

Sustainability Report for 1-22-'20 Greater Valley Glen Council Government Relations Meeting

Report by Joanne D'Antonio, Sustainability Representative, GVGC

Posted on GVGC website under City Reports: <https://www.greatervalleyglencouncil.org/special-reports/>

NCSA Trees Committee 1-7-'20 noon Teleconference (9 members on call)

Concerns about upcoming **UFD Street Tree Inventory**: are liquidambar being targeted and will they get fair evaluation? Certified arborist should be able to tell health of tree without leaves. Action: NCSA to notify neighborhood councils the benefits of having some public involvement in tree inventory (not in conducting it, but in giving attention to what is happening and looking at results).

Concerns about proposed **Streets LA Tree Blitz**, which offers neighborhood councils a street tree planting on one of their pothole repair days. Since there is no planting plan, will there be unsound planting practices such as using construction fill to plant trees (sidewalk repair program has done this), and what will be the follow up care? DONE has been rejecting proposed NC watering project contracts, so NCs won't be able to help with watering. Also, no resident input allowed on tree selection.

Report that appeal has been filed on the State level for lawsuit brought by concerned neighbors against the Sidewalk Repair Program for being in violation of CEQA in removing trees on two Los Angeles streets.

Concerns about **Sidewalk Repair Program Draft Environmental Impact Report** released 12-26-'19: <https://sidewalks.lacity.org/environmental-impact-report>

Allows tree canopy to decline as long as 30 years from inception it gets back to where it was. No addressing what happens during years 1-29 while saplings regrow. No addressing of wildlife impact. No addressing of heat island effect caused by loss of trees, though 13,000 large trees expected to be removed. Treats trees as design elements and there is no provision for mitigation of ecosystem services. Removal of large trees creates storm water runoff and no plan proposed to mitigate. No compensation for smaller trees replacing the large trees removed. No plan to meander sidewalks or bulb out to save trees. Replacements at 2:1 not 4:1 as originally proposed. **ACTION: Notification of Sustainability Reps in email blast. Public comment period is now and public comment meetings are listed at the Sidewalk Repair draft EIR link. Need public to speak up about problems in draft EIR. Recommend that Council offices be contacted. Proposed a City Hall visits and letter/phone contact lobby day.**

Community Forest Advisory Committee 1-9-'20 1:00 p.m. City Hall BPW Conference Room – no quorum

UFD: Street tree inventory not starting until end of January - still preparing software. CFAC requested list of data Davey Tree to gather in inventory to be provided at next meeting. Also requested that tree well condition be part of tree assessment. UFD doing more watering but needs funding for watering.

Discussion of problems in Sidewalk Repair Program Draft EIR. To be considered at CFAC Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Also consider how to get more CFAC reps appointed.

Community Forest Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Committee 1-17-'20 11:00 a.m. Coral Tree Café Encino

Discussion of problems in Sidewalk Repair Program Draft EIR. Very difficult to get hard copies of SRP DEIR. Requesting extension. Needs better science. Dudek report not considered. Committee working on long list of concerns with DEIR in bullet points to bring to CFAC meeting and also get professional advice.

Proposed a lobby day of Council Offices to object to SRP DEIR either on day of CFAC meeting or another day. Joanne D'Antonio to contact CFAC member Yujuan Chen of Tree People and also Angelenos for Trees. Consider sending CFAC's concerns to NC Boards.

Went over list of Council Offices that need to appoint a Rep or an Alternate to CFAC.