

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO
THE CITY COUNCIL MORATORIUM ON
TREE PLANTING IN THE PLAYHOUSE
DISTRICT AND IN OTHER PUBLIC AREAS
(Councilmember Gordo)**

**CORRESPONDENCE
FROM 04/13/2009 COUNCIL MEETING**

Urban Environmental Accord Actions

<u>Action</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Impact to Ginko</u>
Action 1	Renewable Energy - Adopt and implement a policy to increase the use of renewable energy to 10% of the city's peak load by 2012	N/A
Action 2	Energy Efficiency - Adopt and implement a policy to reduce the city's peak load by 10% through energy efficiency, shifting the timing of energy demands and conservation measures by 2012	Yes- Deciduous tree allows for energy efficiencies in the winter by allowing the sun to come through to building saving on use of energy for heat.
Action 3	Climate Change - Adopt a citywide greenhouse gas reduction plan that reduces the jurisdiction's emissions by 25% by 2030 and which includes a system for accounting and auditing greenhouse gas emissions.	Yes - Planting the Ginkgo in a master plan (such as this plan calls for) would further the reduction of greenhouse gases.
Action 4	Zero Waste - Establish a policy to achieve zero waste to landfills and incinerators by 2040	Not really different for this or any other tree
Action 5	Product Waste - Adopt a citywide law that reduces the use of a disposable toxic, or non-renewable product category by at least 50% by 2012	N/A
Action 6	Consumer Waste - Implement "user-friendly recycling and composting programs with the goal of reducing by 20% per capita solid waste disposal to landfill and incineration by 2012	Not really different for this or any other tree
Action 7	Green Building - Adopt a policy that mandates a green building rating system that applies to all new municipal buildings.	N/A
Action 8	Urban Planning - Adopt urban planning principles and practices that advance higher density, mixed use, walkable, bikeable disabled-accessible neighborhoods which coordinate land use and transportation with open space systems for recreation and ecological restoration.	Not really applicable, however the ginkgos do create a walkable and more accessible downtown area (no root damage to sidewalks)
Action 9	Environmental Jobs - Adopt a policy or implement a program that creates environmentally beneficial jobs in low income neighborhoods	N/A
Action 10	Parks - Ensure that there is an accessible public or recreational open space within half-a-kilometer (.31 miles) of every resident by 2015	N/A
Action 11	Tree Canopy - Perform an inventory of existing canopy coverage in the city, and then establish a goal based on ecological and community considerations to plant and maintain canopy coverage in not less than 50% of all available sidewalk and planting areas.	Yes - However, the city already exceeds the urban accords (50%) we are at 85%, or higher standard recommendation would be to increase what we have now by 3%. Planting the numbers of ginkos we are looking at would work towards this goal

Action 12	Habitat Protection - Pass legislation that protects critical habitat corridors and other key habitat characteristics from unsustainable development	No
Action 13	Public Transportation - Develop and implement a policy which expands affordable public transportation to within 1/2 kilometer of all city residents by 2015	N/A
Action 14	Clean Vehicles - Eliminate leaded gasoline, phase down sulfur levels in fuels concurrent with using advanced emission controls on buses, taxis, and public fleets, to reduce particulate and smog-forming emissions 50% by 2012	N/A - However all trees work to reduce the emissions in the air.
Action 15	Reduce Congestion - Implement a policy to reduce by 10% commute trips by single occupancy vehicles by 2012	N/A
Action 16	Toxics Reduction - Every year, identify one product, chemical or compound that is used within the city that represents the greatest risk to human health and adopt a law and provide incentives to reduce or eliminate its use by the municipal govt.	N/A
Action 17	Organic Foods - Promote the public health and environmental benefits of supporting locally grown organic foods. Ensure 20% of all city facilities (including schools) serve organic food by 2012	N/A
Action 18	Clean Air - Establish an Air Quality Index to measure the level of air pollution and set the goal of reducing by 10% number of days categorized as unhealthy by 2012	Not really, but the trees do help to reduce air pollution, but this goal is for an index.
Action 19	Water Efficiency - Develop policies to increase adequate access to safe drinking water, aiming at access for all by 2025 For cities with potable water consumptions greater than 100 liters per capita per day, adopt and implement policies to reduce consumption by 10% by 2015	Yes - they are drought tolerant, use less water and will therefore help to reduce water consumption (with education)
Action 20	Water Conservation - Protect the ecological integrity of the city's primary drinking water sources.	N/A
Action 21	Wastewater - Adopt municipal waste water management guidelines and reduce the volume of untreated wastewater discharges by 10% by 2012 through the expanded use of recycled water and the implement of a sustainable urban watershed planning process that included participants of all affected communities and is based on sound economic, social and environmental principles.	Yes, in planting the numbers of trees that would be planted would help to reduce stormwater runoff, however, the larger the canopy the bigger the reduction. It could be argued that we can put almost as many ginkgos as the larger canopy trees because they don't take up as much room, so you could plant more.

