

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



HOLLYWOOD HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
ANASTASIA MANN

VICE-PRESIDENT
ORRIN FELDMAN

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
JANE CROCKETT

SECRETARY
BRITTA ENGSTROM

TREASURER
MATT SHICHTMAN

HOLLYWOOD HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

C/O Department of Neighborhood
Empowerment
3516 N. Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90031

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HOLLYWOOD HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING

February 19, 2020

6:00 pm

**Will and Ariel Durant Library Branch
7140 Sunset Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90046**

MINUTES

1. **Call to order by President, Anastasia Mann at 6:08pm**
2. **Roll Call by Secretary, Britta Engstrom. Quorum established.** Absent: Daniel Savage, Naomi Kobrin, Bob Mansell, Jeff Straebler & Melissa Reeck.
3. **Approval of minutes.** Jeff Masino made the motion, Danielle Mead 2nd. The minutes were approved 16-0 (1 abstain).
4. **Election of Area 9 Chair**
Candidate: Laurie Adami
Laurie was elected by the board 16-0 (1 abstain).
5. **Public Official Reports**
 - a) CD4 –Field Deputy, Madelynn Taras, Office of Councilmember David Ryu provided an update that they are looking at streets that can be easily paved by BSS vs. those that will need to be capital improvement projects. They have a new planner, Paola Mendez. The Wonder Woman of the 4th Event on March 22nd is coming up and they are taking submissions. She invited everyone to check out the new community calendar on their website.
 - b) CD13 – Sean Starkey, Office of Councilman Mitch O’Farrell spoke about Metro Bike Share which will have 10 new stations coming to Hollywood. He shared that many shelters are expanding including the YWCA which is expanding to 120 beds in March.
 - c) 3rd Supervisorial District, Erin Seinfeld, Office of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl introducing introduced herself as the new representative. Her e-mail is Eseinfeld@bos.lacounty.gov She spoke about how in the LA County Court System people will no longer have to pay certain administrative fees.
 - d) Neighborhood Prosecutor, Hollywood Division, Ethan Weaver stated that there is a new prosecutor in North Hollywood. Ethan is looking into the short term rental that was the site of a murder earlier in the day. Ethan introduced Sarah Spielberger, Deputy City Attorney, Gang & Gun Prosecution

Section. If anyone sees graffiti they should report to 311 or SLO. They will determine if it's gang related.

e) LAPD – Hollywood & North Hollywood Divisions

SLO Ralph Sanchez was unable to give too many details about the ongoing investigation regarding the recent shooting at the short term rental in Mt. Olympus. He stated that they are on it and they are investigating it. The suspects are still outstanding. It is a short term rental that has been written up as a party house previously. SLO Brian White has tracked every citation on this house. Enforcement has been pushing citations. Ethan Weaver explained that administrative citations are non-criminal but violators are entitled to a hearing. These types of things include citations for party houses, the new vending ordinance, and any municipal code.

SLO Kurtis Delbar stated that there has been a 10% crime reduction. He reviewed how to report a crime online at LAPDonline.org (if you don't have evidence etc. and don't want to wait on the phone) Package thefts and online crimes usually people selling goods online and getting it taken by force have been very common. He also informed stakeholders to be on the lookout for Turo cars (Airbnb of cars). You may notice extra vehicles in your neighborhood.

6. President's Report (Anastasia Mann)

- a) Report on CD4 Candidate Forum held on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020. Four candidates participated for 90 minutes of Q&A. The debate is available to view online. HHWNC had active participation at their table at the event.
- b) LAFD Fire Station 76 Report - update on Community & Officials event (Public Safety Report). (see attachment)

Capt. Dalton stated that the station is 70+ years old and they are unable to cool the apparatus (like a garage) which can get extremely hot, even at night. It's putting the firefighters at risk for heat related illnesses and does not allow them to recover. Additionally, the gym isn't used because it is too hot in the summer. The swamp cooler would reduce the temperature by over 20 degrees.

Commander Hogan stated that since the swamp cooler is not in their budget they are unable to ask for it which is why they are coming to the HHWNC for a NPG.

