


INFORMATIONAL BOARD REPORT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

September 19, 2024

TO: BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS  
FROM: JIMMY KIM, General Manager   
SUBJECT: VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications addressed to the Board have been received by the Board Office, and the action taken thereon is presented.

<u>From</u>		<u>Action Taken</u>
Griffith Park Pony Ride comments		Referred to General Manager
1) Misty LeGrande comments regarding the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council supporting the enforcement of gas leaf blower to be ban in Council File Number: 24-0055	#9721	Referred to General Manager
2) Carole Nese comments regarding the Bridge Home Shelter at Los Feliz	#9722	Referred to General Manager
3) Adele Slaughter comments regarding Proposed Budget for As-Needed Tree Pruning and Removal (Agenda Item 24-191)	#9723	Referred to General Manager
4) Joanne D'Antonio comments regarding Proposed Budget for As-Needed Tree Pruning and Removal (Agenda Item 24-191)	#9723a	Referred to General Manager
5) Yael Pardess comments regarding Proposed Budget for As-Needed Tree Pruning and Removal (Agenda Item 24-191)	#9723b	Referred to General Manager
6) Liz Amsden comments regarding Proposed Budget for As-Needed Tree Pruning and Removal (Agenda Item 24-191)	#9723c	Referred to General Manager

7) Jane Miller comments regarding Proposed Budget for As-Needed Tree Pruning and Removal (Agenda Item 24-191)	#9723d	Referred to General Manager
8) Clara Solis comments regarding Proposed Budget for As-Needed Tree Pruning and Removal (Agenda Item 24-191)	#9723e	Referred to General Manager
9) Diana Nicole comments regarding Proposed Budget for As-Needed Tree Pruning and Removal (Agenda Item 24-191)	#9723f	Referred to General Manager
10) Patricia Bates comments regarding Proposed Budget for As-Needed Tree Pruning and Removal (Agenda Item 24-191)	#9723g	Referred to General Manager
11) Scott Reid comments regarding concerns of leadership at Sylmar Park	#9724	Referred to General Manager
12) Jacob Wasserman comments regarding the Los Angeles Metro Active Transportation Cycle 2 to fund and complete a number of Westwood projects	#9725	Referred to General Manager
13) Louie Leiva comments regarding supporting and requesting to put up a Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park	#9726	Referred to General Manager
14) Joann Deutch comments regarding Maintenance at Laurel Canyon Dog Park	#9727	Referred to General Manager

Prepared by Rosa Cartagena, RAP Commission Office



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 24-0055

1 message

LA City SNow &lt;cityoflaprod@service-now.com&gt;

Sat, Aug 31, 2024 at 2:49 PM

Reply-To: LA City SNow &lt;cityoflaprod@service-now.com&gt;

To: Clerk.CIS@lacity.org, Daisy.Bonilla@lacity.org, RAP.Commissioners@lacity.org

Cc:

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enabled by the to Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or rResolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website. Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Council's rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [empowerla@lacity.org](mailto:empowerla@lacity.org).

\*\*\*\*\* This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. \*\*\*\*\*

### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Los Feliz

Name: Misty LeGrande

Email:

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(15) Nay(2) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 08/20/2024

Type of NC Board Action: For

### Impact Information

Date: 08/31/2024

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees, Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners, Street/Transportation Projects Oversight Committee

Council File Number: 24-0055

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council supports enforcing the gas leaf blower ban and amending the ordinance to shift the fine to the owner and make it easier to issue tickets without the presence of city staff. Los Angeles has consistently had the worst air pollution in the United States, including high rates of Ozone and particulate matter that are especially dangerous contribute to Alzheimer's, obesity, depression, asthma, and cardiovascular conditions, as well as

neurodegenerative issues in growing children. As these devices are used around our homes and schools, and during times when people are outside exercising or children walking to school, we are especially vulnerable to exposure to these pollutants, we need the City to step up and take action on this ban and work to remake gardening so that it is not so harmful to our health. As a first step, we invite the City to enforce this ban in its own departments, especially Recreation and Parks, and cease using these devices citywide. When these devices are used in substitute of a broom or rake, they create the additional danger of spewing dust, feces, fungus, and other pollutants into the air and creating additional air pollution and health hazards. Thus, we support education on the hazards of using these devices and restricting their use; and we especially encourage the use of vacuum devices over blowers.

Ref:MSG11026217

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 **24 0820 LFNC CIS in Support of 24-0055 24-0055 .pdf**  
348K



**TREASURER**  
Erica Vilardi-Espinosa

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Celine Vacher - Communications

**PRESIDENT**  
Misty LeGrande

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Amanda Blide - Administration

**SECRETARY**  
Meggan Ellingboe

- COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT -

Council File: 24-0055

Title: Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers / Fiscal Year 2022-23 Complaints and Citations / Enforcement / Education Program

Position: Support

Summary:

The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council supports enforcing the gas leaf blower ban and amending the ordinance to shift the fine to the owner, and make it easier to issue tickets without the presence of city staff. Los Angeles has consistently had the worst air pollution in the United States, including high rates of Ozone and particulate matter that are especially dangerous contribute to Alzheimer's, obesity, depression, asthma, and cardiovascular conditions, as well as neurodegenerative issues in growing children. As these devices are used around our homes and schools, and during times when people are outside exercising or children walking to school, we are especially vulnerable to exposure to these pollutants, we need the City to step up and take action on this ban and work to remake gardening so that it is not so harmful to our health. As a first step, we invite the City to enforce this ban in its own departments, especially Recreation and Parks, and cease using these devices citywide. When these devices are used in substitute of a broom or rake, they create the additional danger of spewing dust, feces, fungus, and other pollutants into the air and creating additional air pollution and health hazards. Thus, we support education on the hazards of using these devices and restricting their use; and we especially encourage the use of vacuum devices over blowers.

Data from the AQMD and the CDC has shown that an hour of gas leaf blower use is equivalent to 200 cars buzzing through our neighborhood. The noise the devices create can also cause harm to the heart, and cause hearing damage to the user within just 18 minutes. We encourage the city to educate homeowners to buy devices for their landscaper, to avert the great cost of utilizing several batteries for devices to be used

throughout a long workday. We hope also this could be an opportunity for education on the benefits of leaving leaf litter on the ground and its ecological benefits, and landscaping with native plants. Considering that the emissions from these elective devices will soon surpass vehicles, a great deal can be done to move towards our climate change targets by finally eliminating them and enforcing the law.

We hope gardening can be transformed and the obsession with ridding outside grounds of any existence of a leaf can be surmounted, so that we can continue to provide jobs to gardeners while complimenting the native ecology through promotion of native plants through [calscape.org](http://calscape.org), increasing rebates for lawn replacements for native plants, and reduce the water guzzling and pollution of archaic lawns and landscaping. We welcome other efforts to clean our air such as reducing flaring at refineries, investing in building extensive public transportation, and preserving open space lands. Indeed, our actions must be swift and in excess for our health. There is nothing more invaluable. We hope that action can be taken before the wildfire season, when dangerous ash is on our ground and must be undisturbed and not pushed into the air and our homes.

Due to the forgoing, we support this Motion and efforts to clean our air and reduce noise pollution in our community.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Meeting to discuss new Los Feliz Senior Center and Bridge Housing**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Carole Nese <

Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 8:03 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

You are also welcomed to join and speak during public comments at our Board meetings.

