

From: Joanne D'Antonio <trees@nca.la>

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Subject: CF 18-0142 Communication from Public (please post before 10-31-'18 City Council meeting)

To: <CityClerk@lacity.org>

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Given the large number of mature trees being removed from our City's tree canopy for new driveways, home/building development, new public transit, street widening, electrical installations, sidewalk installations, and now sidewalk repair, the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance Trees Committee has concerns that heat island effect and decline of air quality will be the unintended consequence of the loss of the valuable ecosystem services of the large canopy trees removed for sidewalk repair. Because their value cannot be mitigated by replacement saplings, we therefore DISAGREE with the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee's October 17, 2018 denial of the appeal under the California Environmental Quality Act, and do not agree that this large-scale removal of mature trees, 400 so far this year, is "exempt" from CEQA. We are against proceeding with tree removals for sidewalk repair until an EIR is in place, and the ramifications of this loss of canopy and its effect on respiratory health and energy utility needs/cost is fully calculated. Furthermore we recommend consulting other cities such as Seattle, Santa Monica, Beverly Hills and Pasadena, which successfully repair their sidewalks without removing trees.

Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance Trees Committee

Joanne D'Antonio, Chair