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February 4, 2019

PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE  
Michael.Espinosa@lacity.org

Committee Meeting - Wednesday, February 6, 2019

RE: File # 18-0988

Agenda Item #5 - Support for motion and related items.

To Committee members  
COUNCILMEMBER BOB BLUMENFIELD (CHAIR)  
COUNCILMEMBER DAVID E. RYU  
COUNCILMEMBER JOE BUSCAINO  
COUNCILMEMBER MITCH O'FARRELL  
COUNCILMEMBER NURY MARTINEZ

Dear Committee Members,

Studio City Residents Association supports the motions presently before this committee as indicated above i.e. amendments to the protected tree ordinance, tree replacement programs and for increased funding for staffing at the Bureau of Street Services to provide funds for additional canopy management and planning.

### **Rational for support on the motions:**

#### **Los Angeles city is in need of a Sustainable Urban Forest.**

1. Los Angeles has the largest urban forest in the nation. If measures to protect and value our trees are not taken then the Los Angeles Urban Forest will become an ongoing increasing liability.
2. As trees mature they appreciate in value. These values are identifiable and quantifiable. Elements of other city infrastructures are carried as an expense but for every \$1 invested in a street tree, there is a return on investment is calculated at \$5.82.
3. Trees support healthy neighborhoods and vibrant business corridors. Shoppers will travel to shop in districts with high quality trees.
4. Temperatures are amplified by buildings and roads absorbing and reflecting heat up to 15- 20 degrees above ambient temperatures. There is a "Heat Island" effect, however, shaded surfaces reduce this rise and strategically placed trees can save up to 56% on annual air-conditioning costs.

**There are existing gaps in the Los Angeles' Urban Forrest concepts and applications of the Urban Forest. .**

A study conducted from January 2018 to November 2018 determined that trees are not truly valued in the City Budget resulting in funding far below the necessary levels. This leads to a scattered approach and the City's technological urban forest management tools are incomplete. A "Band-Aid" approach develops and significant gaps in achieving sustainability becomes inevitable.

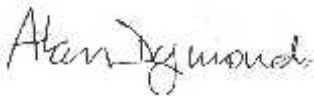
**What costs would be incurred if corrective measures are undertaken?**

A tree inventory by professional arborists will cost approximately \$3 per tree. A critical component of Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) but the 700,000 street trees not part of the RAP inventory can be inventoried for approximately \$3 million and will require a year or more to complete therefore the Urban Forest Management Planning (UFMP) process should be initiated as soon as possible. Thus statistics of an urban forest's trees, the species, sizes, ages, locations, and conditions, along with detailed vacant tree space information is a critical management tool.

**Support for a recommendation for City Council Action**

For the reasons stated above, Studio City Residents Association supports the motions before this committee, such as changes to our protected tree ordinance, changes to our tree replacement program, and increased staffing at the Bureau of Street Services. Expertise and experience will be provided in urban canopy management and planning. The diverse array of trees in Los Angeles will provide shade, beautify to our communities and is the best tool to control climate change and cool our city.

Respectfully submitted



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Cc: Council Member Paul Krekorian