Here is the link for the meeting information <https://www.laparks.org/commissioners/meetings>

On Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 5:29 AM Carole Nese <

&gt; wrote:

To the Commissioners:

We are asking for a meeting with the commission to discuss a new senior center and the closing of the bridge housing. Many of us in the Los Feliz/Griffith Park community have made calls, written and testified asking about a new senior center in the area with no response. A senior center was proposed and promised years ago and we are still stuck with the broken down, inadequate trailer. And yet, the Bridge Housing across the street still stands long past its expiration date. And, we have yet to see an accounting of the money spent on that facility.

We look forward to hearing from you with proposed dates and times for a meeting. Thank you, Carole Nese



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Proposed Budget for Commission of Rec & Parks AS-NEEDED TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Adele Slaughter

Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 9:59 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Tue, Sep 3, 2024 at 8:41 PM Adele Slaughter wrote:

Dear Rec and Parks Commissioners and Councilmember Blumenfeld,

I am sending a detailed letter of why the Commission should not approve the funding proposal submitted by RAP for pruning.

I am copying this to Councilmember Blumenfeld since he is in charge of the budget committee, I imagine he would like to weigh in on this expenditure.

Best,

Adele Slaughter



BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

Renata Simril, President

Luis Sanchez, Vice President

Marie Lloyd

Fiona Hutton

Benny Tran

Bob Blumenfeld, Chair Budget Committee, LA City Council

September 3, 2024

RE: Proposed Budget for *AS-NEEDED TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL*

Dear Commissioners and Councilmember Blumenfeld:

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, the Commission of Recreation and Parks is reviewing a budget proposal from RAP for 21 million dollars over three years (7 million annually) to fund a list of proposed service providers for as-needed tree pruning and removal, which includes data collection and urban forestry consulting.

This proposed budget lacks specifics and is incomplete. For transparency's sake, it should not be approved without further detailed information being made public.

1. Schedule of pruning and brush clearance jobs
2. Budgets for each of the proposed jobs
3. The recommended contractors Requests for Proposal (RFP) showing why each contractor is the best contractor for the job and their price schedule
4. Specify who will supervise jobs to prevent another Elysian Park
5. Proof that each contractor knows the species of trees that are protected under the PTO

This past June, RAP pruned and cleared Elysian Park, a natural native woodland. A RAP supervisor approved the work of the contractor, Mariposa Tree Management, who used a skid-steer and removed the plants, including native plants, that were labeled. Mariposa is on the list of contractors in RAP's funding request.

At our July CFAC meeting, the urgency of the situation at the Children's Arboretum at Elysian Park was palpable during public comment. Community members expressed their anger and concern over the devastation, demanding a response from CFAC.

Our investigation found that RAP failed to oversee Mariposa Tree Management, which they hired to clear Elysian Park. RAP apparently did not require Mariposa to comply with or enforce its own Tree Protection Policy and Tree Protection Specifications (mentioned in the budget proposal), which states that they will “*provide orderly protection of specified trees.*”

Many Coast Live Oak, Toyon, Walnut, and other native protected trees and shrubs were razed in the name of brush clearance at Elysian Park. The Tree Protection Policy also states, “*The Board of Public Works must issue a permit before any alterations to protected trees are made that could cause them to be damaged, relocated, or removed. Pruning also requires a permit and must comply with the Oak Tree Pruning Standards set forth by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.*” RAP took none of these actions before the brush clearance and pruning work at Elysian Park.

The 7 million dollars yearly is proposed for work to be done **as needed**. The Elysian Park incident raises the question of how RAP provides the contractors with oversight and supervision.

Essentially, RAP is asking for a budget for work they have yet to determine for undisclosed places. RAP must provide a list of parks on a schedule to be maintained, pruned, and cleared of debris and brush. It stands to reason that RAP could generate a list of projects and projected costs that would not only create a realistic budget but would also ensure the planning and oversight of RAP's work in the field.

Additionally, in the 154-page RAP budget request, there is no mention of “protected trees” or “rare or native plantings,” nor does RAP detail the use of qualified biologists or ecologists to mitigate any negative impacts of the pruning and brush clearance.

I request a reworked and reimagined budget, which will include the following:

1. a list of all projected projects with budgets
2. RFPs detailing contractor’s qualifications/recommendations and their price schedule
3. a full-time qualified biologist or ecologist to provide oversight and information about our natural areas which need protection
4. a clear protocol of what each contractor must do on each job that is not limited to but will include:
  - before & after photographs
  - knowledge of protected trees on site
  - a qualified biologist or ecologist to review the project scope

appropriate use of machinery

This proposed budget is a one-size-fits-all proposal for “industrial” landscaping, not for green infrastructure.

Before committing to this contract (which is a substantial expenditure), how is the Commission going to prioritize accountability and transparency, safeguard the city’s parks, and not allow RAP to further undermine public trust?

Sincerely,

Adele Slaughter

I am speaking as a stakeholder and I serve on the following:  
CFAC for CD4 (alternate rep)  
Studio City Neighborhood Council, Secretary  
Chair of the Sustainability Committee



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Agenda Item 24-191 September 5, 2024 RAP Commission**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Joanne D'Antonio

Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 10:04 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 7:58 AM Joanne D'Antonio

wrote:

**RE: Agenda Item 24-191 September 5, 2024****Proposed Budget for AS-NEEDED TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL**

Dear RAP Commissioners, General Manager Kim, and Chief Sustainability Officer Rudnick,

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, the Recreation and Parks Commission is reviewing a budget proposal from RAP for 21 million dollars over three years (up to 7 million annually) to fund a list of proposed service providers for as-needed tree pruning and removal, which includes data collection and urban forestry consulting.

This is a hefty sum to entrust to subcontractors. I am concerned about over-pruning as at our parks, as people want shade canopy and natural areas. According to Global Forest Watch, <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/USA/5/19/>

LA has suffered a 50% reduction in tree canopy since 2000.

As the CFAC Chair, and a longtime member of my neighborhood council parks committee, I am the recipient of public complaints about the grounds maintenance at our parks. Please note that I have never had a request for tree pruning, but I have had complaints that there is insufficient watering and groundskeeping. Yet, that is not what these funds are slated for.

This past June, RAP pruned and cleared Elysian Park, a natural native woodland. A RAP supervisor approved the work of the contractor, Mariposa Tree Management, who used a skid-steer and removed all the plants, including native plants, that were labeled. Mariposa is on the list of contractors in RAP's funding request. It must have been this type of funding that was used to pay for this.

At our July CFAC meeting, the urgency of the situation at the Children's Arboretum at Elysian Park was palpable during public comment. Community members expressed their anger and concern over the devastation, demanding a response from CFAC.

Our investigation found that RAP failed to oversee Mariposa Tree Management, which they hired to clear Elysian Park. RAP apparently did not require Mariposa to comply with or enforce RAP's own Tree Protection Policy and Tree Protection Specifications (mentioned in this budget proposal), which states that they will *"provide orderly protection of specified trees."*

Many Coast Live Oak, Toyon, Walnut, and other native protected trees and shrubs were razed in the name of brush clearance at Elysian Park. The Tree Protection Policy also states, *"The Board of Public Works must issue a permit before any alterations to protected trees are made that could cause them to be damaged, relocated, or removed. Pruning also requires a permit and must comply with the Oak Tree Pruning Standards set forth by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture."* RAP took none of these actions before the brush clearance and pruning work at Elysian Park. Furthermore contractually Mariposa was to provide before and after pictures, and these were not taken.

