

Communication from Public

Name: TreePeople
Date Submitted: 05/01/2019 09:46 AM
Council File No: 19-0600
Comments for Public Posting:

PEOPLE NEED HEALTHY TREES NOW SUPPORT URBAN FORESTS

L.A.'s URBAN TREE CRISIS

The City of Los Angeles is facing an Urban Tree Crisis due to climate change, droughts, extreme heat, emerging pests and diseases, and development, which can significantly impact Angelenos' everyday lives as well as health and well-being.

From 2000 to 2009, about one-third of the existing green cover (trees/shrubs and grass) of each single-family residential lot is lost during the average home expansion in the Los Angeles Basin. In particular, tree cover has decreased 9.6% across Los Angeles County (Lee et al., 2017). There are weak or rarely enforced tree protection policies on private lands, allowing for tree removals when we need to grow the canopy to increase the overall benefits it delivers.

SUPPORT PRIORITY BUDGETARY ITEMS

Recommended items include the following in the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget:

- \$3 Million - Professional Street Tree inventory conducted by Certified Arborists
- \$400,000 (minimum) - Urban Forest Management Plan
- \$35,000 to \$250,000 - Tree Management Software; initial cost with ongoing annual licensing fees
- \$100,000 - Financing Study
- Public Education; the City needs to develop goals and scope to determine the budget immediately

For more information visit
www.treepeople.org/urbanforest

TREEPEOPLE MOBILIZED THE COMMUNITY

To garner support for the urgent need of a city-wide Urban Forest Management Plan and sufficient funding, TreePeople launched a petition.

TreePeople found that most citizens agree that the City's urban forest needs effective management, dedicated funding, comprehensive and effective tree planting, and ongoing maintenance.

Together we strongly believe that trees in cities are essential infrastructure to protect, support, and sustain our daily life ranging from providing shade, water, and food to enhancing human health and well-being, community cohesion, and economic growth. Therefore, we encourage you to SUPPORT URBAN FORESTS!

1,072 E-PETITION SIGNATURES

- Over 1K people signed TreePeople's petition
- Almost 20% of the signatures were residents of the City of Los Angeles
- They ALL demand an Urban Forest Management Plan

"People live in cities. People in cities need trees!"

Deena R. - L.A. City Resident and Tree Lover

"Healthy trees are vital to the survival of our planet!"

Ellen C. - L.A. City Voter and Activist

TREEPEOPLE'S POLICY TEAM

Over the past 45 years, TreePeople and its Policy Team have played a leading role in demonstrating that it is technologically, socially, and environmentally feasible to use green infrastructure to transform our neighborhoods to be healthy and resilient. Based on our mission, TreePeople's Policy team works to:

- Inspire - individuals, organizations, and elected officials to advocate for the environment, which is under threat from climate change
- Engage - people to understand the multiple benefits of an urban forest by sharing with them nature-based solutions, policies, and research studies by TreePeople and/or developed with partners/other cities, and highlight the successes of these programs which can be applied in our own City and communities
- Support - policies, programs, and partners which help to improve our City's urban tree canopy
- Share - our own success stories with the world



Communication from Public

Name: Liz Amsden

Date Submitted: 05/01/2019 12:46 PM

Council File No: 19-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Adding a 10th HOPE team is good but my understanding is that both the Clean Streets and HOPE teams would be most effective if a total of 4 administrative positions were added; Clean Streets were funded for two admin positions, please consider funding 4 positions. These positions would also assist by interfacing with the Homeless Strategies effort. Agencies may have reported a first-time decrease in people living on the streets of Los Angeles but, in their day-to-day work, LA San does not see a reduction in the homeless population. It is unclear to what extent monies were needed/added for LA San to engage with the City's Homeless Strategies effort and other programs to anticipate and mitigate problems with homeless encampments, couch-surfers and people living in cars and trailers. This is a needed part of the Mayor's homelessness initiative. Please ensure sufficient monies are allocated. Although the following suggestions will require extra funding, ultimately the City would have savings if they provided smaller black bins at significantly reduced charges to customers to encourage waste reduction driven by consumers and subsidized RecycLA franchisees to provide green waste bins at no charge to multi-unit customers with yard waste. The City should fund the development of local recycling plants and markets. especially with regards to green waste. The money spent on this would pay off down the line with not only jobs and shipping savings but also with the economic boost from innovative production derived from what we now see as waste. The City should also expand water capture and recycling and increase effective water conservation to reduce the City's reliance on imported water, the cost of which may grow exponentially in years to come.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Armstrong
Date Submitted: 05/01/2019 01:32 PM
Council File No: 19-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Please find attached a joint letter from Americans for Safe Access and The Southern California Coalition asking for the support of the Budget Committee for the Department of Cannabis Regulation.



April 30, 2019

The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council Budget Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Social Equity & The Upcoming Budget - CF 19-0600

Dear Honorable Members of the Budget Committee:

As we move towards the onerous task of the annual budget, we hope that the City will consider the accomplishments of the Department of Cannabis Regulation and the material progress that department has made towards a meaningful and sustainable Social Equity Program.