Motion: HHWNC approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant of \$3,800 for Fire Station 76 to install a swamp cooler at the fire station.

Anastasia Mann made the motion, Orrin Feldman 2nd. The motion was approved unanimously 17-0.

- c) Durant Library Requests: Neighborhood Purpose Grants
 - i. The Source is a monthly gathering of service providers for homeless or disadvantaged clients. They service between 170-190 clients per month. The money from the grant will help pay for meals and other resources.

Motion: HHWNC approve payment of \$2,000 to Friends of Durant Library to fund the Source Event at the library for one month.

Anastasia Mann made the motion, Luminita Roman 2nd. The motion was approved 16-1.

John Franks shared details and receipts from prior Source events per Area 7's request.

Public Comment:

-Francine Beeman

-Joan Howard

-Leon Jones

- ii. The Durant Library has traditionally distinguished itself with arts and science programming that serves patrons from pre-school through retirement. They plan to expand their science related programming that will prove a benefit to students who patronize the branch. This programming is not covered by the LAPL budget.

Motion: HHWNC approve payment of \$2,000 to Friends of Durant Library to ongoing programs at the library for children and young adults.

Anastasia Mann made the motion, Matt Shichtman 2nd.

This item was tabled until next board meeting.

- d) Coronavirus What You Need to Know Flyer (see attachment)
- e) The next meeting date was confirmed for March 18, 2020
- f) Anastasia Mann reminded the Board to send her any 2019 e-mails from Nicholas Grief (Former Chief of Staff for CD4) as it is a public records request.

7. First Vice-President's Report (Orrin Feldman)

- a) Urban Redwood Hearing
- b) Ventura -Cahuenga Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan Open House
- c) PLUM Committee Meeting on March 2nd will now be on March 9, 2020

8. Treasurer's Report (Matt Shichtman)

- a) Board Member Reimbursements

Possible motion and vote.

Anastasia Mann - \$159.62 for refreshments and table cloth for CD4 Candidate Forum

Matt Shichtman - \$20.07 for refreshments for 2/19 board meeting

Brian Dyer - \$71.50 for photocopying and refreshments for Area 3 meeting

Motion: Approve all board member reimbursements.

Matt Shichtman made motion. Orrin Feldman 2nd. The motion was Approved 16-0.

- b) Approve January Monthly Expenditure Report

Motion: The Board of the Hollywood Hills West NC approves the January 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report submitted by Treasurer Matt Shichtman.

- c) Add 2nd Signer to NC Credit Card

Motion: The HHWNC board approves adding HHWNC President Anastasia Mann as a 2nd signer to the NC credit card.

Matt Shichtman made the Motion, Jeff Masino 2nd. The motion was approved 16-0.

9. Secretary's Report (Britta Engstrom)

- a) Britta will email the Board regarding business cards.

10. Committee Reports

a) Park & Open Space Chair (Jeff Masino)

- i. Captain Albert Torres memorial Update: In November 2019, the HHWNC Board voted unanimously 16-0 to fund a memorial bench (and plaque) and tree planting in Runyon Cyn Park. LA Parks Foundation is providing a bench and plaque "at cost" to HHWNC for \$1,200. This amount must now be approved as a Community Improvement Project (for beautification and capital improvement projects on public property). LA Rec & Parks will also provide a memorial tree at the bench location and will install both at no additional cost to HHWNC.

Motion: HHWNC fund a Community Impact Project for a memorial bench and plaque at cost for \$1,200 to honor Captain Albert Torres.

Jeff Masino made the motion. Mary Yarber 2nd. The motion was approved 16-0.

- ii. Runyon Cyn Park "Chat Bench" Update: In September 2019, spearheaded by Area 8 Chair, Serra Aladag, the HHWNC Board voted unanimously 19-0 to fund and support working with LA Rec & Parks to designate a "chat bench", "encouraging spontaneous conversation among park goers at Runyon Canyon Park, and sponsored by the HHWNC. An existing bench in lower Runyon Cyn has been identified. Serra has submitted the following language below (modeled on other "chat benches"):

Chat Bench

Smile, say hello and spark a conversation with the persons sitting on this bench.