Nagahiro, Lorain

From: Emina Darakjy [emina@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 4:21 PM
To: Bogaard, Bill
Subject: Ginkgos

Dear Bill,

I am hoping you will not support the planting of the Ginkgos this evening. It is the wrong street tree. Several Arborists have said that.

A mistake was made by allowing the removal of the ficus trees, let's not make a second mistake by planting a species that has proven to be the wrong choice, one that does not perform well as a street tree no matter what size you plant.

Best Regards,

Emina

4/13/2009

04/13/2009
Item 7.B.3.
Distributed by Mayor Bogaard

Nagahiro, Lorain

From: Christle Balvin [cbalvin@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 4:17 PM
To: McAustin, Margaret
Cc: Bogaard, Bill; Tyler, Sid; Holden, Chris; Madison, Steve
Subject: Trees and policy

Dear Margaret:

I just learned that you might reverse your vote on the street trees on Colorado Blvd. I'm writing to ask you to consider the following:

1. As you know, there are many varieties of Ginkgo with some being studier than others. For example the ones on Lombary Road which I believe were used in the Public Works slide show are stronger and larger than the ones proposed for the Playhouse District. Therefore, we are unsure the ones proposed for Colorado Blvd. are those that are approved by the U.N. Accords. **By allowing this matter to go to UFAC, the community has an opportunity to examine this proposed species of Ginkgo and their ability to absorb carbon, a major sustainability issue. Other evergreen trees may also be proposed and examined.**
2. There has been an outpouring of concern over the lack of shade canopy trees on Colorado (which Ginkgos do not provide for many months of each year). **Many groups** from Pasadena Beautiful to WPRA and Open Space Now to the Coalition for a Common Vision **are committed to working with UFAC within a nine month time frame (and before Playhouse District Funding expires)** to find a suitable canopy tree that contributes to carbon reduction. **We bring to this effort people who are deeply committed to this issue** because of their awareness of Climate Change and how each City must begin to evaluate its actions and policies on the basis of how it can contribute to carbon reductions. Leafy canopy shade trees fill the bill.
3. The bleakness you now see along Colorado Blvd. will be with us long into the future. So much for a walkable green city.

I understand that the Playhouse District Association will make two points.

First, they will claim that these Ginkgos meet the requirements of the U.N. accords. We questions that claim. Meetings with UFAC should help us clear this us.

Second, they feel that the money now available for the tree planting will have to be supplemented to accommodate the removal of the existing Ginkgos. Yet the Business District behind the Playhouse Association will now have nine-months of new revenues in addition to what is currently budgeted for the tree planting. Out of an approximate yearly budget of \$630,000 plus \$165,000 from the City of Pasadena Parking Administration. they should be able to find the funds. After all, 44.60% of their annual budget is set aside for Design and Physical Enhancement.

Third, with the support of councilman Gordo, the Playhouse District will point out inconsistencies in city policies. This is no different than the inconsistencies that have surfaced on so many issues such as public art in the civic district. Yet decisions have to be made. So until the new City Manager has time to evaluate and bring these to the Council, let's move forward and allow the community to work with the Playhouse District in selecting a canopy street tree that we will all be happy to live with long into the future.

I hope with all my heart that you and the other Council members with a concern for sustainability will support the nine-month moratorium on tree planting currently proposed.

Many thanks,

Christle Balvin

Nagahiro, Lorain

From: SSL [steve_lamb57@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 1:39 PM
To: chaneytrail@yahoogroups.com; act@fourpalms.org; Gaboon; brick; andre coleman; Gordo, Victor; steve haderlein; Haderlein, Steve; Holden, Chris; Holden, Chris; Madison, Steve; Madison, Steve
Cc: Bogaard, Bill; Paul Ayers; Teresa Baxter; DFA
Subject: Re: [ACT] Pasadena Tree Moratorium at risk! Mtg Tonight (Mon.) 13 April @ 7:30 PM

Dear Mayor Bogaard-

As you doubtless remember, I have on the issue of trees supported the removal of improperly planted street trees on Colorado Blvd. and suggested that a ginko is not an appropriate street tree there. I do believe that Washingtonia Palms are appropriate and important street trees in Pasadena fro Historical and cultural reasons and should be maintained by replanting where they exist.

