

MOTION

PUBLIC WORKS & GANG REDUCTION

A healthy urban forest offers multiple benefits to city residents, aesthetic, economic, and environmental. Street trees are a key portion of the urban forest.

“Restoring LA’s Urban Forest” is a recent UCLA Master of Urban and Regional Planning student analysis and report, which discusses in depth “LA’s urban forest crisis” and its primary causes: “staff and budget cuts, severe drought, widespread disease, and rampant improper pruning.”

The report also notes that the current approved list of street trees “has not been amended to properly reflect the needs from drought and disease.” Among the report’s top six recommendations are that the City should “widen tree diversity” and “plant more native and drought-tolerant [species].”

As the City embarks on an ambitious 30-year program to repair sidewalks, it has an opportunity to design sidewalks for improved compatibility with trees, and to plant thousands of new and replacement street trees.

It is in the City’s interest to make the most of this opportunity, to expand its urban forest while also increasing its resilience in a time of drought and when many tree species are threatened by disease.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Urban Forestry Division of BSS, in collaboration with the Community Forest Advisory Committee and other experts as necessary, review and update the City’s approved street tree selection list, considering the aims of drought resilience, increased diversity and disease resistance, sidewalk compatibility, and expanded use of native species.

PRESENTED BY:


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY:




ORIGINAL

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