This is a dedicated space to combat social isolation and loneliness.

Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council

Motion: Approve the language for the bench as it appeared in the agenda with the addition of the HHWNC website.

Jeff Masino made the motion, Serra Aladag 2nd. The motion was approved 16-0.

- iii. Report on joint HHWNC, Friends of Runyon, LA Rec & Parks meeting: Tuesday, January 28th, 2020 at the CD4 Hollywood Field Office, attended by Area 6 Chair, Mary Yarber and Parks and Open Space Chair, Jeff Masino.

b) Outreach Chair (Kyle Naumovski)

- i. Stakeholder Outreach- How is each Area Chair connecting with the stakeholders they represent? Any help I can provide?
- ii. Census Goodwill Ambassadors (CGA) Training Completed & HHWNC Census liaison appointed by Lorenzo Briceno
- iii. CGA Training- Great resource for Area chairs to connect with stakeholders
- iv. 2020 Census - an extremely important count which will determine the amount of federal funding our neighborhood receives and the number of political representation we get on City and State level.

v. Action Plan to Improve Impact on Outreach activities

c) **Infrastructure (Danielle Mead)**

i. Website Maintenance Proposals

At HHWNC's January board meeting, the board voted to have President Anastasia Mann appoint a board member to obtain three bids from qualified vendors to provide ongoing website, email and technical support for HHWNC and report back to the Board. Anastasia Mann recused herself and left the room.

We have received bids from David Horowitz, Media Arts and Sunlight Media for the Board to review (see agenda packet).

Motion: HHWNC shall accept the bid from David Horowitz for \$250/month to provide ongoing website development/administration, Microsoft Exchange administration and other administrative duties, as well as for special projects at a rate of \$80-\$90/hr.

Danielle Mead made the motion, Oren Katz 2nd. The motion was approved 15-0.

ii. Sidewalk Repair DEIR

The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering (BOE) is conducting the environmental review process for the proposed Sidewalk Repair Program. The proposed Project would continue, amend and expand implementation of Safe Sidewalks LA over approximately 30 years in order to make City pedestrian facilities compliant with applicable accessibility requirements. The Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) Trees Committee has asked neighborhood councils to support their concerns about tree loss and the tree canopy impacts which could result from the Sidewalk Repair Program (see background info in agenda packet).

Motion:

Whereas, the Sidewalk Repair Program Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) proposes to allow the tree canopy to decrease over 1.5% during 30 years by removing 12,869 large trees, only reaching 2017 levels again in 2047, and

Whereas, the EIR proposes to mitigate tree loss at different ratios during different years of the project, only planting the minimum number of trees necessary to return to 2017 levels in 2047, and

Whereas, the EIR claims the project to have minimal environmental impacts, and

Whereas, tree canopy is an essential first line of defense against extreme heat days, which will become more frequent during the next 30 years and localized tree loss will result in a dangerous increase in local temperatures, especially on extreme heat days, and

Whereas, loss of tree canopy also means reduced air quality, loss of habitat, loss of stormwater filtration, and loss of aesthetics and property values,

Therefore, the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council requests to the Bureau of Engineering:

- 1) that every possible effort be made to redesign sidewalks around trees utilizing bulb-outs and meandering sidewalks;
- 2) that only those trees absolutely necessary to be removed for sidewalk repair be removed, with no preemptive removal of trees not causing problems;
- 3) that all trees removed for the sidewalk repair program be mitigated at a ratio of 4:1 with species of equal size at maturity and located in the same neighborhood as those removed;
- 4) that the EIR be amended to consider tree removal a significant adverse impact with binding mitigation measures;

- 5) that every tree removal continue to have the due process of notification through an Urban Forestry Division tree removal notice and that removal of 3 or more trees at a given site continue to have a Board of Public Works hearing;
- 6) a 60-day extension in the scoping period to allow all neighborhood councils the opportunity to agendaize and submit their motions.