It is very important for Pasadena as a City attempting to attract both shoppers and tourists to develop a correctly planted understory of shade trees. Developing such a properly planted understory will take planning, consultation and time.

Pasadena had a excellent vision almost thirty years ago to plant shady commercial avenues. Tragically, this vision was not ever properly implemented and lead to the trees having to be removed. Please do not repeat the unfortunate mistakes of history. Continue the moratorium until Pasadena has a agreeded upon plan that will result in decades of shade.

Sincerely

Steve Lamb

--- On Mon, 4/13/09, Gaboon <gaboon@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

From: Gaboon <gaboon@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: [ACT] Pasadena Tree Moratorium at risk! Mtg Tonight (Mon.) 13 April @ 7:30 PM
To: chaneytrail@yahoogroups.com, act@fourpalms.org
Date: Monday, April 13, 2009, 12:54 PM

Dear Tree Huggers,

Apparently Pasadena Councilman Gordo simply doesn't understand what the public and Pasadena's Urban Forest Advisory Committee (UFAC) have told the Mayor and Council about protecting old trees and not replacing the destroyed mature trees with straggly gingkoes and invasive Mexican fan palms at high cost to the City. He has introduced the following agenda item into the City Council meeting tonight:

7B(3) CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CITY COUNCIL
MORATORIUM ON TREE PLANTING IN THE PLAYHOUSE DISTRICT
AND IN OTHER PUBLIC AREAS (Councilmember Gordo)

There is no detailed, supplemental info. regarding exactly what Councilmember Gordo will propose tonight. The vagueness of this obscure agenda item makes one suspicious. I've called the Mayor's office and they allegedly have no idea anymore than we do what Councilmember Gordo will say. I called Councilmember Gordo's office to express my concern about the lack of information, but no one answered and I had to leave a phone message. I wager I will not be called back before the meeting tonight.

It's important that a strong public presence attend the City Council Meeting... again... to keep the City Council on track. It would be very easy for the City to backslide on the tree protections and streetscape reevaluation that is in progress. Please come yet one more time to speak on behalf of the tree moratorium and common sense street tree policies and plans:

Pasadena City Council Chambers
100 N. Garfield Ave., 2nd floor
SE corner of the City Hall building
Parking is usually available all around City Hall at that time of night.

One of the City managers told me there was concern that the tree moratorium has prevented (will prevent?) planting trees in celebration of Arbor Day. Oh please... That was clearly not the intent of the moratorium on tree cutting and planting. An exception for Arbor Day is no problem, but I'll bet there is more to Councilmember Gordo's amendment than just that concern.

Councilmember Gordo allegedly intends to urge immediate resumption of planting per the 13 year old streetscape plan. Who knows at this point what he will say; however, now is not the time to plant any trees! The non-native ginkgo trees and Mexican fan palms will not produce a significant shade canopy, due to their vertical form and the fact that the ginkgoes will not thrive in the current street environment. Saplings will not receive needed water for growth (they will remain "twig trees") during the ongoing drought. Now is not the time to plant more saplings, at the end of the rainy season when the weather will soon grow dry and hot into summer.

In addition, current tree wells at the base of street trees are totally insufficient for any tree's health, because there is far too little exposed dirt to allow for rain absorption (when we do get rain) in the concrete sidewalk. Pasadena has spent \$103,000 on removing magnificent old trees and implementing the Pasadena Playhouse District's bad streetscape plan to date, but the City has not taken adequate care of its remaining trees. Any available money should be spent on retrofitting current insufficient tree wells, fixing sidewalks, property pruning trees around street lamps, along with whatever other upgrades are recommended by UFAC... not on planting new trees at this time.

The tree moratorium was implemented to permit a comprehensive re-evaluation of the current streetscape plan on Colorado Blvd. (and elsewhere) in order to protect remaining old trees and to revise the "plant palette" of new trees in the future. Many of the ginkgoes planted 10 years ago have died or remain tiny stick trees. Mexican fan palms have not been popular with the public, because they "look like telephone poles" at pedestrian eye level and cast no significant shade. The "instant palms" recently planted make Pasadena look more like a new mall in Antelope Valley than historic old Pasadena. The moratorium was also implemented to give City staff and UFAC time to compare tree policies, green initiatives and to reduce conflict and loopholes in tree protection mandates.

