

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jane Demian

**Date Submitted:** 09/15/2019 11:12 AM

**Council File No:** 13-1339

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am in writing in response to the LA City Council PLUM Committee meeting on Tuesday September 17, 2019 regarding the Protected Trees and Shrubs Ordinance Code Amendment, CF 13-1339. I am writing as an individual even though I am a Board member of the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council and a member of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance Trees Committee. I received this notice only a few days ago so there was not enough time to confer with NC Board members to vote on a CIS. I am sending this letter to the Clerk in addition to the Comment Portal. In my opinion the Protected Trees Ordinance does not go far enough. Adding two more species, Toyon and Elderberry, to the Protected Trees Ordinance is good, but the problem is that protected trees are not really protected. What is meant by protection is that you just need to get a permit to cut down the protected trees and plant replacement trees. More often than not, protected trees are not replanted with protected trees. They are replanted with nursery stock. So after removing hundreds of protected trees the City of Los Angeles will no longer have any native, protected trees as part of our canopy. In addition, habitat cannot be replaced. The Ordinance calls for the doubling or quadrupling of the number of replacement trees on a site that has the habitat area significantly reduced to accommodate large single family homes or a large development. Trees don't reach maturity if they are overcrowded. Overcrowding promotes pests and disease. Considering that our Los Angeles Urban Canopy has been decimated over the years by drought and lack of maintenance due to City budget cuts, I think the entire Protected Trees Ordinance needs to be reformed keeping in mind that protected trees should actually be PROTECTED. Thank you. Jane Demian 2132 Ridgeview Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90041

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 09/15/2019 04:36 PM

**Council File No:** 13-1339

**Comments for Public Posting:** VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL City of Los Angeles Planning and Land Use Management Committee 200 North Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.Lee@lacity.org, CityClerk@lacity.org, patrick.whalen@lacity.org RE: Council file 13-1339, Support adding Toyon and Elderberry to the Protected Tree and Shrub Ordinance Honorable Council Members: I am writing to support the addition of the Mexican Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) and the Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) species to the Protected Tree Ordinance. I believe that protecting these species is important to the Citizens of Los Angeles, as well as our native wild flora and fauna. Protecting these species is critical to helping us meet the challenges posed by climate change, deforestation and increased urbanization. It is critical that we protect these species, not only in name but in actual fact. Therefore, I urge you to adopt the measurement standard compromise adopted by our Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) of a single trunk measuring 2 inches at 2.5 feet above the ground. These species are fire and drought adapted and many significant specimens present as multiple-trunked. Furthermore, as a result of the additional impacts caused by the City's brush clearance program, an even larger number present as multiple-trunked. As a result, I believe that the original proposal - to measure the trunks using a cumulative standard - is more appropriate. However, I believe the CFAC proposal is a good compromise. I urge you to act to protect these species and to adopt the proposed CFAC standard of measurement. Sincerely, Gayle Chick 3983 Evadale Drive Los Angeles, CA 90031