Danielle Mead made the motion, Jeff Masino 2nd. The motion passes as amended 16-0.

Public Comment:
-Julie Kremkus

d) Area 3/Transportation (Brian Dyer & Jeff Straebler)

- i. At the November 2019 HHWNC Board meeting, the Board sent back the Area 3 / Transportation motion to remove the traffic island at Yucca and Las Palmas for further study. This is a follow up to the Board discussion and recommends a motion for LADOT to conduct a traffic study for Area 3 and suggest mitigation measures for the impacts of general Hollywood Bowl-driven traffic, Hollywood Bowl-driven hard street closures; movie premiere and other street closures of Hollywood Boulevard; traffic islands located at the intersections of Yucca at Las Palmas, Cherokee and Whitley, traffic turning left from Las Palmas onto Franklin, traffic turning right from Wilcox onto Franklin, etc.

Motion: That the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council request the Los Angeles Department of Transportation to conduct a traffic study and propose traffic flow mitigation measures within Area 3.

Brian Dyer made the motion. Luminita Roman 2nd. The motion was approved 16-0.

Public Comment:
- Annie Gagen

e) Public Safety (Paul Jenkins)

- i. 1 - Fire Station 76 Community Open House - December 18, 2019
Receipt of Certificate of Appreciation to the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council from the City of Los Angeles and the Fourth Council District for supporting Fire Station 76, LAFD and LAPD and other local First Responders, which enhances an emergency & disaster preparedness collaboration model at the grassroots level. See attached document.
- ii. Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Alliance Meeting Report - Saturday January 25, 2020
Discussed:
- Civil Unrest – What are the city’s plans and what can NCs do to help prepare. Sgt Michael Hammett, LAPD EP Unit. 10,300 officers total for four million residents (1 to 400 ratio) with a limited number in the field at any time. We need to help each other in an emergency.
- EMD will be reviewing the RYLAN program and how to canvass in your neighborhood.
February 29th, 12:30 to 2pm - Mid-Valley Regional Library 16244 Nordhoff Street, North Hills
-John Darnell of DONE proposed an outline of responsibilities for Emergency Preparation Liaisons (new position). No limit to the number, you don’t have to be board member, the HHWNC President appoints.
- iii. 3 - Homelessness Liaison Meeting - Wednesday, January 29, 2020 by the Homelessness Liaison Task Force. Update and Review. Measure H (County) - for services only - Dashboard - <https://homeless.lacounty.gov/impact-dashboard/> - 1/4 cent sales tax for homeless services -

expected 350 million per year = \$7,000 per homeless person per year considering about 50k homeless persons. Measure H Goal - House 45,000 people in 5 years. HHH (L.A. City) - to building housing (services by Measure H) - Dashboard - <https://www.lamayor.org/summary-supportive-housing-pipeline> 1.2 billion bond measure to build 10k units. HHH is just one source of funding for projects (never intended to be the sole source), sometimes projects need up to 20 streams of financing, HHH is just one of them. Permanent supportive housing for the most vulnerable - support they need. Estimates are 25% to 30% of people experiencing homelessness need supportive housing - they are the first and most vulnerable being focused on.

iv. Possible announcement re: GO BAG opportunity for stakeholders.

11. **Public Comments** – Comments from the public on agenda items and non-agenda items within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction. Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per speaker.

-Natalie Soderquist
-Jeremy Tramer

12. **Adjournment meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.**

Attachment for Agenda Item 5. b.

Craig Sanford Heating & Air, Inc.
16654 Soledad Cyn. Road #186
Canyon Country, CA 91351
661 298 3070 Office
661 298 3069 Fax
St. Lic. 527114 C-20
&540286 C-10

October 2, 2019

Los Angeles City Fire Station 76
3111 Cahuenga Bl. West
Los Angeles CA 90068
213 485 6276

As per the request by customer the above contractor is quoting the installation of a new Arrow Cool Pro Series cooler model number PPD4802C, this bid will include all labor for the installation, all mounting hardware, sheet metal, electrical, register, water line and drain line. The electrical will be a manual on/off switch with high and low cool position and a high and low vent position.

