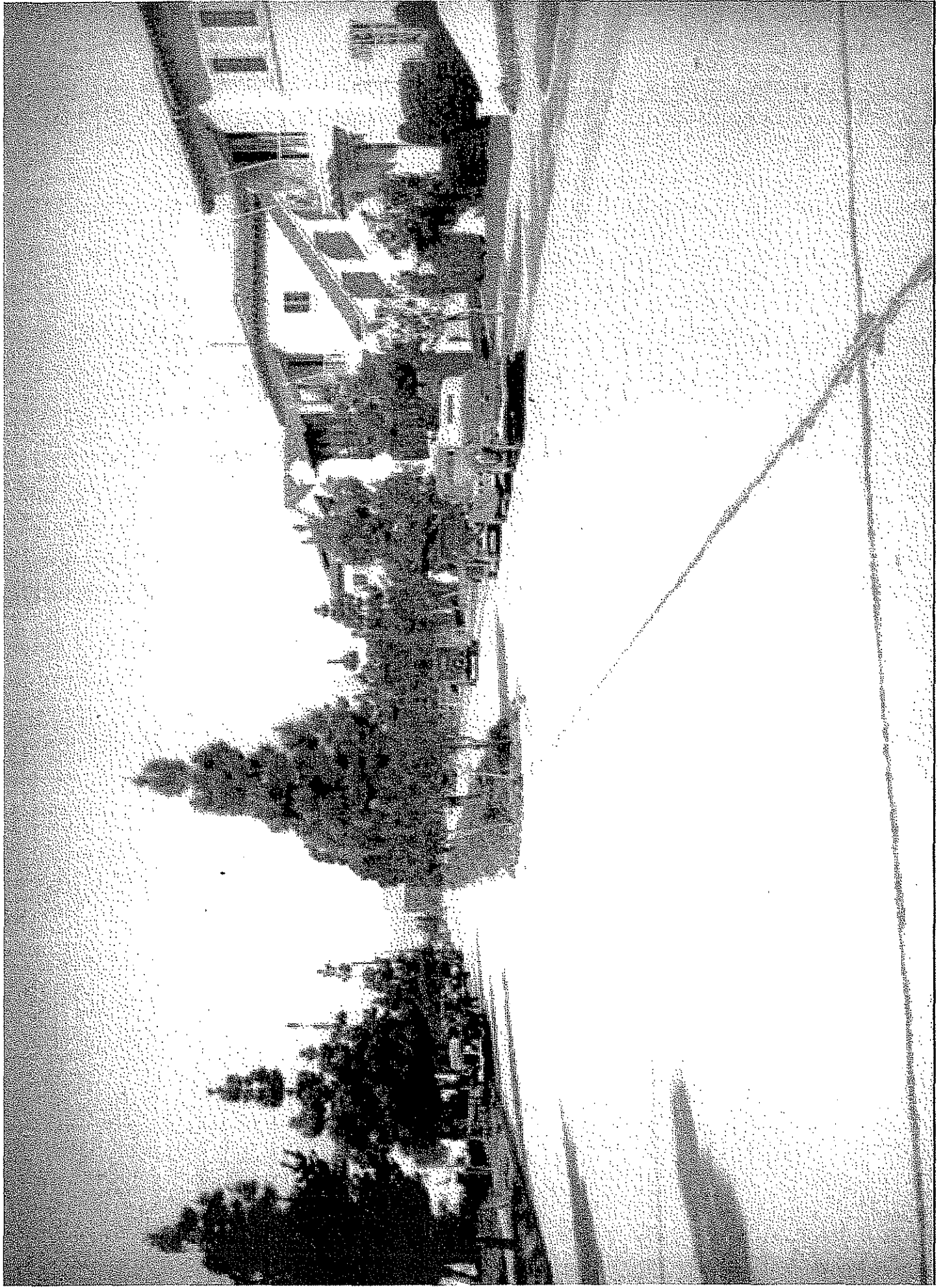
AWAY
STOPPING
6-7

STREET MAIN



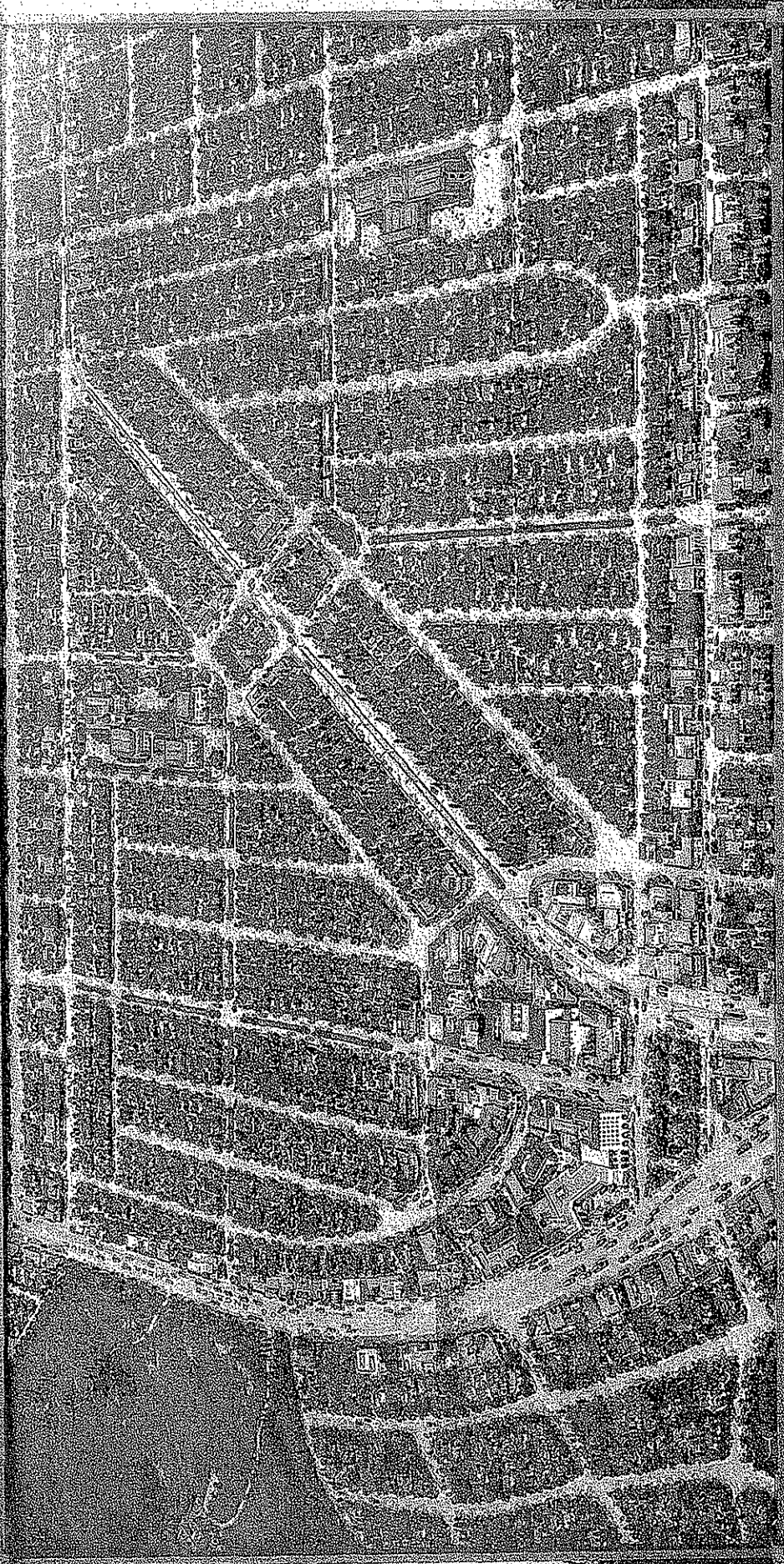
Leimert Blvd at 43rd St circa 2013 and 1954. Source: <http://thesource.metro.net/>





Degnan Blvd 1938 Source: USC Archives

HEADQUARTERS



Leimert Park office HQ 1928 Illustrative plan of development - USC Archives

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STEERING COMMITTEE

(under formation)

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Councilperson Ruth Galanter

Councilperson Nate Holden

Councilperson Gilbert Lindsay

Commissioner Ed Avila

Commissioner Myrlie Evers

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KJLH Radio

Kingdom Day Parade and

Celes King

Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza

California Community Foundation

California Afro-American Museum

and Jacqueline A. DeWalt

Constitutional Rights Foundation

Crenshaw Neighbors Inc.

