



March 16, 2009

Via E-Mail & Hand Delivery

Mayor William Bogaard
Councilmember Steve Madison
100 N. Garfield Ave. Room S228
Pasadena, CA 91109

RE: Pasadena's City Trees – a Necessary Moratorium

Dear gentlemen,

The WPRA has been observing the controversy over Pasadena's street trees. Due to the passage of time, conflicting city policies, or lack thereof, the City Council finds itself in the uncomfortable situation of having to make a Hobson's choice. Today, we have one group of citizens who aver it has been over a decade since a "treescape" plan for Colorado Boulevard was developed without implementation and, therefore, the trees must be chopped down and new trees planted. The second very large group of citizens who, *because* of the length of time, new technologies, conflicting policies regarding trees, say that a moratorium is a must in order for the city to make a cogent decision for the good of all Pasadena citizens. The West Pasadena Residents' Association falls into the second group.

Without an inventory of trees and a city-wide plan to choose appropriate trees that will provide carbon sequestering and shade and provide for the proper care and maintenance of trees, no legitimate public policy or plan for our city trees can be developed and implemented. It is not good policy to cut down healthy trees. Practices should be put in place to prevent and mitigate problems caused by improperly maintained trees. Now is the time to do this – this includes the area along Colorado Boulevard that is so controversial right now.

This will take time. Therefore, the WPRA asks that the moratorium, that you so correctly imposed, be extended until such time the city can ascertain how many city trees we have and which ones are causing defined problems. Otherwise, you have one small, albeit important, group of citizens pitted against another group of citizens; acceding to either group until a reasonable policy is developed would be unwise and result in continuing problems of this sort.

WEST PASADENA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
POST OFFICE BOX 50252 • PASADENA, CA 91115

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Pasadena is defined in large part by our trees. A tremendous number of these trees are located on city property. We believe that cutting down healthy, mature trees is yet another act destroying the character and charm of the city to say nothing of removing the gift of shade and other health benefits.

Sincerely,

Audrey O'Kelley, President
The West Pasadena Residents' Association

cc: Councilman Sid Tyler, District 7
Michael Beck, City Manager
Martin Pastucha, Public Works Dept.