

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT for 2-3-'20 Greater Valley Glen Council Board Meeting

Report by Joanne D'Antonio, Sustainability Representative, GVGC

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

Community Forest Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Committee 1-31-'20 11:30 a.m. Corner Bakery Encino

Prepared letter for CFAC to ask Safe Sidewalks for extension of 60 days beyond Feb. 24 to allow neighborhood councils time to give input on **Sidewalk Repair Program Draft EIR**. Also preparing document to respond to what is missing in Draft EIR. The Draft EIR does not scientifically consider the long-term effects in terms of air quality, heat island effect, energy loss, carbon sequestration, and water retention caused by the proposed removal of 12,859 street trees. Also there was no consideration of the Dudek Report on trees.

Orange Line Transit Neighborhood Plans public meeting 1-30-'20 North Hollywood Library

Input given to LA Planning Dept. on construction around **Orange Line Transit corridors**. They would like Greater Valley Glen residents to come to **Community Plan Meeting** at Braude Center to talk in focus groups at 4:00 or 5:30 on Feb 18. This affects the kind of building and zoning around us. **They await our response.**

Sidewalk Repair Program Draft EIR Scoping Meeting 1-29-'20 5p.m. Sunland-Tujunga Library

Poorly attended. Presentation by Safe Sidewalks LA. Public comments taken. No questions answered during meeting on public record. (No evidence of outreach for their meetings beyond posting on website.)

NCSA did an email blast in late January to all NC Board members to alert them of the Draft EIR, scoping meetings, and public comment period. You can also send comments to Shilpa.Gupta@lacity.org

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 currently doing more watering (saplings), but needs funding for watering.

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

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 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.