Installation should take 1.5 days to complete and be running.

Price of the project is \$3800.00 to be paid at completion of job.

All equipment has a 5 year warranty on all parts and a 2 year installation warranty, you are responsibility is for maintenance once a year.

Thank you
Craig Sanford

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

What You Need to Know

Coronavirus is a type of virus that causes diseases of varying severities, ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory disease. A novel (new) coronavirus is a new strain of coronavirus that hasn't been identified before in humans.

How is it spread?

-  Through coughing and sneezing
-  Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
-  Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands
-  Because novel coronavirus is new, we are learning more each day about the transmission patterns and incubation periods



People who have traveled to or from **Wuhan, China since December 1, 2019**, could have been exposed to the virus. Seek medical care if you traveled to Wuhan and develop a fever and cough or respiratory symptoms within 14 days of your return.

What are the symptoms?

-  Fever
-  Cough
-  Difficulty Breathing
-  Severe Illness

How can I protect myself when I travel?

Travelers going outside the US


- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

If you traveled to Wuhan and feel sick

- Stay home and avoid contact with others
- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- Don't travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash.



Attachments for Agenda Item 10. c) i.



HHWNC Maintenance / Tech Support Proposal

Saturday, February 1, 2020

Attention:
Danielle Mead
Infrastructure Chair
Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council

Proposal presented by Sunlight Media LLC.
Angelo Frisina.
Founder / CEO
811 W. 7th St, Level 12
Los Angeles, CA 90017

TELEPHONE (925) 868-5583 ADDRESS 815 W. 7TH ST, Level 12, LOS Angeles, CA 90017 WEB ANGELO@SUNLIGHTMEDIA.ORG WWW.SUNLIGHTMEDIA.ORG

Tech Support / Maintenance

Sunlight can offer HHWNC a ten (10) hour pre-paid maintenance plan for \$700. This will include work such as:

- Sending 1-2 monthly emails via Constant Contact
- Setting up new users on Outlook Exchange and assisting with password resets
- Occasional website updates (WordPress) such as adding new board member bios/photos or creating basic posts

Any remaining hours at the end of each month will be rolled over to the next month.

For larger special projects, Sunlight will submit a quote to be approved at the monthly board meetings. These projects will be billed at the regular hourly rate of \$80 /hr.



Project Plan and Proposal

CLIENT NAME Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council	PROJECT Website and Internet Services Support and Maintenance
CONTACTS Anastasia Mann	E-MAIL president@hhwnc.org

Project Description

The Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council (HHWNC) needs administrative and support services for their website and internet presence. Much of this work will involve website maintenance and updates, email support and new user setup. The current HHWNC website is built on a Wordpress platform and the email is hosted on an Exchange server. The services will encompass a number of different areas:

- Maintain the current website and install necessary updates
- Add new users for the website and provide user support
- Administer and create email accounts and support email use as needed.

Project Areas

Website Maintenance and Updates

This work will include common tasks such as reviewing and maintaining the base Wordpress installation, updating installed plug-ins and general site maintenance. In addition, this will include malware removal, small contextual changes, such as font size adjustments, cloud backup of the website on a periodic basis and the recovery of website files from backups.

User Support and Administration

As new board and committee members join HHWNC, there will be a need to add and support their web and email activities. This will include email setup, the preparation of clear instructions for email usage and best practices.

Services Not Covered

Any additional functionality upgrades or services that are outside the scope of general maintenance and support will not be covered by this contract. If such services are required, a general cost estimate can be provided

Preliminary Budget

The following schedule of costs covers both the maintenance agreement and additional services. These monthly charges can be adjusted higher or lower after six (6) months depending on an unanticipated change in the workload.

