

Jomsky, Mark

From: Ann F. Scheid <scheid@usc.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 3:57 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Tree protection proposal Agenda Item #8

Dear Mark,

Can you please distribute my comments to the Mayor and Councilmembers?

Comments regarding proposed amendments to Tree Protection Ordinance

This is a good start on trying to protect and enforce protections on City trees. However, the language is ambiguous and in some cases uninformed. As the City of Santa Monica makes clear in their manual on tree protection, to erect a fence to protect the area within the dripline of vertical trees (pines, for instance) does not effectively protect the root zone. The protected area should be much larger (refer to City of Santa Monica manual on tree protection in construction zones). There are several instances of this uninformed approach in the proposed amendments.

These amendments apply only to **City trees impacted by construction projects**. They should apply to other instances of tree removal or demolition by neglect on both private and public property. Trees, wherever they are, benefit the entire community, by reducing air pollution and providing multiple environmental benefits. Private trees also need protection.

Construction sites can contain private trees that are protected trees or trees eligible for landmark status. These trees are not mentioned in the proposed language of the amendment.

The penalties only cover appraised values. Replacement with a tree of the same size as the tree removed or neglected should be available as a recommended penalty, depending on the circumstances. Not all mature trees can be transplanted successfully, but some that can include palms, olives, and some oak species.

The examples given for tree values are for tree species that are uncommon as City trees in Pasadena. A better illustration of values for Pasadena trees would be oaks (*quercus agrifolia*), palms (*Washingtonia robusta*), and camphors. These are all relatively common street trees in Pasadena.

I request that the Council take these comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Scheid
Former member of UFAC
Former staff to Design and Historic Preservation Commissions

04/03/2017
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