

Grants Committee Recommendation – Palisades Forestry Committee

The PPCC Grants Committee is pleased to recommend a grant of **\$75,000** from PPCC to the Palisades Forestry Committee, for the purpose of coordinating the watering of street trees (trees located in parkways) in Pacific Palisades, by water trucks operated and managed by Tracey Price of American Growers Company (2,000-gallon truck) and Valeria Serna of Resilient Palisades (500-gallon truck).

If approved, this grant will allow the trucks, with accompanying 2-person crews, to water street trees in five specific regions (from the west end of Marquez Ave. to Chautauqua Blvd.) weekly, from mid-September through the end of November.¹ At that time, the conditions and need will be re-assessed.

As Tracey Price explained in the proposal:

“Our community is at a critical impasse to protect and maintain our urban forest. Pacific Palisades has an established, dense canopy of shade from the trees that have existed here for 50 years, 100 years, some over centuries. Wildlife habitats thrive in our environment, because of the beautiful ecosystems. Now, we enter our hot seasons. From July until the first couple of rainfalls, our parkway trees will need regular irrigation to continue growing and recovering from the Palisades Fire.”

The Palisades Forestry Committee has confirmed that the City of Los Angeles maintains that it does not have the resources to water, and therefore is not now watering and will not in the foreseeable future water Palisades street trees. *Regular watering is imperative for the recovery and growth of our precious urban forest.*

The Grants Committee feels strongly that this project is critical to the Palisades’ overall Fire Recovery and that funding should be granted for street tree irrigation, as proposed by the Palisades Forestry Committee, with Tracey Price/American Growers and Valeria Serna/Resilient Palisades, through the end of November (with need and conditions to be re-assessed at that time). We urge the PPCC Board to approve a \$75,000 grant for this purpose to the Palisades Forestry Committee as overall coordinator of the project.

By the PPCC Grants Committee:

Quentin Fleming, Chair; Janet Anderson, Steve Cron, Lorie Cudzil, Chris Spitz, Andrew Wolfberg, Maryam Zar
Prepared in connection with the September 11, 2025, PPCC Board meeting

Please see a poem about our trees authored by Jimmy Dunne, submitted as part of the Palisades Forestry Committee’s grant application, on p. 2, following:

¹ The trucks will water each of 5 regions (Marquez, El Medio, Via Mesa/Bluffs, Alphabets & Huntington) weekly, 5 days a week (M-F), for 8 hours a day (filling up with water 6 times daily). Areas with few street trees due to view restrictions / CC&Rs or other factors are not included (Castellammare, Highlands, Marquez Knolls/Lachman-Jacon area). The fuel and labor cost for the larger water truck is calculated to be \$6,700 per week. The Palisades Forestry Committee, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, will distribute the funding for the water trucks and will take charge of overall coordination and interaction with the City, as needed during the project.

The Trees Are Waiting, by Jimmy Dunne

"In the early morning hush of the Pacific Palisades, there's a sound you used to hear — the whisper of the breeze through sycamore leaves.

The soft rustle of oaks stretching into the sky.

The steady breath of a town rooted in something deeper than real estate.

A canopy of belonging. A shade of hope.

But today, some of those trees stand silent. Their roots dry. Their leaves brittle. Their future unsure.

When the fire came on January 7th, it took more than homes.

It scattered families. It scorched plans. It paused the pulse of our blocks.

And now, in the wake of the smoke, another quiet threat remains: the parkway trees.

Those trees lining our streets—on land controlled by the City, but lovingly cared for over the years by residents—are being forgotten. Not by intention, but by absence.

Owners have left. Some will return. Some won't.

But one thing is certain: the city won't be watering them. And without help, these trees won't make it through the year.

And that—simply put—is something we cannot let happen.

Because trees aren't just trees.

They are the memory keepers of our town. They shaded first steps, graduation photos, anniversary walks, and neighborly hellos.

They cooled us in August and lit golden in October. They make this place feel like *home*."