Councilman Gordo is clearly responding to pressure from the disgruntled business owners and

the Pasadena Playhouse District Association. Business owners resent their signs getting blocked by mature tree foliage. Business owners also get little help from the City in caring for trees to prevent sidewalk uplift, etc. The answer is not to go forward with a bad streetscape plan that has already cost the lives of numerous old trees and destroyed active birds nests. The answer is for the City to assist business owners with problems generated by a lack of proper care for existing trees and for the City to consider species of replacement trees more appropriate for an "urban forest" than the failed gingkoes and problematic Mexican fan palms. Native Pasadena Oaks and other trees would be far better choice than the old plan's gingkoes and palms.

If you cannot attend the meeting tonight, please call or e-mail the Mayor and CC Councilmembers ASAP today (e-mail addresses listed below). Request that the tree moratorium stand with no further tree cutting or the plantings of gingkoes and palms until tree protection regulations and the outdated, 13 year old streetscape plan can be fully reviewed, particularly by the Urban Forest Advisory Committee (UFAC). Express your frustration with the lack of information about Councilmember Gordo's "amendment" on the agenda and with how many meetings the public has been forced to attend on behalf of Pasadena trees.

Certain business owners, like Joel Sheldon of Vromans, and members of the Pasadena Playhouse District Association, caused the old Indian Laurel Fig and Carrotwood trees that shaded Colorado Blvd. to be cut down. They've made their own sidewalks bare and should live with what they've wrought until better trees can be selected for that area. It takes a lot of hutzpah for these folks to demand expensive trees be planted immediately after what they've done to denude the Blvd of healthy old trees.

May common sense and fairness prevail.

Respectfully,
Lori

P.S. Apologies for any duplication of this alert, especially to those on Branislav's distribution list.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Branislav Kecman <kecman@srl.caltech.edu>
Date: April 13, 2009 12:31:02 AM PDT
To: Distribution
Subject: Pasadena City Council meeting today, Monday, 4/13/09, 7:30 PM

Dear tree people!

We will need as many of you as possible to come speak in opposition to agenda item 7B(3) at the Pasadena City Council meeting tonight (Monday, 4/13/09) at 7:30 PM.

Councilman Victor Gordo has put on the agenda an attempt to rewrite the books and allow planting of ginkgo trees and invasive Mexican fan palms on Colorado Blvd. where two months ago magnificent ficus trees and carootwoods stood. [These non-native trees will not replace the shade canopy lost and

will simply waste City funds that should be spent on caring for remaining trees and solving tree problems (such as too small tree wells, resulting sidewalk lift, etc.) Native species should be planted that will adequately replace the massive trees that were chopped down.]

The agenda item reads as follows:

7B(3) CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CITY COUNCIL
MORATORIUM ON TREE PLANTING IN THE PLAYHOUSE DISTRICT
AND IN OTHER PUBLIC AREAS (Councilmember Gordo)

To view the whole agenda visit:

http://www.cityofpasadena.net/councilagendas/2009%20agendas/Apr_13_09/agenda.asp

Please spread the word and bring a friend or neighbor to the meeting. Fill out the speaker's comment

card as soon as you arrive and turn it in to the officer on duty. If not used to speaking in public, prepare a written note and practice reading it at home a few times to make sure it fits in 2-3 minutes.

Bring a book or something else to do as we have to wait for other agenda items to clear before 7B(3).

I suspect the merchants of the Playhouse District and their supporters will be there in full force to rally for this amendment, so we'll need to show up in large numbers. If you haven't been to a Council meeting recently, please consider being there tonight:

Pasadena City Council Chambers
100 N. Garfield Ave., 2nd floor
SE corner of the City Hall building
Parking is usually available all around City Hall at that time of night.

If you cannot make it to the meeting, please let the mayor and council members know how you feel about the proposed amendment by calling or e-mailing them today. Their contact info is below.

