Motion for Board Consideration

PRNC Board Meeting
February 12, 2020

Motion: Motion to file Community Impact Statement and comment on behalf of PRNC in support, if amended, to proposed Sidewalk Repair Program EIR.

Proposed by: Hassan Memarian and Jason Hector

Description: CIS Text “The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council has serious concerns about how the Sidewalk Repair Program Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will impact our large trees, particularly the Pines and Sycamore trees. The SRP EIR is premature since the City is in the process of doing a tree inventory and developing an urban forest management plan. The community is concerned that alternatives are exhaustively explored because we cannot afford to lose our urban tree canopy. These alternatives must be a robust part of the EIR and the community involvement should be increased and not decreased.

The SRP-DEIR 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 Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council requests 1) that every possible effort be made to redesign sidewalks around trees utilizing bulb-outs, continuous parkways, concrete alternatives 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.

3) that all trees removed for the sidewalk repair program be mitigated at a ratio of 4:1 with the same species of tree (or similar in size/type) with a goal to achieve equal size at maturity.

4) that the EIR be amended to consider tree removal a significant adverse impact with mitigation measures to increase urban canopy, green space and reduce pavement (heat island effect)

5) 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.

6) a 90 day extension in the scoping period to allow outreach by BOE to Council Offices and Neighborhood Councils. Meetings need to be in the North Valley (home to many large trees) with outreach in collaboration with the Council Office and all the Neighborhood Councils. Time for more outreach needs to be provided to get large numbers of attendees and allowing staff to come to meetings of the neighborhood councils (NC’s).

**Benefits to PR:** Goal is to get advocate for alternatives to removing trees when sidewalks are repaired, ask for more time for outreach and community input and make sure that all future removals continue to allow for BPW hearings and public input. Every effort must be made to only remove existing mature trees when absolutely necessary.”

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<th>Is this a Time-Sensitive Motion (Yes/No)?</th>
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<td>If the answer is “Yes”, please explain: Comment Period Ending in Feb. 24, 2020</td>
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