

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

February 12, 2020

Agenda Item #10

MOTION IN REGARD TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)

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 Westwood Neighborhood Council 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