The up to 7 million dollars yearly is proposed for work to be done **as needed**. The Elysian Park incident raises the question of how RAP provides the contractors with oversight and supervision. What approvals would be in place before these funds are accessed? Will more destruction take place? Subcontracting work was so poor that some years back Urban Forestry discontinued the use of subcontractors. To get good work from subcontractors requires careful supervision and ecological management by an environmental ecologist. These are parks *and* nature preserves. This blank check could be a threat to our parks unless there are better controls in place. A systematic revamp of funds access has to be in place. The subcontractors on the list do all different types of work – this was imparted to me by one of the listed contractors some years back. They need guidance, or they do not know what sort of work is desired. Yet this guidance was not evident at the Children's Arboretum. Built into this funding should be an environmental supervisor, an environmental ecologist that signs off on and supervises each project so we taxpayers do not fund damage to our parks and wildlife. The current RAP part-time environmental ecologist does not have sufficient hours budgeted to consult in every situation that requires her expertise, nor has she been given the needed supervisory control. Because our city's structure is so behind the times, a full-time environmental ecologist job description does not even exist in the City's approved job descriptions. That problem needs to get solved first, as difficult as it is to do. If it is not done, destruction like the Children's Arboretum is going to happen again. Do you want to fix what the public and the press called a disaster? Or do you just want to let it happen again?

This proposed budget is a one-size-fits-all proposal for what could be considered "industrial" landscaping, not green infrastructure, and it does not consider that our parks are our nature preserves. For example, there are dead trees in the Sepulveda basin that are a haven for birds who eat the insects on the snags (dead trees). Bird watching groups head there. Is it the plan to remove these? If so, it is truly a bad idea. This money allocation is a big trust with no assurances that there will be environmental sensitivity in its disbursement.

Before committing to this contract (which is a substantial expenditure), how is the commission going to prioritize accountability and transparency, institute environmental safeguards for the

city's parks, and not allow RAP to further undermine public trust? These safeguards must be part of procedures or these funds could be the source that brings on more destruction.

Sincerely,

Joanne D'Antonio

CFAC Chair speaking as an individual. (A CFAC letter may follow later this month after we convene.)

cc: City Council President Paul Krekorian, City Council Budget Committee Chair Bob Blumenfield, Hydee Feldstein-Soto

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***Joanne D'Antonio***

*Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) Chair and CD2 Representative*

*Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) Trees Committee Chair*

*NCSA Representative - Urban Forestry Management Plan First Step Working Group*

*Greater Valley Glen neighborhood council, Board Member and Sustainability Representative*



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: Comment for Item 24-191 Budget for tree pruning

1 message

Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 11:54 AM

To: Yael Pardess

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 7:02 PM Yael Pardess

wrote:

Sept 4 2024

Renata Simril, President

RAP Commissioners, General Manager Kim, and Chief Sustainability Officer Rudnick  
 Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners City of Los Angeles  
 221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 300  
 Los Angeles, CA 90012  
 Via Email

RE: BOARD REPORT NO. 24-191. AS-NEEDED TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL / URBAN FORESTRY CONSULTING AND TREE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION SERVICES

My comment is in response to your budget requirement and after the tragic elimination of the Children Arboretum in Elysian Park.

RAP is there to protect our parks, You have to be accountable for everyone that you or the city hires to prune or trim park trees.

You have instruct your crew very specifically BEFORE job begins, to supervise them during the "trimming".

You have to educate your crews. Most of these crews are just cutters at best and pitchers at worst, They do not understand trees, ecology, biology and nest preservations. You are supposed to know all that.

They are the lowest contractors on the totem pole.

You now wish to discuss a huge a mount of money for continuing to pay companies such as Mariposa to cut and kill trees unnecessarily??

RAP and Mariposa must be held accountable for what happened at the Children's Arboretum in Elysian Park. It is pure ecocide and someone must be held accountable for that.

Companies like Mariposa should not be hired anymore by you or the city.

If so much money is requested by you, You must:

- Use it to research every park situation before trimming, Protect mature canopies, They are essential for tree health and ours. They host birds, provide shade and clean our air
- Hire a biologist and tree expert that actually understands trees values and benefits, before deciding what needs trimming, if at all.
- Get specific permits to prevent the killing of protected trees as per the protected tree ordinance.
- Consult with a landscape person specializing in nature conservation.
- Carefully mitigate existing nests and not disturb natural habits.
- Even dead branches are important to our wildlife! They replenish the soil, they produce insects who are the food source for birds. Some of them must be preserved.

NONE of that happened at the children's Arboretum. The city issued an order and chaos destroyed a gorgeous park.

Please learn from this tragic mistake and use your budget to enact better nature based actions.  
Protect, preserve, maintain, water the parks, and educate the public to protect them..

The city must learn from other cities around the world on how to preserve NATURAL parks, not synthetic sterile creations that birds cant live in and humans cant find shade in.

And in general I want to ask: Why's the city overtiming trees around town? All our street trees look like skeletons after trimming. Some will die as a result, Especially now, in summer or in our dangerously heating climate??

What could possibly be the benefit of that.

Protect our trees. Do a better job!

Thank you

Yael Pardess





Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Proposed Budget for “As-Needed Tree Pruning and Removal”**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Liz Amsden

Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 11:55 AM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 8:18 PM Liz Amsden

wrote:

To whom it may concern:

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, the Recreation and Parks Commission is supposed to review a budget proposal from RAP for 21 million dollars over three years to fund a list of proposed service providers for as-needed tree pruning and removal, which includes data collection and urban forestry consulting.

There are a number of pertinent issues that should be addressed in depth before making any fiscal decisions.

First of all, this is a significant sum to entrust to subcontractors who are not held to the City's standards.

It is especially disconcerting in that over-pruning, both along the streets and in the City's parks, has had and continues to have a serious impact on the City's heat sink, exacerbating rather than mitigating climate change.

My friends and neighbors and I, as well as organizations tasked to address these issues, have complained again and again without being listened to. According to Global Forest Watch LA, despite constant calls to INCREASE tree canopy to improve shade, reduce heat and increase oxygen production and livability Los Angeles, its tree canopy has suffered a 50% reduction since 2000.

Additionally there are complaints that the trees the City does have under its care are not being properly watered and cared for. If the City is trying to save money by doing so, that is a false economy because dead and dying trees create dangers and extra work.

Furthermore, it's my understanding that a brush-hog of some sort has been used in Elysian Park and elsewhere to clear cut vegetation, taking out all vegetation included protected native plants and trees. Not acceptable.

That the company that did so is still on the City's list of contractors: also not acceptable.

Before approving ANY money, conditions must be set including that RAP adhere to a strict policy to comply with City environmental and health objectives to grow and maintain an urban landscape for stakeholders including native birds, reptiles, mammals and insects, and immediately fire and impose significant fines on any entity not adhering strictly to them.

We need to see accountability and transparency BEFORE allowing any disbursements including continued oversight of environmental safeguards with access for all to see.

Please take my comments under consideration when discussing your options.



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Proposed Budget for AS-NEEDED TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To:

Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 11:55 AM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 7:50 AM

wrote:

Dear RAP Commissioners, General Manager Kim, and Chief Sustainability Officer Rudnick

On September 5th, the Recreation and Parks Commission is reviewing a budget proposal from RAP for 21 million dollars over three years ( up to 7 million annually) to fund a list of proposed service providers for as-needed tree pruning and removal, which includes data collection and urban forestry consulting.

