



Re: Council File 13-1339: Mexican Elderberry / Toyon Adding to Protected Tree List

1 message

daniel marlos <dmarlos@roadrunner.com>

Mon, Dec 2, 2013 at 8:58 AM

To: Gilbert Cedillo <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councildistrict15@lacity.org, Michael.Espinosa@lacity.org, christine.peters@lacity.org

Cc: Sylvia Robledo <sylvia.robledo@lacity.org>, arturo.chavez@lacity.org

2 December 2013

Dear Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee Members:

I am writing to support Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell's motion to add the Mexican Elderberry and Toyon to the list of Protected Trees in the City of Los Angeles. (File No. 13-1339, Agenda Item 2, Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee, December 4, 2013.)

In 2006, three additional native tree species, the California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*), the Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) and the California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*) were added to the Los Angeles Oak Tree Ordinance, and creating the Los Angeles Protected Tree Ordinance. This created a landmark decision regarding the protection of the natural environment within Los Angeles and it was an instrumental decision regarding the protection of open space.

Saving individual trees is not enough if we want to preserve natural habitat within our boundaries. We need to protect the entire ecosystem, including native trees, shrubs, flowers, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects and other creatures, many of which pass unnoticed to the casual observer. Adding the Mexican Elderberry and the Toyon (just last year declared our official Los Angeles plant) will further advance our preservation attempts at the local level.

The significance of these two species in the local environment cannot be overemphasized. Removing any species from a local ecosystem can have dire consequences for the entire system.

As nature lover, I fully appreciate the value of the Mexican Elderberry and the Toyon to our natural environment, and I urge that their preservation be ensured with the passage of this motion.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Marlos

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