Project Areas	Amount
Website Maintenance and Updates	\$750/month
User Support and Administration	\$250/month

HOLLYWOOD HILLS WEST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

WEB & EMAIL ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL

Proposal by

David Horowitz

Developer & Exchange Administrator

Prepared for

**Hollywood Hills West
Neighborhood Council**

City of Los Angeles

7095 Hollywood Blvd., Suite #1004 Hollywood CA, 90028

Why HHWNC Should Select Me

I am someone most of the board knows and trusts. I have volunteered countless hours to HHWNC, and I am the one that set up and maintains both the current web server and the Exchange Online server for HHWNC. So, instead of telling you what I would do, I will tell you what I do and what I would like to continue to do for you.

Web Server & Website Maintenance

Rather than have a typical hosting plan, the current HHWNC website is hosted on a server that we lease from SSD nodes. I set up that server to run PHP, Nginx, MariaDB, and WordPress. I also configured all of the firewall policies and additional active security (WordFence with customized policies and alerts) for the website, and I monitor and respond to the security alerts. I set up all board members with access to the website. And I assist with password resets and technical questions about the website.

I apply security updates to the operating system on the server as well as to Nginx, PHP, and MariaDB. Security updates, as well as feature updates to WordPress and its plugins, are applied as needed once they have been tested to ensure they will not break the site. Whenever something unforeseen, like an update to WordPress itself, breaks the website, I attempt to fix it. Depending upon the amount of work required, I either fix it or provide an estimate to the board to personally repair it if the time or effort required to fix it is substantial, hourly rates below. Occasionally, it may even be necessary to outsource certain repairs to the original web designers of the WordPress site.

Exchange Server Administration

I manage the Exchange Online instance for HHWNC, which just means an Exchange server in the cloud. I set up all board members with an @hhwnc.org email address. I assist with that initial set up as well as the set up on mobile devices as needed, and any password resets throughout their term. I also assist with any technical questions about email. When responding to California Public Records Act requests I will provide an estimate to the board to help collate and redact email communications, hourly rate below.

Other Administration

Additionally, I am the administrator for the Constant Contact account and I set up all users for the account and assist with password resets. I also make sure payment information stays updated. And I send out monthly notifications for the board meetings to all stakeholders and I assist with Facebook administration occasionally as well.

HOLLYWOOD HILLS WEST - NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

**DAVID
HOROWITZ**

310-869-4949
david@corniche.com
dropc@outlook.com

13151 Fountain Park Dr.
Apt C119
Playa Vista, CA 90094

Hollywood Hills West
Neighborhood Council

7095 Hollywood Blvd.,
Suite #1004
Hollywood CA, 90028

Project Title: Web & Email Administration
Project Description: Web & Email Administration
Proposal Number: 2020-003
Terms: Payment every 30 Days

Monthly Charges	Hours	Price / Hour	Cost
Web Development / Web Server Administration / WordPress Administration	2	\$ 76.00	\$ 160.00
Exchange Administration	1	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
Other Administrative Duties, including Constant Contact, etc.	1	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
		Subtotal	\$ 260.00
		Total	\$260.00/mo

Special Project Charges	Price / Hour
Special Web Development Projects (servers, HTML, CSS, JS, PHP, SQL)	\$ 80.00
CPRA Request Compliance (Includes assistance with collection of all emails with collation and redaction of all personal information and logging)	\$ 90.00

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED!

Hello, neighborhood council board members,

The members of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) Trees Committee want to be sure you are aware of a critical opportunity for individuals and neighborhood councils to take a position on the future of our urban tree canopy.

The City of Los Angeles has launched a program to repair our broken sidewalks. As part of a settlement of the Willits class action lawsuit, a sidewalk repair program (SRP) called Safe Sidewalks LA began 3 years ago, and as a result, hundreds of large trees have already been removed, even though an environmental impact report (EIR) had not been conducted. We all want our sidewalks repaired, but we cannot afford to lose our urban tree canopy.

Through this 30-year SRP program, close to 13,000 large, mature trees are projected to be removed and replaced with 15-gallon saplings.

On December 26, 2019, the Sidewalk Repair Program Draft EIR was finally released. Here is a link: <https://sidewalks.lacity.org/environmental-impact-report>. The NCSA Trees Committee has serious concerns that this lengthy report is not informed by science and ignores the City's own Dudek report, which cites tree preservation as critical for the health of our city and its inhabitants.