This is a hefty sum to entrust to subcontractors. I am concerned about over-pruning as at our parks, people want shade canopy, and according to Global Forest Watch LA has suffered a 50% reduction in tree canopy since 2000.

This past June, RAP pruned and cleared Elysian Park, a natural native woodland. A RAP supervisor approved the work of the contractor, Mariposa Tree Management, who used a skid-steer and removed all the plants, including native plants, that were labeled. Mariposa is on the list of contractors in RAP's funding request.

At our July CFAC meeting, the urgency of the situation at the Children's Arboretum at Elysian Park was palpable during public comment. Community members expressed their anger and concern over the devastation, demanding a response from CFAC.

Our investigation found that RAP failed to oversee Mariposa Tree Management, which they hired to clear Elysian Park. RAP apparently did not require Mariposa to comply with or enforce RAP's own Tree Protection Policy and Tree Protection Specifications (mentioned in the budget proposal), which states that they will "provide orderly protection of specified trees."

Many Coast Live Oak, Toyon, Walnut, and other native protected trees and shrubs were razed in the name of brush clearance at Elysian Park. The Tree

Protection Policy also states, "The Board of Public Works must issue a permit before any alterations to protected trees are made that could cause them to be damaged, relocated, or removed. Pruning also requires a permit and must comply with the Oak Tree Pruning Standards set forth by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture." RAP took none of these actions before the brush clearance and pruning work at Elysian Park. Furthermore contractually Mariposa was to provide before and after pictures, and these were not taken.

In addition, several demised bird nests were observed. Active bird nests are protected on both Federal and State levels. "All native birds, their chicks, eggs and active nests are protected by a federal law called the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as well as California State Codes 3503 and 3503.5. In a nutshell, these laws state that it is unlawful to harm, harass, possess or kill a native bird, its eggs, chicks or active nest. Violation of these laws result in heavy fines and sometimes even jail time."

The assault on Elysian Park is so outrageous, it is unthinkable to allow a hefty budget for further abuse of the landscape. The general practices of tree trimming and removal in Los Angeles is done with such lack of consideration to the plants, trees and birds as to be nothing short of assault. This must not be allowed to be expanded, in this case repeated, into parks where people gather to enjoy nature, not watch its decline and abuse.

The up to 7 million dollars yearly is proposed for work to be done as needed. The Elysian Park incident raises the question of how RAP provides the contractors with oversight and supervision. What approvals would be in place before these funds are accessed? Will more destruction take place? Subcontracting work was so poor that some years back Urban Forestry discontinued the use of subcontractors. To get good work from subcontractors requires careful supervision and ecological management by an environmental biologist. These are parks and nature preserves. This blank check could be a threat to our parks unless there are better controls in place. A systematic revamp of funds access has to be in place. The subcontractors on the list do all different types of work – this was imparted to me by one of the contractors on the list some years back. They need guidance, or they do not know how to proceed. Yet this guidance was not evident at the Children's Arboretum. Built into this funding should be an environmental supervisor, an environmental ecologist that signs off on and supervises each project so we do no damage to our parks and wildlife. The RAP part-time consultant does not have enough hours to consult in every situation that requires her expertise, nor has she been given the needed supervisory control. Because our city's structure is so behind the times, a full time environmental ecologist job description does not even exist in the City's approved job descriptions. That problem needs to get solved first, as difficult as it is to do. If it is not done, destruction like the Children's Arboretum is going to happen again. Do you want to fix what the public and the press called a disaster? Or do you just want to let it happen again?

This proposed budget is a one-size-fits-all proposal for what could be considered "industrial" landscaping, not green infrastructure, and it does not consider that our parks are our nature preserves. For example, there are dead trees in the Sepulveda basin that are a haven for birds who eat the insects on the dead trees. Bird watching groups head there. Is it the plan to remove these? If so, it is a bad idea. This money is a big trust with no assurances that there will be environmental sensitivity in its disbursement.

Before committing to this contract (which is a substantial expenditure), how is the commission going to prioritize accountability and transparency, institute environmental safeguards for the city's parks, and not allow RAP to further undermine public trust? These safeguards must be part of procedures or these funds could be the source that brings on more destruction.

I am affiliated with NCSA and I have combined my thoughts with a letter composed by Joanne D'Antonio. I am writing as an individual.

Jane Miller,  
Tarzana



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: FW: BOARD REPORT NO. 24-191. AS-NEEDED TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To:

Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 11:56 AM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 11:30 AM

wrote:

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**From:****Sent:** Thursday, September 5, 2024 7:42 AM**To:** 'rapcommissioners@lacity.org' <rapcommissioners@lacity.org>**Cc:** 'Kevin de Leon' <councilmember.kevindleon@lacity.org>; 'Diana Nicole'**Subject:** BOARD REPORT NO. 24-191. AS-NEEDED TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL

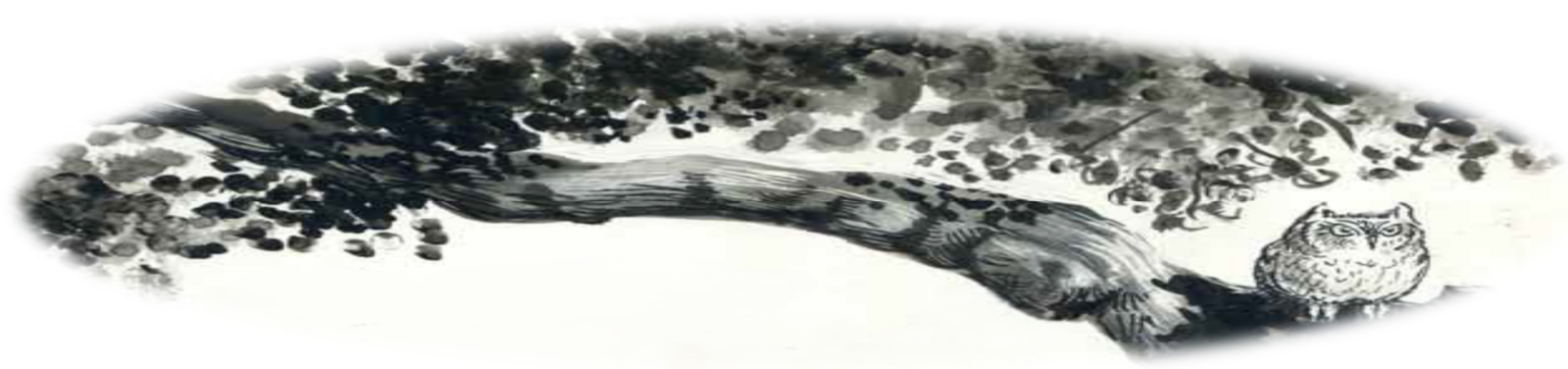
I agree with the attached letter. This must stop. “ there be a plan in place to prevent such destruction in the future and therefore **I further urge the Board to ask staff to report back with the specific measures that will be taken to ensure that both staff and City contractors operate with the care and responsibility that communities deserve in park poor LA** prior to approving the requested As-Needed contract for

\$21,000,000.00.”

