Re: Council Files 18-0142, 18-0707, and 18-0725 C.E.Q.A. Appeals of Board of Public Works Adoption of the Sidewalk Repair Project and Its Approval of Tree Removal Permit Requests for Tree Removals Associated with those 10/31/18 City Council Agenda Items noted.

1 message

Cosmo Bua <philemata@gmail.com> Mon, Oct 29, 2018 at 9:13 PM
To: michael.espinosa@lacity.org

City Council Members
City of Los Angeles Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee
c/o Michael Espinosa
City Clerk's Office
City Hall, Room 395
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Via Email: michael.espinosa@lacity.org

To: Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti and the Los Angeles City Council
From: Cosmo Bua
Re: Skirting the California Environmental Quality Act
Date: 10/29/18

The intent of C.E.Q.A. is being circumvented.

The "Sidewalk Repair Program", which is the subject of three appeals on this one agenda alone, is actually one city-wide project. Contrary to legitimate C.E.Q.A. procedure it is being piecemealed. The City is not doing accurate assessments of the environmental effects of each of this project's activities (or sites), let alone for the entire project, or following on that, any assessment of significant cumulative effects over time of this perpetual city-wide project.

Instead the City of Los Angeles is going around site by site destroying the urban forest even though it is clearly unnecessary in order to improve access. This project is expensive, destructive of neighborhoods, and harmful to the City's environment - and so *obviously harmful to all residents of the City,* including those for whom these "repairs" are primarily intended.

15300.2. Exceptions
(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

Staff statements (not evaluations) of "no cumulative effects" are nonsensical. As stated, the 10/31/18 L.A. City Council Agenda alone includes three instances of major tree removal. This continuous slaughter will have definite and provable significant, negative environmental effects of which you are already aware. These effects are known. They are known to everyone. And they are known to be accumulating (cumulative).

The C.E.Q.A. exemption being used here is not applicable because the cumulative impact of all of these actions of the same type at different sites comprising one project, or if you wish, successive projects, in the location of Los Angeles, over time, is significant.

10/18/31 Agenda Items

ITEM NO. 18-0725 CD 9 (23): appeal by United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles and the Eastside Nature Alliance of a tree removal permit request under the Sidewalk Repair Program for removal of six Camphor trees located at 526, 600, 606, 610, 616 and 620 West 48th Street.

ITEM NO.18-0142 CD 4 (26): appeal by United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles and the Eastside Nature Alliance of a tree removal permit request under the Sidewalk Repair Program for removal of 12 Indian Laurel Fig trees located at 750 South

Spaulding Avenue.

ITEM NO. 18-0707 CD 4 (31): appeal by United Neighborhoods for Los Angeles and the Eastside Nature Alliance of a tree removal permit request under the Sidewalk Repair Program for removal of 18 Indian Laurel Fig trees located at 1225-1254 North Cherokee Avenue.

On 10/31 Los Angeles City Council is expected to approve destroying 36 healthy, mature, beautiful trees, in spite of three public appeals - with indifference and unnecessarily, as a matter of routine. As "Progressive" leaders, presumably capable of reading the U.N.'s *latest* report on the urgency of combating climate change now, you need to ***change course. Start by approving these three sound, pragmatic appeals.*** Then instruct city staff that preserving trees is a priority equal to improving access - that both are to be pursued simultaneously, and with clear documentation as to the cogent reasoning behind their decisions.