Bill Bogaard
Mayor of Pasadena & Pasadena City Council
Phone: (626) 744-4311
Fax: (626) 744-3727
bbogaard@ci.pasadena.ca.us
P.O. Box 7115
Pasadena, CA 91109-7215

District 1:
Councilmember Jacque Robinson
Field Representative: Tina Williams
district1@ci.pasadena.ca.us
Phone: (626) 744-4444
Fax: (626) 396-7300

District 2:

Councilmember Margaret McAustin
Field Representative: Margo Morales-Fuller
mfuller@cityofpasadena.net
Phone: (626) 744-4742

District 3:
Councilmember Chris Holden
Field Representative: Jacqueline McIntyre
jmcintyre@cityofpasadena.net
Phone: (626) 744-4738
Fax: (626) 744-4774

District 4:
Vice Mayor Steve Haderlein
Field Representative: Rhonda L. Stone
rstone@cityofpasadena.net
Phone: (626) 744-4740

District 5:
Councilmember Victor Gordo
Field Representative: Vannia DeLaCuba
vdelacuba@ci.pasadena.ca.us
Phone: (626) 744-4741 or (626) 831-8609
Fax: (626) 398-1836

District 6:
Councilmember Steve Madison
Field Representative: Takako Suzuki
NO e-mail listed. Use online form under "Contact" tab at:
<http://cityofpasadena.net/district6/>
Phone: (626) 744-4739

District 7:
Councilmember Sid Tyler
Field Representative: Pam Thyret
NO e-mail listed. Use online form under "Contact" tab at:
<http://cityofpasadena.net/district7/>
Phone: (626) 441-4802
Fax: (626) 441-4806

Thank you,
Branislav

P.S. Thanks to Emina for finding out about this issue.

ACT mailing list
ACT@fourpalms.org
<http://www.fourpalms.org/mailman/listinfo/act>

Nagahiro, Lorain

From: Gaboon [gaboon@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 1:33 PM
To: Bogaard, Bill
Cc: Fuller, Margo; district1; McIntyre, Jacqueline; Stone, Rhonda; De La Cuba, Vannia; Tyler, Sid; Madison, Steve
Subject: 7B(3) Amendment to Tree Moratorium on Agenda Tonight: No info & Why?

Dear Mayor & Pasadena City Council,

Councilman Gordo has introduced the following agenda item into the City Council meeting tonight:

7B(3) CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CITY COUNCIL
 MORATORIUM ON TREE PLANTING IN THE PLAYHOUSE DISTRICT
 AND IN OTHER PUBLIC AREAS (Councilmember Gordo)

There is no detailed, supplemental info. regarding exactly what Councilmember Gordo will propose tonight. Why not? The vagueness of his obscure agenda item, on what has been an important topic of interest for the public, makes those of us who have attended many meetings to assure protection for Pasadena's trees quite suspicious. I called Councilmember Gordo's office to express my concern about the lack of information and to find out more about his concerns; however, no one answered and I had to leave a phone message.

Pasadena needs to let its own Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC) and staff do its work based the recent Council motion. Please do not let Councilman Gordo reopen a can of worms.

City staff told me there was concern that the tree moratorium has prevented (will prevent?) planting trees in celebration of Arbor Day. That was clearly not the intent of the moratorium on tree cutting and planting. An exception for Arbor Day is no problem; however, we are concerned that there is more to Councilmember Gordo's amendment than just that minor issue.

Councilmember Gordo allegedly intends to urge immediate resumption of planting per the 13 year old streetscape plan. Who knows at this point what he will say. Regardless, now is not the time to plant any trees. The non-native ginkgo trees and Mexican fan palms will not produce a significant shade canopy, due to their vertical form and the fact that the ginkgoes will not thrive in the current street environment. Saplings will not receive needed water for growth (they will remain "twig trees") during the ongoing drought. Now is not the time to plant vulnerable saplings, especially of an inappropriate species, at the end of the rainy season when the weather will soon grow dry and hot into summer.

In addition, current tree wells, some with decorative wrought iron grates, at the base of street trees in the Pasadena Playhouse District are totally insufficient for any tree's health, because there is far too little exposed dirt to allow for rain absorption (when we do get rain) in the concrete sidewalk. Pasadena has spent \$103,000 on removing magnificent old trees and implementing the Pasadena Playhouse District's bad streetscape plan to date, yet the City has not taken adequate care of its remaining trees. Any available money should be spent on retrofitting current insufficient tree wells, fixing sidewalks, property pruning trees around street lamps, along with whatever other upgrades are recommended by UFAC... It would be a waste of money planting new trees at this time.