In our community when the Highland Parks Tiny Homes project was being built an ADA ramp was being put in. RAP said they needed to remove protected So Cal Black Walnuts. We looked at the plans and discovered that one of the beautiful mature Black Walnut being removed was on private property. RAP's plans called for building the ADA ramp on private property! We came to you and pointed this out in time fortunately. If by chance we had not seen this, they would have needlessly removed this tree. RAP's never did admit their mistake. We all make mistakes, but we must acknowledge them to learn from them. I cherish trees and the benefits to us especially during climate change.

(PS I supported the Tiny Homes.)

Clara Solis, Highland Park resident



September 4, 2024

Renata Simril, President  
Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
City of Los Angeles  
221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Via Email

**RE: BOARD REPORT NO. 24-191. AS-NEEDED TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL / URBAN FORESTRY CONSULTING AND TREE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION SERVICES**

Dear President Simril and Commissioners:

The [City of Los Angeles is short on parks, ranking 74<sup>th</sup> out of 100 cities](#). By sheer scarcity, public green space is the most valuable resource in the city and therefore stewardship must be treated as a priority.

But the recent destruction of the [Northeast LA Forest School](#) woodland classroom at Elysian Park has revealed that stewardship of our parks is an after-thought, at best. The City needs to exert more oversight over both staff and the contractors they direct, because, whether through negligence or intent, these contractors are clearly capable of actions that are both wrong and reflect extraordinarily poorly on the City. I offer a summary of factors involved.

In June, a City contractor, operating at the direction of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) for “brush clearance”, [took away a cherished outdoor kindergarten school garden classroom](#), chain-sawing hundreds of native trees and shrubs down to stumps, including rare species. The contractor broke educational plaques and crushed a fledgling red-shouldered hawk with a skid-steer - - a vehicle that looks similar to a bulldozer, which inflicts significant damage to a landscape by skidding and dragging its wheels across the ground as it turns.

Despite the existence of rare and listed species at the project site, RAP neglected to consult with the qualified biologist contracted by the City for RAP. RAP did not consult with the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) fire inspectors about how clearance should have been

implemented in Elysian Park, either. In an interview with the [Los Angeles Times](#), a Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) spokesperson said they were “saddened by the approach that was taken with this brush clearance” and would not have required the removal of the mature trees and shrubs. Yet, RAP continues to assert that the June clearance in Elysian Park complied with LAFD and City "standards."

This act, which the community has called [“Ecocide,”](#) not only reflects poorly on the City but also underscores the urgent need for greater oversight and accountability.

I urge the Board to find that as a result of the circumstances of the destruction of a native woodland supporting a kindergarten Forest School and rare and listed species at Elysian Park, there be a plan in place to prevent such destruction in the future and therefore I further urge the Board to ask staff to report back with the specific measures that will be taken to ensure that both staff and City contractors operate with the care and responsibility that communities deserve in park poor LA prior to approving the requested As-Needed contract for \$21,000,000.00.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Diana Nicole MS  
Ecological Horticulture & Urban Ecology



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Re: FW: Public Comment: BOARD REPORT NO. 24-191. AS-NEEDED TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL

1 message

Rap Commissioners <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To:

Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 8:27 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 1:09 PM

wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

Yesterday, I submitted the attached public comment on the subject agenda item for your consideration at your meeting this morning. Unfortunately, due to an error with the email address, my comment was not delivered to you. Given that others were copied on this comment, I believe it is only fair to ensure that you receive it. Also, the attached comment contains important information for when the item comes before the Board again.

I appreciate that the Board requested a plan or policy for oversight from staff because, whether through negligence or intent, the incident at Elysian Park reveals that staff and City contractors are clearly capable of actions that are both wrong and reflect extraordinarily poorly on the City.

However, relying on arborists to provide oversight or manage our more natural spaces in the parks is a problem. Arboriculture is an important field, but the training emphasizes care of individual trees, often in highly manicured urbanized settings where disease or limbs falling on people or things is the focus rather than wildlife and the broader ecological relationships that sustain a woodland ecosystem. Without understanding the complex interactions between species and their environment, the health and resilience of the woodland could be compromised, leading to unintended ecological consequences like loss of biodiversity and the disrupted natural processes that occur when you remove vegetation from an ecosystem. It's particularly harmful when clearing and removals are done with chainsaws and a skid-steer.

Thank you for your time and understanding,

Diana Nicole MS

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**From:**

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 4, 2024 4:08 PM

**To:** 'rapcommissioners@lacity.org' <rapcommissioners@lacity.org>

**Cc:** 'Councilmember.Yaroslavsky@lacity.org' <Councilmember.Yaroslavsky@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org' <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>; 'controller.mejia@lacity.org' <controller.mejia@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org' <councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org>; 'Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org' <Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org>; 'Councilmember.Raman@lacity.org' <Councilmember.Raman@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.Padilla@lacity.org' <councilmember.Padilla@lacity.org>; 'councilmember.Rodriguez@lacity.org' <councilmember.Rodriguez@lacity.org>; 'Councilmember.Harris-Dawson@lacity.org'

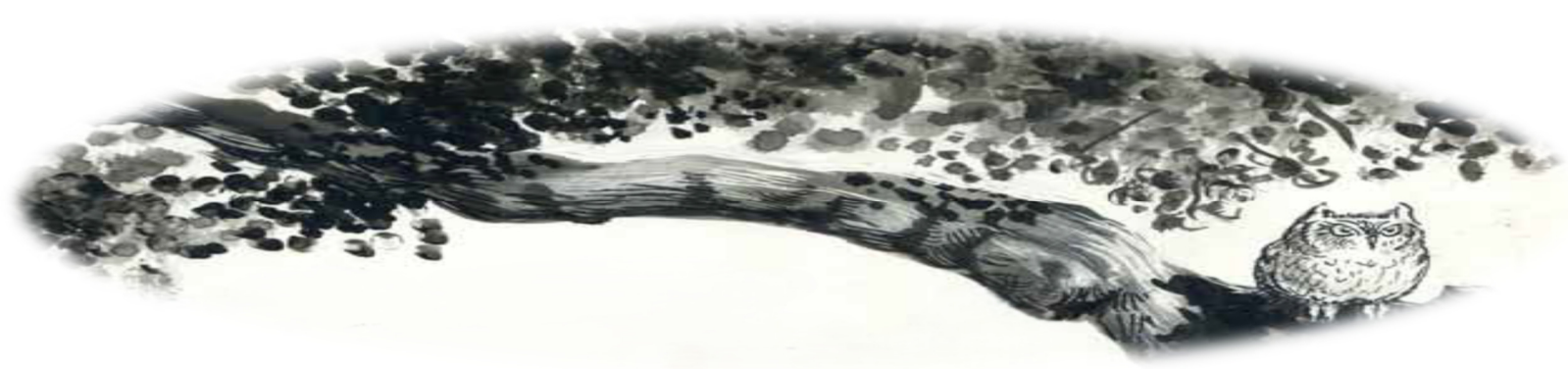


**Subject:** Public Comment: BOARD REPORT NO. 24-191. AS-NEEDED TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL

Please see attached written public comment for the subject item that is on the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks Commissioner agenda tomorrow (9/5/24).