Crenshaw Chamber of Commerce

Family Savings

Los Angeles Beautiful

and Gale Watson

L.A. Unified School District

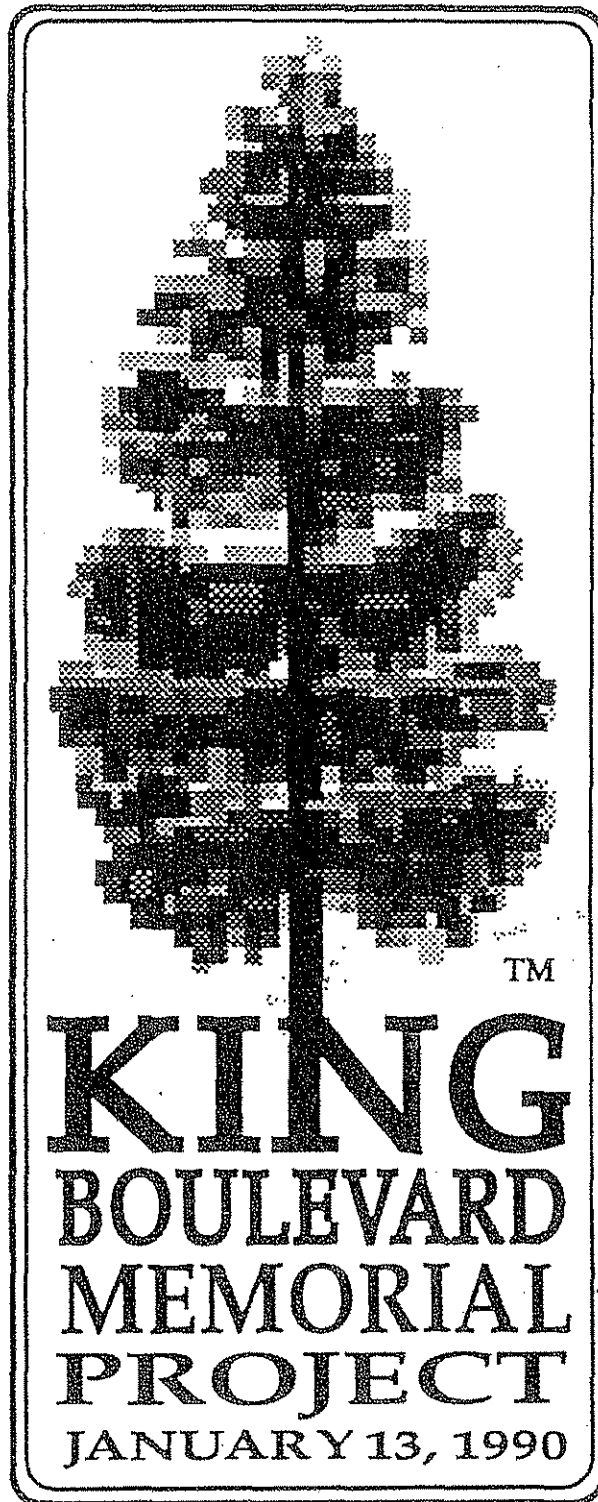
Mid City Chamber of Commerce

So. California Gas Company

and Marc Christiansen

TreePeople and Andy Lipkis

Urban League



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KING BOULEVARD MEMORIAL PROJECT

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream. He dreamed of individuals joined in spirit and common purpose moving together into the future. His dream changed the world.

The King Boulevard Memorial Project has a dream. It's a dream that began as one neighborhood's desire to plant trees on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard near their homes. They felt the project would be a way to honor Dr. King, beautify their neighborhood, and do something for the environment. They shared their idea with neighbors and friends, and working together the dream soon began to take root.

On January 13, 1990--the Saturday before Dr. King's birthday--the people of Los Angeles will conduct their largest one-day street tree planting ever, to honor the memory of Dr. King and to herald in the dream of an urban forest canopy for the City. By the end of the day's event, volunteers from all over Los Angeles will have helped plant 390 smog-resistant and drought-tolerant Canary Island Pines along the seven miles of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard--from Long Beach Avenue to Rodeo Road.

The purpose of the King Boulevard Memorial Project is:

- To honor Dr. King by beautifying King Boulevard as a lasting, living memorial to his dreams and spirit;
- To help build a greater sense of neighborhood and community as people work together;
- To be an example of personal empowerment through individual action, acknowledging that each of us can, and does, make a difference;
- To foster environmental stewardship by establishing a network of trained volunteers to provide ongoing care for the trees on King Boulevard and to participate in future projects for the greening of Los Angeles.

This planting offers each of us an opportunity to pay tribute to a great man in a very tangible and far-reaching manner. We have a chance to create a boulevard that will truly bring pride to this City and serve as a statement of citizen empowerment far into the future.

The King Boulevard Memorial Project Executive Board, the City of Los Angeles and Mayor Tom Bradley, TreePeople, the California Community Foundation, the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, KJLH Radio, the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Southern California Gas Company, and the other members of the Steering Committee invite all Angelenos to join in this historic and challenging one-day undertaking.

