

Communication from Public

Name:

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Council File No: 13-1339

Comments for Public Posting: In light of more information on the topic of measurements, please accept this amended letter as the final and most up-to-date statement from Grown in LA in support of adding elderberry and toyon to the Protected Tree Ordinance at the cumulative diameter of 4".



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September 16, 2019

Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee
City Council

RE: CF 13-1339 Protected Tree Ordinance Amendment to add Mexican Elderberry and Toyon – Support

Dear Honorable Councilmembers,

Grown in LA (GiLA) is working towards transforming the urban landscape by growing and supplying locally-grown climate-appropriate plants to public green infrastructure projects (such as the Los Angeles River revitalization). Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) are two such species of plants that we grow, plant, and encourage in the landscape. These two species are remarkably drought-adapted, are superior air purifiers in our polluted urban environment, and provide immense habitat benefit to our local wildlife.

We fully support the addition of these two species to the Protected Tree Ordinance. They should be protected based on the same measurement as our other protected native trees, at a cumulative diameter of 4". Both elderberry and toyon have the ability to sprout from the crown after being burned by fire. A two hundred year old tree, recently re-sprouting after a fire, may not have a single stem of a 2" or 4" yet, but the removal of such an old tree for the reason that it only had narrow stems would be misleading and harmful. Within a few years, that same tree would be a large, carbon-sequestering, habitat-producing asset to our urban wilderness. We are losing so many of our essential native trees to climatic pressures, invasive pests, and hillside development. Unless we do something to protect our trees, the quality of life for the remaining humans and animals living in Los Angeles will continue to decline.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Pakradouni".

.kat.superfisky.

Executive Director | Grown in LA | 248.890.6409 (c) | kat.superfisky@growninla.org

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.katherine.pakradouni

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**PLANT SEEDS.
POWER PEOPLE.
TRANSFORM A RIVER.**