Ms. Packer and her team have worked tirelessly to overcome funding and staff shortfalls. Despite these impediments, they have created from scratch one of the largest cannabis licensing efforts in the state while simultaneously crafting the largest Social Equity Program in the country. The demands upon her department are many and seem to increase endlessly.

The Department of Cannabis Regulation (the DCR) has behaved responsibly, with transparency and great care. Fully funding their efforts, ensures that the Social Equity Program moves forward. It gives Ms. Packer the monies she needs to ensure she has adequate staff and resources to move forward.

The Southern California Coalition and Americans for Safe Access are deeply grateful for political courage of the Council and our Mayor. The willingness to invest in a meaningful and successful Social Equity Program is a step few elected officials have ever been willing to take. In this effort you could not have a better partner than Ms. Packer and her very dedicated team. We hope that the Honorable Members of the Budget Committee will recognize the achievements of the DCR and supply the budgetary support the department needs to move forward.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Adam Spiker in blue ink.

Adam Spiker
Executive Director
The Southern California Coalition

Handwritten signature of Sarah Armstrong JD in blue ink.

Sarah Armstrong JD
Director of Industry Affairs
Americans for Safe Access

Cc: Andrew Westall
Cat Packer
Michell Garakian
Alexander Freedman

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/01/2019 02:19 PM

Council File No: 19-0600

Comments for Public Posting:



April 29, 2019

Los Angeles City Council
 200 N Spring Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Consideration of the Mayor's FY 2019-20 Proposed Budget for Urban Forestry

We believe a healthy urban forest is essential infrastructure to a thriving, sustainable, and resilient city. Los Angeles's urban forest, if planned and managed well, can protect Angelenos from many of the current and future impacts of climate change including: saving lives from extreme heat, capturing and cleaning water, improving human health and wellbeing, and providing many other life-supporting benefits.

We acknowledge and appreciate that the Mayor's FY 2019-2020 Proposed Budget increased funding for street tree and parkway maintenance under the Bureau of Street Services, especially much needed funding for tree watering enhancement and a City Forest Officer position.

However, the following recommended priority budgetary items from the “[First Step of Developing an Urban Forestry Management Plan for the City of Los Angeles](#)” were not included and need to be funded in the FY 2019-2020 budget to better align with the Mayor's priorities expressed in the [Resilient Los Angeles](#) plan and and the recent [LA's Green New Deal](#):

- **\$3 Million for a professional street tree inventory conducted by Certified Arborists as the first priority.** This is the most critical step to develop the First Urban Forestry Management Plan and will serve as the foundation for sustainable urban forestry management for the City. **We strongly urge the City to provide a minimum of \$1 Million in this fiscal year (as requested by the**

***Bureau of Street Services*) and provide the balance of the funding in the following fiscal year to fund this critical item.**

- **Funding to immediately create and implement an urban forestry Public Education program.** The City needs to immediately determine where this program will be housed and develop goals and a program given that about 90% of our trees are privately owned. Providing funding to start the process this year is critical.
- **Funding for a complete Urban Forestry Management Plan (a minimum of \$400,000).**

Thank you for your leadership and support. We hope you, our Council Members, will speak for our trees and make sure that the City provides sufficient financial and other needed resources to protect, plant, and maintain a healthy and thriving urban forest.

We look forward to working with you on this critical issue to achieve a greener, healthier, and more climate-resilient future for all Angelenos.

Cc:

Mayor Garcetti

Councilmember Cedillo

Councilmember Krekorian

Councilmember Blumenfield

Councilmember Ryu

Councilmember Koretz

Councilmember Martinez

Councilmember Rodriguez

Councilmember Harris-Dawson

Councilmember Price

Councilmember Wesson

Councilmember Bonin

Councilmember Smith

Councilmember O'Farrell

Councilmember Huizar

Councilmember Buscaino

Deborah Bloome
Senior Director of Policy and Research
TreePeople

Aaron Thomas
Chair
Community Forest Advisory Committee

Marilee Kuhlmann
Principle
Urban Water Group

Gabrielle Newmark
Co-Founder/Program Director
Industrial District Green

Jill Stewart
Executive Director
Coalition to Preserve LA

Gerry Hans
Vice President, Science & Conservation
Friends of Griffith Park

Jacky Surber
Co-Founder
Angelenos for Trees

Isabelle Duvivier
Principal
Duvivier Architects

Joanne D'Antonio
Chair
Neighborhood Council Sustainability
Alliance Trees Committee

Will Wright
Director of Government & Public Affairs
Los Angeles Chapter of American
Institute of Architects

Wendy Butts
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles Conservation Corps

Mario J. Becerra
Executive Director
A Cleaner, Greener East LA, INC

Rachel Malarich
Assistant Director of Environmental
Services
Koreatown Youth + Community Center

Mark Kenyon
Executive Director
North East Trees

Sharyn Romano
Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles Beautification Team