

October 9, 2021

Rachel Malarich, City Forestry Officer

**RE: "Proposed Tree List - important comment"**

Via email: [rachel.malarich@lacity.org](mailto:rachel.malarich@lacity.org)

Dear Ms. Malarich:

The Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council (NANDC) Board discussed the proposed tree list at their October 7, 2021, General Board meeting and unanimously adopted the statements set forth herein.

NANDC writes to offer our support and endorsement of Joanne D 'Antonio's comment letter regarding the Street Tree List and developing goals for creating and maintaining a strong arboreal canopy in our city.

While our Council has a fondness for the Camphor Tree, we echo Ms. D 'Antonio's concern at LA's vanishing canopy, the wanton removal of historic shade trees, and, if they are replaced at all, the use of non-native and inadequately sized replacement species. We wish to particularly highlight the following requests:

- Using State level biodiversity funds to address our growing tree shortage and acknowledging that the \$5/year cost of watering (via the Los Angeles CAO report) is a worthwhile expenditure
- Making tree wells work for the RIGHT tree instead of settling for tree species that can simply survive in the current well
- Having a goal of 70-80% native trees, including adding back to the list the California Sycamore, Southern California black walnut, and California bay
- "Beverly Hills has a 40% canopy and Los Angeles has a 19% average canopy. Our city's goal should be a 40% canopy by 2040."

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**Jim Childs**  
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**Vacant**  
USC Interest  
Representative

**Vacant**  
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As our South LA Council area faces unprecedented levels of development and increased density, it is more important than ever to prioritize the addition and maintenance of a green canopy to shade our sidewalks and help slow our ever-increasing environmental deterioration.

We at NANDC pledge to do our part to support these efforts in our neighborhoods and appreciate Urban Forestry's leadership in the fight against climate change.

NANDC is a self-governed, self-directed, and independent organization empowered by the Los Angeles City Charter. This charter offers neighborhood councils a role in the City's decision-making process. NANDC was certified by the City of Los Angeles on April 27, 2002, and was the 24th neighborhood council formed under the guidelines of the City Charter.

Sincerely,

Thryeris Mason, President

Cc:

Mayor Garcetti

City Councilmembers

[David.Miranda@lacity.org](mailto:David.Miranda@lacity.org)

Joanne D' Antonio

NANDC Board