The tree moratorium was implemented to permit a comprehensive re-evaluation of the current streetscape plan on Colorado Blvd. (and elsewhere) in order to protect remaining old trees and to revise the "plant palette" of new trees in the future. Many of the ginkgoes planted 10 years ago have died or remain tiny stick trees. Mexican fan palms have not been popular with the public, because they "look like telephone poles" at pedestrian eye level and cast no significant shade. The palms recently planted make Pasadena look more like a new mall in Antelope Valley rather than a beautiful historic city. The moratorium was implemented to give City staff and UFAC time to compare tree policies, green initiatives and to reduce conflict and loopholes in tree protection mandates. This is wise and should proceed without further "tinkering" by the City Council.

Councilman Gordo is clearly responding to pressure from disgruntled business owners and the Pasadena Playhouse District Association. Business owners resent their signs getting blocked by mature tree foliage. To be fair, business

owners also get little help from the City in caring for trees to prevent or remedy sidewalk uplift, etc. The answer is not to go forward with a bad streetscape plan that has already cost the lives of numerous old trees and destroyed active bird's nests. The answer is for the City to assist business owners with problems generated by a lack of proper care for existing trees and for the City to consider species of replacement trees that are more appropriate for an "urban forest" than the failed ginkgoes and problematic Mexican fan palms. Native Pasadena Oaks and other native, drought resistant trees would be far a better choice than the old plan's ginkgoes and palms.

Certain business owners and members of the Pasadena Playhouse District Association caused the venerable Indian Laurel Fig and Carrotwood trees that shaded Colorado Blvd. to be cut down. They've made their own sidewalks bare and should live with what they've wrought until better trees can be selected for that area. It takes a lot of hutzpah for these folks to demand expensive trees be planted immediately after what they've done to denude the Blvd of healthy old trees.

May common sense and fairness prevail. Please do what you can to prevent any loopholes or major modifications to the current, hard-won tree cutting moratorium and policy review.

Respectfully,

Lori L. Paul
gaboon@sbcglobal.net
626.798.3235

Nagahiro, Lorain

From: Victoria Martin [vmartinca@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 10:40 AM
To: Bogaard, Bill
Subject: trees on Colorado Blvd

Hello,

I am writing to ask that at the City Council meeting tonight Ap. 13, the City Council does NOT break the moratorium on planting ginko and fan palm trees to replace the shade giving ficus trees that were cut down.

Please let's be reasonable and take the time to find drought tolerant, shade giving canopy trees that wold be a ecological and visual benefit to the City of Pasadena. This is a decision that will affect the city for 50 years, and should not be done in haste.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Victoria Martin
Resident, City of Pasadena

Nagahiro, Lorain

From: mary cay [heymarycay@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 9:16 AM
To: Bogaard, Bill
Cc: De La Cuba, Vannia
Subject: Agenda item 7B(3)

Dear Mr. Bogaard:

I strongly oppose Council Member Victor Gordo's Agenda Item 7B(3) which is on tonight's City Council agenda that would allow planting of invasive Mexican fan palms and gingko trees on Colorado Boulevard.

These trees provide no shade and will only help to destroy the character of our beautiful city. I have often noted how Pasadena is an oasis of beauty in the Los Angeles area and noted that a major part of that is the number of beautiful, mature shade trees this city has.

I honestly cannot believe that anyone would support chopping our distinctive and valuable urban forest down in favor of planting an invasive grass (Mexican fan palms) and spindly trees (gingkos) that are hardly worth notice and provide nothing in the way of shade or habitat for birds and wildlife. I mentioned to a couple of friends recently how it seems that all of Pasadena is in danger of having the treescape of Old Town, which is uncomfortable and unappealing on hot days because there is no shade and virtually no vegetation. Both looked at me with astonishment, saying "There are trees in Old Town?"

I have to say that I am shocked that Mr. Gordo supports such actions and I am deeply sorry that I voted for him in the recent election.

Please vote against this action, Mr. Mayor.

Sincerely,

Mary Walp
District 5 Resident
3 Reinway Court 91101
626 676 5492



Culture, Commerce and Community in the Heart of Pasadena

April 2, 2009

Mayor Bill Bogaard
City of Pasadena
100 N Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

Dear Mayor Bogaard:

The Playhouse District Association requests City Council assistance to mitigate the negative consequences to downtown economic vitality, the pedestrian environment, and quality of life due to the March 23rd Council vote to stop street tree planting on Colorado Boulevard pending a formal review of the adopted street tree plan. The Council's action results in an extended period ahead without the environmental, climate change and esthetic benefits of street trees on Colorado Boulevard in the District.