Thank you,

Diana Nicole MS



September 4, 2024

Renata Simril, President  
Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
City of Los Angeles  
221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Via Email

**RE: BOARD REPORT NO. 24-191. AS-NEEDED TREE PRUNING AND REMOVAL / URBAN FORESTRY CONSULTING AND TREE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION SERVICES**

Dear President Simril and Commissioners:

The [City of Los Angeles is short on parks, ranking 74<sup>th</sup> out of 100 cities](#). By sheer scarcity, public green space is the most valuable resource in the city and therefore stewardship must be treated as a priority.

But the recent destruction of the [Northeast LA Forest School](#) woodland classroom at Elysian Park has revealed that stewardship of our parks is an after-thought, at best. The City needs to exert more oversight over both staff and the contractors they direct, because, whether through negligence or intent, these contractors are clearly capable of actions that are both wrong and reflect extraordinarily poorly on the City. I offer a summary of factors involved.

In June, a City contractor, operating at the direction of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) for “brush clearance”, [took away a cherished outdoor kindergarten school garden classroom](#), chain-sawing hundreds of native trees and shrubs down to stumps, including rare species. The contractor broke educational plaques and crushed a fledgling red-shouldered hawk with a skid-steer - - a vehicle that looks similar to a bulldozer, which inflicts significant damage to a landscape by skidding and dragging its wheels across the ground as it turns.

Despite the existence of rare and listed species at the project site, RAP neglected to consult with the qualified biologist contracted by the City for RAP. RAP did not consult with the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) fire inspectors about how clearance should have been

implemented in Elysian Park, either. In an interview with the [Los Angeles Times](#), a Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) spokesperson said they were “saddened by the approach that was taken with this brush clearance” and would not have required the removal of the mature trees and shrubs. Yet, RAP continues to assert that the June clearance in Elysian Park complied with LAFD and City "standards."

This act, which the community has called [“Ecocide,”](#) not only reflects poorly on the City but also underscores the urgent need for greater oversight and accountability.

I urge the Board to find that as a result of the circumstances of the destruction of a native woodland supporting a kindergarten Forest School and rare and listed species at Elysian Park, there be a plan in place to prevent such destruction in the future and therefore I further urge the Board to ask staff to report back with the specific measures that will be taken to ensure that both staff and City contractors operate with the care and responsibility that communities deserve in park poor LA prior to approving the requested As-Needed contract for \$21,000,000.00.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Diana Nicole MS  
Ecological Horticulture & Urban Ecology



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: RAP Commission meeting 2024 09 05**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Patricia Bates

Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 1:38 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners and staff.

On Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 9:46 AM Patricia Bates

wrote:

Dear Commissioners:

The text of my comments at today's meeting is attached, one file for general public comment and one addressing the 'tree-pruning' arrangement (24-191, which was passed with conditions). Despite the conditions on the proposal, I have concerns that oversight regarding wildlife and protection of native plants as well as community notification will not be adequate.

While my comments are in my individual capacity, I am the conservation Co-Chair at SFV Audubon Society and we will be considering this. The extensive list of certifications and accreditations cited at the meeting do not actually seem to address the wildlife concerns and community outreach issues many of us may have.

Regarding the funding issues with parks - how can we help? Should there be a City Charter amendment to increase the RAP funding % or should the fee be decreased? I truly do not understand why this mess was quickly fixed with the city raries but not Parks.

Thanks,  
Pat Bates

My comments concern 9/5/2024 Recreation and Parks (RAP) Commission Agenda item 24-191 a budget proposal from RAP for 21 million dollars over three years ( up to 7 million annually) to fund a list of proposed service providers for as-needed tree pruning, removal, data collection and urban forestry consulting.

This past June, RAP caused a beloved native plant garden in Elysian Park to be cleared of vegetation. RAP approved the work of the contractor, Mariposa Tree Management, who used a skid-steer and removed all the plants, including native plants that were labeled by educational plaques. Mariposa was to provide before and after pictures, which were not taken. Can anyone seriously think a reasonable person seeing carefully groomed plants with identification labels should be destroyed with no questions asked? Mariposa is on the list of contractors in RAP's funding request today, not only for tree maintenance but for urban forestry consulting expertise, a fact which raises questions.

Apparently RAP failed to oversee Mariposa Tree Management, which they hired to clear the Elysian Park area. RAP clearly did not require Mariposa to comply with or enforce RAP's own Tree Protection Policy and Tree Protection Specifications. *Reportedly* many Coast Live Oak, Toyon, Walnut, and other native protected trees and shrubs were razed in violation of RAP and other city requirements. The action was taken during prime bird nesting season, and reportedly resulted in destruction of many bird nests and a dead fledgling red tailed hawk. It appears there was total disregard for any wildlife concerns as well as for distinguishing between native and invasive plants. Where are those priorities in this funding proposal?

The misguided destruction of the Children's Arboretum is reminiscent of the destruction of the Sepulveda Basin South Reserve in 2012 by the US Army Corps of Engineers, apparently at the urging of a City Council office and done with no public notification. That was a huge public relations mess for the USACE and the City. However it eventually resulted in a better working relationship among the agencies and the involved community organizations. Perhaps the result of the inexcusable Elysian Park incident can be beneficial, but this contract will certainly not achieve that goal.

Up to 7 million dollars per year for as-needed work is a lot of money, and is actually frightening because of doubts about adequate prioritization and oversight of work. Consider using some of that money to hire more qualified environmental supervisors, environmental ecologists who sign off on and supervise each project so we do no damage to our parks and wildlife. Not a single one of these projects should proceed without such a RAP employee at the site for a final OK. Any activities in areas with advisory committees, for example the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee, should be reported to such committees with adequate time to respond. Further, upcoming projects should be reported to the relevant Neighborhood Councils as well as City Council offices for disclosure with adequate time to respond.

I urge the commission to rethink this proposal.

2024 09 05 - General public comments at Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Commission meeting

Noted that the air conditioning sound level is 78 db (there's an app for that), nobody can hear a damn thing.

Point #1: I agree with my colleague Lili Costa that the creation of a Garden Center Advisory Board would be beneficial to RAP and the community.

Point #2: When will there be a realistic solution to replacing funding RAP loses to the City's "full cost recovery" program? This has cost RAP over a billion dollars since 2010 - that is a billion dollars not spent on operating programs, maintenance, safety and the environment. Where is the pressure on the City Council to restore funding to RAP? The same thing happened to the City Libraries - that was fixed right away with a City Charter amendment. For RAP - this is going on 14 years now, and people do not even remember or understand what was done to cause this unconscionable diversion of funds ordained by the City Charter. It is time to stop trying to fund RAP with budget gimmicks and get its funding restored. We don't need more unmaintainable infrastructure. Where's the outrage?



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

**Re: Concerns of leadership at Sylmar Park Recreation Center**

1 message

**Jimmy Kim** <jimmy.kim@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 1:55 PM

To: Scott Reid

Cc: Rap.commissioners@lacity.org, Chinyere.stoneham@lacity.org, Brenda.aguirre@lacity.org, Richard.kraveitz@lacity.org, Traci.goldberg@lacity.org

Good Afternoon Mr. Reid,

Thank you for your email. Staff included in this email will investigate and get back to you.

Thanks again.

On Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 1:48 PM Scott Reid

wrote:

To all parties of interest,

This season I had the pleasure of volunteering to coach basketball at Sylmar Park. As my son gets older I wanted the opportunity to coach him while I still had the chance and this summer I was able to commit. I am thankful for the opportunity and hope to continue to coach youth sports in my community. However, it is with regret that I feel the need to express some displeasure with the leadership of the park, primarily with the Senior Recreation Director Yamil Verde. The issues stem from several occurrences where a volunteer basketball coach has repeatedly violated our coach's conduct policy and the agreement we all make as parents when we sign our kids up. This coach has routinely displayed bad sportsmanship dating back to last winter and has been allowed to continue coaching in this system. I am confident that the complaints involving Coach Kelvin's actions during Rec League basketball games have been received from many different sources, so I don't wish to go over everything that I've heard since much of it is hearsay. I would, however, like to express myself on the things that I have witnessed.

The first incident for this summer season was at our draft when Calvin revealed to me and three staff members in the room that he had taken photos of the children at evaluations. I was able to glance at his phone as he swiped through images of kids who candidly had their photos taken without knowledge or consent. Having believed that one of the staff members would bring it to the office's attention, I didn't confront the issue myself- I should have. Following that event, I learned that Calvin had his child enrolled in two divisions, so after seeing this person's repeated poor judgment go uncorrected going back to last winter, I chose to disclose what I saw with the photos to the staff coordinator, Amber following our coaches meeting. A week or so later I, along with another set of parents, confronted Yamil about some of the actions by Coach Calvin, which at this point included yelling at a scorekeeper who is a minor, another coach who is also a minor and works at the park, berating a ref, and pushing a player from behind with his forearm- an event that I and both of my kids witnessed. I should also mention that all of these events took place in one game. In our conversation, Yamil claimed that he hadn't heard about the pictures, but was still adamant that his hands were tied and the best he could do was go through the process of talking with the coach. He later emailed us that he had done so and would be assigning a full-time staff member to sit next to the bench to monitor Calvin's behavior.

In our conversation, Yamil also said he spoke to Calvin during the previous season about his behavior and still elected to bring this coach back. Yamil came to me during my following practice, gave me his card, and told me if I had any concerns I could go to him. Unfortunately, I don't believe that to be true. I had gone to a staff member and made her aware of the photos this coach took without consent. Yamil claimed to not know. He claimed to not be aware of several of the events that took place. This tells me that there is

a breakdown in communication in the office, a reason staff is not commuting important events with the director, or he did know and he's protecting himself by claiming to be unaware- neither I find to be valid excuses. His his job to be aware of what is taking place. Since this conversation, I have heard talk of retaliation against those who have raised these concerns and have spoken about them. I have heard that he has privately reduced our concerns to "us" not liking Calvin because "we are losing." This, combined with the fact that he has not reengaged with me about the situation has told me that I cannot trust this person with important concerns like the emotional and physical well-being of his staff, our refs, community volunteers, and most importantly the kids that we are entrusted with.

I have chosen to bring this to the attention of the greater recreation and park office following our season because I have no faith that Mr. Verde is capable of handling the conflict management of a situation that he allowed to get so out of control. While I do not personally like this coach let me be clear that it has only to do with the conduct of this individual and nothing to do with the final score of a youth league basketball game on Saturday afternoon. Our last game of the season was this past Saturday and my team played Calvin's. In this game, Calvin did everything he could to put a child who was bleeding onto the court. When it was determined by the refs that the child couldn't continue while actively bleeding from his nose, the coach used profanity because he didn't like the ref's decisions in the sequence. With the scorer's table and the park staff member between us, I'll say if I heard it, the staff positioned at the scorer's table should have heard it, and so did his player on the bench who was attending to his bloody nose. This player came to me later in tears, apologizing for pushing me away when I shook his hand and asked if he was okay after the game. The player happens to be friends with my son and is someone I've coached in the past. I say this to make the point that this is more than a game of basketball. These kids go to school and camp together. They play with and against each other. It is vital to the health of our community that once the game ends they are no longer competitors but friends. I learned later that day that two parents of players on Calvin's team later confronted the scorekeeper, and for the second time she intimidated and pushed to tears as she fled to the office. There seems to be some disconnect with this coach when it comes to this just being a game and it passes down to his players and their families.

In total, I find this to be a very disgusting situation. As someone who has worked in leadership positions and dealt with conflict management in the workplace, I have to say Yamil has failed at his opportunity to make our park a safe and fun place for our children. His inability to take control of the situation or to take our concerns seriously has subjected teen staff members to be harassed, parents of other teams, such as my wife, to be approached aggressively by his parents, children to have photos taken without the knowledge or consent from their guardian, refs to be berated, and young players to be screamed at and in once instance pushed. Yamil has not displayed the character that it takes to build or sustain a community, that was evident when he elected to bring this coach back in the first place. He has not displayed the conviction required to protect our children. Instead, it would seem, that his primary goal is to protect himself from criticism while others endure the consequences caused by his lack of leadership. I'm not sure what action I would ask the department to take, but I will be direct when I say that this cannot continue in this fashion. Our park and our community deserve better.

Thank you,  
Scott Reid

--  
**Jimmy Kim**  
**General Manager**

City of Los Angeles





Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

## Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 20-0504

1 message

LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>  
 Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>  
 To: RAP.Commissioners@lacity.org

Fri, Sep 6, 2024 at 9:08 AM

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enabled by the to Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or rResolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website. Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Council's rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [empowerla@lacity.org](mailto:empowerla@lacity.org).

\*\*\*\*\* This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. \*\*\*\*\*

### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: North Westwood  
 Name: Jacob Wasserman

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(14) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)  
 Date of NC Board Action: 09/04/2024  
 Type of NC Board Action: Neutral Position

### Impact Information

Date: 09/06/2024  
 Update to a Previous Input: No  
 Directed To: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
 Council File Number: 20-0504  
 City Planning Number:  
 Agenda Date:  
 Item Number:

Summary: NWWNC asks that our City Council and city agencies apply for Los Angeles Metro Active Transportation (MAT) Cycle 2 funding to complete a number of Westwood projects. Approximately \$75 million in MAT Cycle 2 funding is available for projects listed in the 2023 Metro Active Transportation Strategic Plan for three categories: active transportation corridors, first-/last-mile (FLM), and pedestrian districts for implementation between 2026-2030. Importantly MAT funds do not require a local match, and Metro can lead planning, outreach, and design for projects up to

construction, minimizing city staffing needs. Cycle 2 also includes funds for smaller quick-build projects under \$1 million, which could be particularly useful for approved but unfunded small LADOT projects like the Gayley/Strathmore scramble pedestrian crossing. We ask that the entire Los Angeles Metro First-/Last-mile Plan for the D Line Extension in Westwood be implemented, which includes elements from a number of projects previously supported by NWWNC, including Westwood Connected and sidewalk and crossing improvements at Westwood Park. Additionally, the North Village qualifies under the Westwood Pedestrian District, Weyburn/Westwood FLM, and Sunset/Bellagio FLM and is in dire need of repair and safety upgrades, including NWWNC requests like our ask for sidewalk and crossing Improvements on Gayley Avenue, and for intersection and crossing improvements across the North Village. In addition to tens of thousands of Westwood stakeholders who will benefit from these projects daily, these active transportation improvements are essential to the success of the Olympics and Paralympics. MAT funding would allow for essential improvements to be made. With little to no downside to applying for MAT funding, the NWWNC strongly requests the city include Westwood-related projects in Cycle 2 funding.