Here are various ways you and your organization can participate in the King Boulevard Memorial Project:

- I. Steering Committee Membership
- II. Volunteer Opportunities
- III. Adopt-A-Block Maintenance Program
- IV. Adopt-A-Tree Fund Raising Program
- V. Youth Outreach / KJLH Listener Promotion
- VI. Adopt-A-Tree Youth Program
- VII. Poster Design Contest
- VIII. Volunteer Appreciation Event

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← Back to Original Article

Trees Planted as Living Memorial to King : Civil rights: About 3,000 people turn out to install 300 saplings along a seven-mile stretch to honor the slain leader and aid the environment.

January 14, 1990 | KRISTINA LINDGREN | TIMES STAFF WRITER

Claudia Strong leaned on her shovel Saturday and watched as support poles were driven on either side of a spindly Canary Islands pine tree.

Her thoughts, however, went back to Alabama in the spring of 1965, when she marched with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. from Selma to Montgomery.

"He was the most wonderful person I've ever known," the South-Central Los Angeles woman said wistfully.

With King's memory still vivid so many years later, Strong said it was imperative to her to be a part of a large tree-planting Saturday along seven miles of Martin Luther King Boulevard. The trees will serve as a living memorial to the slain civil rights leader.

Strong was one of an estimated 3,000 environmentalists, community activists, politicians, children and just plain folks who braved threatening skies to help plant 300 of the sapling pines from Long Beach Boulevard to Rodeo Drive, through the heart of South-Central Los Angeles.

It was part of weeklong festivities leading up to Monday's observance of what would have been King's 61st birthday. King was slain by a sniper's bullet on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn.

The tree-planting also is one of the first installments on what is hoped will be 5 million new trees added to Los Angeles thoroughfares.

"The dream is to have an urban forest canopy to shield the environment," said Andy Lipkis, founder of TreePeople, a nonprofit environmental group that organized Saturday's mass planting.

To some, the connection between King and the 300 drought- and smog-resistant pine trees was obscure. To Strong, it was obvious.

"A tree is steadfast, and that was the way Dr. King was. He didn't bend, he didn't give. He just proceeded to do what he had to do. He wouldn't let anybody turn him around," she said, as her co-planters attached the name "Karma" to their 5-foot-tall pine in the 1400 block of King Boulevard.

Willie Alvarez, who will be able to watch "Karma" grow to 60 or 70 feet outside his auto parts store, didn't have much business Saturday, since the curbs were blocked off for work crews, gravel trucks and concrete busters. But he didn't seem to mind.

"The tree purifies the air and gets rid of the smog," Alvarez said in Spanish and nodded approvingly as tree planters asked to fill yet another bucket of water for the tree.

The tree-planting--supported by more than \$58,000 in contributions and pledges, donated equipment and materials--is eventually expected to cost more than \$130,000, Lipkis said. And TreePeople was hoping more people would be calling its toll-free line, 1-800-TREE-GEO, to adopt a tree at \$100 apiece.

Mayor Tom Bradley contributed \$100 at a news conference Saturday morning, and challenged City Council members and other city officials to follow his lead. "We should not simply dig a hole this morning," Bradley said. "All of us ought to dig a little deeper in our pockets."

Just across from Christ Baptist Church at La Salle Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Anya Crockett peered from under the brim of her blue corduroy baseball cap, making sure the last clods of dirt were packed just right around the base of her group's tree.

"This is Harriet Tubman," the 42-year-old South Los Angeles woman said, introducing the long-needled pine that barely stood 4 feet tall.

Why Harriet Tubman, the 19th Century abolitionist? "Because she led the underground railroad and it shows that our struggle goes back further than Dr. King," Crockett said. "We want to grow and flourish, just like this tree. We want it to grow and flourish."

Crockett, one of a legion of Southern California Gas Co. employees who volunteered Saturday, said such efforts were important to reinforce King's message of equality, unity and peace among mankind.

"We have a generation growing up that doesn't really understand what Dr. King went through. We need to keep that memory alive."

"I have a 6-year-old, and 20 years from now, I can tell her, 'On this day, 20 years ago, I planted that tree.' It plants a seed for the future."

King Week festivities will be capped Monday with a parade honoring the civil rights activist along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, beginning at 11 a.m. at Crenshaw Boulevard. Los Angeles Sentinel publisher Ruth Washington will be this year's grand marshal.

Others plan an 11 a.m. South African demonstration and march. Sponsored by the Los Angeles Student Coalition and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Los Angeles, the march will begin at the old South African consulate building at Doheny Drive and Wilshire Boulevard and end at the new consulate at 50 N. La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills.