



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

September 18, 2023

Hon. Traci Park, Chair, Trade, Travel and Tourism Committee & Councilmember CD11
Hon. John S. Lee, Chair, Public Works Committee & Councilmember CD12
Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair, Energy and Environment Committee & Councilmember CD5

Via email to all addressees and submission to City Clerk online filing portal in CF 22-1469

Re: OPPOSITION to City Council “only native species” motion, CF 22-1469,

Dear Committee Chairs Park, Lee, and Yaroslavsky,

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has been the most broad-based community organization and voice of the Palisades for 50 years. PPCC was presented with a Position Paper by its Board Members Palisades Forestry Committee and Resilient Palisades, which can be read at <https://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/PFC-RP-9-11-23.pdf>

The “only native species” Motion requires the planting and sale of only California native trees and plants everywhere in the City of Los Angeles and bans the planting and sale of all non-natives, even climate appropriate non-natives. The Motion will lead to a decrease in biodiversity and jeopardize the health of the urban forest by creating a monoculture of too few species to be sustainable. The City Council Motion is radical and damaging.

At our public meeting on September 14, 2023, the PPCC Board unanimously passed the following motion in opposition to the “only natives” City Council Motion:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) opposes the motion in L.A. City Council File 22-1469, on the grounds set forth in the accompanying Position Paper, summarized as follows:

1. The proposed motion will result in less biodiversity, more monoculture. A mandate prohibiting the planting and sale of any non-native species in all of the City of Los Angeles (urban, suburban, commercial, governmental, and residential properties) is far too radical and damaging.
2. It risks the health of the urban forest by the concentration of too few tree species. There are not enough native tree species to sustain our urban forest.

3. Some natives do not adapt well in city environments. Yet cities are not devoid of diverse species, and can even benefit regional ecosystems.

4. We encourage the planting of more native species. And we support conserving our wild open spaces and creating more parks. However, biodiversity includes all trees and plants, not just natives.

5. Restrict invasives, not climate appropriate trees and plants.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of these matters vital to the sustainability of our diverse urban forest.

Sincerely,

Maryam Zar
PPCC President
David Card, Chair Emeritus

cc (via email):

Kevin Brunke, Legislative Deputy, CD11
Gabriela Medina, District Director, CD11
Fernando Morales, District Director, CD5