Give Clear Direction on the Process and Schedule:

1. **Commit to Colorado Boulevard Tree Planting by February 2010.** Expedite Colorado Boulevard tree plan review to insure a resolution for the Winter/Spring 2010 planting season. In order to achieve this result, we urge Council to set a timeline calling for review to be completed by summer 2009 in order to give time for the development of the design specifications, UFAC review and Council action prior to February 2010.
2. **Insure a Unified, Consistent Planting Scheme.** Direct City staff and consultants to develop a unified, consistent tree planting scheme of 36" box or larger specimens from Los Robles to Lake Avenue, to be implemented in one phase.
3. **Establish tree selection criteria appropriate for a business district,** including drought tolerance; non-invasive growth; canopy density appropriate for a commercial street; air quality and greenhouse gas benefits; compatibility with street lighting, façade/signage, esthetic and pedestrian/disabled safety needs of a commercial district; and maintenance costs for the City and adjacent property owners.
4. **Appoint UFAC Commissioners with Business District Experience.** The Urban Forestry Advisory Committee currently has two vacancies. Direct the Recreation and Parks Commission to utilize its authority to appoint UFAC commissioners with experience in the Central Business District community before the Master Street Tree Plan review begins.

Playhouse District Association | 2
Street Tree Mitigation Request

5. **Involve the Playhouse District Association** and Playhouse District businesses, residents, and property owners in an advisory capacity in the tree selection and Streetscapes Plan amendment process.
6. **Engage a landscape architect** to assist the City in preparing a timely amendment to the Playhouse District Streetscapes, Walkways and Alleys Plan tree planting scheme and Street Tree Master Plan for Council Action by late 2009 in order to allow planting by February 2010.
7. **Protect the Playhouse District's tree planting funds.** Existing funds must be reserved for planting in the Playhouse District in early 2010.
8. **Augment the tree planting fund as needed to secure 36" box or larger specimens,** and to replace existing trees that are inconsistent with the new unified, consistent scheme that results from the revised Streetscapes Plan.

Expedite the Following Immediate Colorado Boulevard Improvements:

9. **Fund Completion of the Playhouse District Streetscape Plan,** including the remaining landscaping, paving, and street furniture, in the 2010/2011 budget.
10. **Provide funds for new Playhouse District banners on Colorado Boulevard;** PDA will provide an in-kind match of camera-ready new artwork for the banners.

Sincerely,



Paul Dante Jacoy
President

cc: City Council
Michael Beck, City Manager
Martin Pastucha, Director of Public Works
PDA Board of Directors

Mc Lemore, Latasha

From: Marjorie Lindbeck [mlindbeck@lamc.org]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 12:39 PM
To: Mc Lemore, Latasha
Subject: council

Latasha,

Thank you for your help! Marjorie

700 E. Union Street, No. 103
Pasadena, CA 91101
April 13, 2009

Pasadena City Council
City Hall
Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

Since I am unable to attend tonight's City Council Meeting, I am sending my request that you exempt the Playhouse District from the tree planting moratorium so trees can be planted now to take advantage of the spring growing season.

I understand there have been concerns expressed about the gingko trees and that some people think a different tree would be better. That may be. However, the gingko tree is the tree that Pasadena chose through a considerable process and for all the right reasons. It is part of a much larger treescape plan that is consistent along Colorado Boulevard.

Another concern expressed the lack of canopy of the gingko. I dropped off 4 photos this morning at the clerk's office and asked the clerk to provide them to Councilman Gordo, who made the motion to reconsider the tree planting moratorium in the Playhouse District. I took these photos last week on Allen just north of the Huntington Library to demonstrate a beautiful gingko tree canopy.

I am the president of the Homeowners Association at Granada Court which is just behind the Vromans parking lot. We have 31 units here, with owners and tenants who have moved here to take advantage of the urban living, and we are eager to get trees planted in the district! We expected that the Playhouse District tree planting would proceed as planned. Please do not abandon this plan that had approval from all constituents and is consistent with other plans in the City. It would be a crime to wait a year to plant these trees. If there is concern about how fast a canopy would grow, plant a bigger tree and plant it soon!

Thank you!

4/13/2009

04/13/2009
Item 7.B.3.
Submitted by Marjorie Lindbeck

