

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to policies and strategies to ensure the long-term health and security of the City's urban forest.

Recommendations for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Ryu - Blumenfield - Krekorian - et al.):

1. INSTRUCT the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) to report to Council on the status of the BSS's current hiring efforts for tree planting, tree trimming and dead tree removal crews, pursuant to Council file No. 18-0600-S139, as well as cost estimates and staff requirements necessary to bring departmental operations back to pre-recession levels, achieve a 97 percent Tree Stocking Rate in the City, along with associated planting, maintenance and care, and a Best Management Practice pruning cycle of 5 to 7 years.
2. INSTRUCT the BSS, and REQUEST the City Plants, to report on the status of current efforts to conduct a comprehensive street tree inventory, including, but not limited to, costs, funding options and staff requirements; and, existing technologies, inventories and software used by other City departments and/or City Plants to document the street tree system and guide future tree planting strategies and investment.
3. INSTRUCT the BSS, and REQUEST the Community Forest Advisory Committee, to review street tree maintenance and trimming practices among City departments that perform tree trimming functions, pursuant to the City Administrative Officer (CAO) October 21, 2016 report, attached to Council file No. 15-0467-S3, as well as the practices of other jurisdictions that have ongoing street tree management plans, and report to Council with recommendations on best management practices for the City's street tree population.
4. INSTRUCT the BSS to report with an analysis and recommendations to improve the City's 2 to 1 street tree replacement policy, including, but not limited to, consideration of the holistic value of a tree slated for removal based on the tree's health, maturity and canopy size, and an evaluation of the existing tree planting in-lieu fee to ensure the City achieves full cost recovery for all tree removals, planting and maintenance costs, and appropriate age and species diversification.
5. INSTRUCT the Bureau of Engineering and BSS to report to Council with alternative sidewalk design options, that adhere to Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and the terms agreed upon in the Willits settlement, that would allow the City to prioritize the preservation of healthy, established trees when conducting sidewalk repairs.
6. ADD the following recommendations:
 - a. Instruct the BSS to increase the number of native trees to actively create a tree habitat throughout the City that is more appropriate to the City.
 - b. Instruct the BSS to focus on preserving trees and canopy as the City addresses sidewalk repairs, particularly on not removing mature trees where the City can create meandering sidewalks to avoid tree removal.
 - c. Instruct the BSS to fund an expanded watering program by partnering with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, or other workforce development programs in the City.

- d. Instruct the BSS to re-examine the Bureau's approach to managing street trees, particularly avoiding removal of diseased trees.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes.

For: Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council
Hollywood United Neighborhood Council
Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

For, if Amended: Greater Valley Glen Neighborhood Council

SUMMARY

At its regular meeting held on November 4, 2019 the Budget and Finance Committee considered a Motion (Ryu - Blumenfield - Krekorian - et al.) relative to policies and strategies to ensure the long-term health and security of the City's urban forest. The Committee posed questions to the BSS and requested additional considerations regarding the policies and strategies for the long-term health of the City's urban forest.

After an opportunity for public comment was held, the Committee moved to approve the recommendations contained in the Motion, as amended, as detailed above. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
KREKORIAN:	YES
PRICE:	YES
KORETZ:	YES
BLUMENFIELD	YES
BONIN:	YES

MM 11/4/19 Council file No. 15-0467-S8

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-