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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 at the measurement of a single 2" stem at DBH. We are losing so many of our essential native trees to climatic pressures, invasive pests, and urban 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 "Kat Superfisky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Pakradouni". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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