



Community Health Councils, Inc.



3731 Stocker Street
Suite 201
Los Angeles, CA 90008

Tel: 323.295.9372
Fax: 323.295.9467
www.chc-inc.org

June 9, 2014

Los Angeles City Council
Energy and Environment Committee
The Honorable Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, Chair
The Honorable Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
The Honorable Councilmember Tom LaBonge
The Honorable Councilmember Jose Huizar
The Honorable Councilmember Paul Koretz
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Item No. 14-0019, Bonin-Buscaino Motion (Tree Trimming)

Dear Councilmembers:

We are writing in reference to Item No. 3 (14-0019) on your June 4, 2014 agenda, which concerns a City Council Motion (Bonin-Buscaino) directing the Bureau of Street Services to report as to its procedure for issuing contracts for tree trimming work, and what measures are in place to ensure trimming and pruning complies with the City's established street tree guidelines and policies and related matters.

Community Health Councils (CHC) is a non-profit health promotion, health policy education organization based in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles. We work to strengthen community participation in defining state and local policies that promote social justice and achieve equity in community and environmental resources for underserved populations.

CHC has a long history of working to preserve and protect trees in the Crenshaw District. Several years ago, CHC worked with several area Neighborhood Councils and community leaders to negotiate a settlement with the California Science Center to protect and/or replace trees threatened by the movement of the Space Shuttle Endeavor through our community. More recently, we were able to again work with local leaders to make sure that Metro addressed the impacts of the loss of trees in connection with the Crenshaw/LAX rail line construction.

As a result of our experiences, we've become acutely aware that the standards by which trees in the City of Los Angeles are trimmed and pruned do not always comply with accepted national best practices and even official city policy. We urge the Committee to take particular notice of the Bureau of Public Works process for granting trimming and pruning permits in relation to construction activities to make sure that

all proper standards are being followed by applicants. In addition, we would urge that standards for tree replacement when tree removals are necessary be improved to take into account the long-term impact on tree canopy.

For your reference we are also attaching a report completed by local noted urban forestry experts, Land Protection Partners, which analyzed the impacts of the planned Metro Crenshaw tree removals on the environment and public health in the surrounding community.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to email or call Malcolm Carson, Policy Director, at Malcolm@chc-inc.org or (323) 295-9372.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Lark Galloway-Gilliam
Executive Director

Attachment