

Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(15) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 06/19/2018

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 07/19/2018

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 16-0461

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: Community Impact Statement re CF 16-0461

Los Feliz NC

AGAINST

Since the In-lieu tree fee has been already adopted, we suggest a 6 month condition to be placed on the ordinance. If a professional tree census and comprehensive Urban Forest Management Plan has not begun in earnest, you should recall this ordinance. While tree replacement in-lieu fees are used in other major U.S. cities, those cities have a comprehensive Urban Forest Management Plan with strong visions for a healthy urban forest, strict tree protections and adequate funding for maintaining and planting urban trees to increase the urban tree canopy. However Los Angeles does NOT have a comprehensive Urban Forest Management Plan nor a professional tree census and therein lies the problem.

Establishing a replacement tree in-lieu fee without a plan could lead to a loss of urban tree canopy cover due to many factors, the most urgent being the ticking time bomb of our iconic palm trees, most of which are reaching the end of their lifespan.

In 1930-31, Los Angeles' forestry division planted more than 40,000 palm trees, partly due to the upcoming 1932 Olympics and partly to put people to work. The Olympics are once again coming to LA in 2028. Palm trees have a 75-100 year lifespan. Do we deal with this potentially massive widespread die-off in a piecemeal way, or do we plan for it by methodically cataloguing what we have, when it will expire, what will we replace it with, and what age should that replacement tree be within the context of its neighboring trees? As we will shortly discover, a street of trees all the same age and type has consequences.

The in-lieu fee itself is not sufficient enough to discourage developers and homeowners to rethink tree removal and it doesn't cover the actual cost of the tree's care. Our street trees pull their weight by mitigating the heat island effect, absorbing and reducing carbon emissions, and being complex ecosystems. The health of Angelenos is at stake.

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