The goal of this draft EIR is to "streamline" the implementation of the sidewalk repair program and enable trees to be removed without challenge. We have concerns about the rush to remove trees without adequate due process, public involvement, and consideration of more sustainable approaches. We know there are hardscape alternatives to tree removals, such as bulb-outs, that are utilized in other cities to divert the sidewalk around the tree in order to retain it that are not proposed for Los Angeles. Visit www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SDOT/Trees/TreeSidewalksOperationsPlan_final_215.pdf to learn more.

Although new young trees will be planted, the projected return to the tree canopy baseline as it existed prior to the program will not occur for 30 years. The report ignores or fails to evaluate numerous health and environmental impacts that result from tree removals. These include an increased heat island effect, a decline in air quality, loss of wildlife, and loss of stormwater capture. No mitigation of ecosystem services loss is addressed in this EIR because trees are considered a design element rather than an ecosystem service provider.

Trees take decades to grow to maturity, and the report anticipates a new tree mortality rate of only 8%, which we believe is overly optimistic, particularly given that budget and capacity constraints may make proper maintenance and irrigation of young trees extremely challenging. The City of Santa Monica's chief forester reported at the City of Los Angeles's 2019 Tree Summit that they experience 20% mortality with street tree saplings, and their urban forestry program is highly regarded. The City of Los Angeles's replacement-tree list excludes important large-canopy tree species, and it is the large trees that provide greater ecosystem services than smaller trees. It is these valuable species that are frequent candidates for removal.

Here is a sample motion:

Whereas, the Sidewalk Repair Program Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) proposes to allow the tree canopy to decrease over 1.5% during 30 years by removing 12,869 large trees, only reaching 2017 levels again in 2047, and
Whereas, the EIR proposes to mitigate tree loss at different ratios during different years of the project, only planting the minimum number of trees necessary to return to 2017 levels in 2047, and
Whereas, the EIR claims the project to have minimal environmental impacts, and
Whereas, tree canopy is an essential first line of defense against extreme heat days, which will become more frequent during the next 30 years and localized tree loss will result in a dangerous increase in local temperatures, especially on extreme heat days,
Whereas, loss of tree canopy also means reduced air quality, loss of habitat, loss of stormwater filtration, and loss of aesthetics and property values,

Therefore, the *(your NC name here)* requests

- 1) that every possible effort be made to redesign sidewalks around trees utilizing bulb-outs and meandering sidewalks
- 2) that only those trees absolutely necessary to be removed for sidewalk repair be removed, with no preemptive removal of trees not causing problems
- 2) that all trees removed for the sidewalk repair program be mitigated at a ratio of 4:1 with species of equal size at maturity and located in the same neighborhood as those removed
- 3) that the EIR be amended to consider tree removal a significant adverse impact with binding mitigation measures
- 4) that every tree removal continue to have the due process of notification through an Urban Forestry Division tree removal notice and that removal of 3 or more trees at a given site continue to have a Board of Public Works hearing
- 5) a 60-day extension in the scoping period to allow all neighborhood councils the opportunity to agendaize and submit their motions

Joanne D'Antonio

Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance, Trees Committee Chair

Sustainability Representative, Board Member, Greater Valley Glen Council

Community Forest Advisory Committee Representative for Council District 2

NCSA Representative, Urban Forestry Management Plan Working Group (Dudek Report)

jdantonio@greatervalleyglencouncil.org

trees@ncsa.la

(818) 387-8631



On behalf of the City of Los Angeles and the Fourth Council District, we commend you for Unwavering Leadership of Public Safety in the City of Los Angeles and by stalwartly supporting Fire Station 76, LAFD and LAPD and other local First Responders, which enhances an emergency & disaster preparedness collaboration model at the grassroots level. For Extraordinary Vision in fostering a strong Council District Four and Los Angeles Fire Department - Community Partnership with First-In Fire Foundation in championing the importance of proactively uniting local firefighters with the local citizens they so proudly serve a more resilient community.

December 18, 2019


DAVID E. FU
Councilmember 4th District