Ref:MSG11053911



**CIS\_MAT Cycle 2 Westwood Project Priorities.pdf**

166K



- COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT -

Council File: [20-0504](#)

Title: Metro Active Transport (MAT) / Fiscal Years 2021-2025 / Cycle 1 / Call For Projects

Position: Neutral

Summary:

The North Westwood Neighborhood Council (NWWNC) asks that our City Council and city agencies apply for Los Angeles Metro Active Transportation (MAT) Cycle 2 funding to complete a number of Westwood projects. Approximately \$75 million in MAT Cycle 2 funding is available for projects listed in the 2023 Metro Active Transportation Strategic Plan for three categories: active transportation corridors, first-/last-mile (FLM), and pedestrian districts for implementation between 2026-2030. Importantly MAT funds do not require a local match, and Metro can lead planning, outreach, and design for projects up to construction, minimizing city staffing needs. Cycle 2 also includes funds for smaller quick-build projects under \$1 million, which could be particularly useful for approved but unfunded small LADOT projects like the Gayley/Strathmore scramble pedestrian crossing.

We ask that the entire [Los Angeles Metro First-/Last-mile Plan](#) for the D Line Extension in Westwood be implemented, which includes elements from a number of projects previously supported by NWWNC, including [Westwood Connected](#) and [sidewalk and crossing improvements at Westwood Park](#). Additionally, the North Village qualifies under the Westwood Pedestrian District, Weyburn/Westwood FLM, and Sunset/Bellagio FLM and is in dire need of repair and safety upgrades, including NWWNC requests like our ask [for sidewalk and crossing improvements on Gayley Avenue](#), and [for intersection and crossing improvements across the North Village](#). In addition to tens of thousands of Westwood stakeholders who will benefit from these projects daily, these active transportation improvements are essential to the success of the Olympics and Paralympics. For example, Gayley Avenue will be the main link between the future Athlete Village, Westwood Village, and the D Line. Yet the usable sidewalks are narrow and cracked, bike lanes are non-existent or blocked by drive-through traffic. MAT funding would allow for essential improvements to be made.

With little to no downside to applying for MAT funding, the NWWNC strongly requests the city include Westwood-related projects in Cycle 2 funding.

## **Previously Supported/Requested MAT-Eligible Projects**

### **1. Westwood Connected**

Summary: <https://www.westwoodconnected.com/>

Elements eligible as Active Transportation Corridor:

- Westwood Boulevard protected bicycle lanes and protected intersections

Elements eligible as Westwood/UCLA D Line FLM, Westwood/Weyburn FLM, and/or Sunset/Bellagio FLM:

- Westwood Boulevard protected bicycle lanes and protected intersections
- Gayley Avenue protected bicycle lanes, sidewalk widening, and traffic calming
- Gayley Avenue scramble crossings at Le Conte Avenue, Charles E. Young Drive, and Strathmore Drive
- Pedestrian improvements across Westwood Village, including raised crossings/intersections, curb extensions, and speed humps

Elements eligible as Westwood Pedestrian District:

- Gayley Avenue scramble crossings at Le Conte Avenue, Charles E. Young Drive, and Strathmore Drive
- Pedestrian improvements across Westwood Village, including raised crossings/intersections, curb extensions, and speed humps

### **2. Westwood Park/Veteran Avenue Sidewalk and Crossing Improvements**

Summary:

[https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-1111-S16\\_cis\\_05-10-24.pdf#page=3](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-1111-S16_cis_05-10-24.pdf#page=3)

*(Eligible as part of Westwood/UCLA D Line FLM Plans and Wilshire/Veteran FLM)*

### **3. Gayley Avenue North Village Sidewalk and Crossing Improvements**

Summary:

[https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-1111-S16\\_cis\\_05-13-2024.pdf#page=3](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-1111-S16_cis_05-13-2024.pdf#page=3)

*(Eligible as Westwood Pedestrian District and Sunset/Bellagio FLM)*

### **4. North Village Intersection and Crossing Improvements**

Summary:

[https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-1111-S16\\_cis\\_06-06-24.pdf#page=3](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2024/24-1111-S16_cis_06-06-24.pdf#page=3)

*(Eligible as Westwood Pedestrian District and Westwood/UCLA D Line FLM Plans)*



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: Letter of Support and request to get PUNC on Commissioners Agenda**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>

Wed, Sep 11, 2024 at 11:27 AM

To: Louie Leiva &lt;louie.leiva@lacity.org&gt;

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

On Mon, Sep 9, 2024 at 2:10 PM Louie Leiva <louie.leiva@lacity.org> wrote:

Hello Mr. Ford and Esteemed Commissioners,

I am reaching out on behalf of the Office of Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez of the First District to share that our office had submitted a letter of support of the Pico Union NC's gift in October of last year.

The neighborhood council has made multiple attempts to get a status update on their donation. CD 1 would like to support the Pico Union Neighborhood Council's efforts to make it onto the RAP Commissioners agenda to receive their contribution of dog waste bins on behalf of the City.

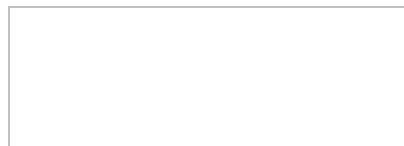
Please see original letter from NC and letter of support from the Council Office attached below.

Best,

LL

--

Louie Leiva (he/him)  
Field & Mobility Deputy  
Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez





**PICO UNION**  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



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James Lee

October 2, 2023

Honorable Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners,

**RE: Donation Proposal for Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park, LA 90015**

The Pico Union Neighborhood Council (PUNC) is requesting permission to donate a Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park as part of a Community Improvement Project. This historic pocket park is located in a very dense urban area and is the only green space where residents can relax, socialize, stroll, jog and take their pets out for a walk. It is a haven in our community, and especially for the increasing number of pet owners in our district. Providing the dog waste station would be very beneficial to those who forget to bring their own bags or run out, as well as maintaining the park grounds clean for all to enjoy.

PUNC will be responsible for the purchase, installation and maintenance of the station as well as for supplying the biodegradable doggie bags. In keeping with the historical ambience of the park, we have selected the Uline Dog Waste Station. A small plaque will be placed on the stand to notify the public that PUNC is responsible for the donation along with contact information for replenishing the bags and for any questions or concerns from the public. Attached please find photos of the Dog Waste Station and proposed installation.

We thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Respectfully,

Jay Park  
President  
Pico Union Neighborhood Council



**PICO UNION**  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



### Photo of Dog Waste Station



**Note: The trash receptacle will not be included since there are already several bins in the park.**



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## Cost of Dog Waste Station

Browser: <https://www.uline.com/Product/ViewCart>

ULINE 1-800-295-5510

Search

Products | Uline Products | Quick Order | Catalog Request | Special Offers | About Us | Careers

Continue Shopping

### Shopping Cart

Empty Cart | Forward

Add Product by Model #

Model #	Description	Qty	Price	Total	Remove
S-15585	Dogipot® Dog Waste Bags - 8 x 13" 2,000/ctn	<input type="text" value="1"/>	\$98.00/CT	\$98.00	×
H-5945	Uline Dog Waste System Recycled Plastic Post - 7'	<input type="text" value="1"/>	\$170.00/EA	\$170.00	×
H-5943	Uline Dog Waste System Dispenser - 9 x 5 x 12"	<input type="text" value="1"/>	\$185.00/EA	\$185.00	×
H-5942	Uline Dog Waste System Sign - 12 x 18"	<input type="text" value="1"/>	\$30.00/EA	\$30.00	×
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				<b>\$483.00</b>	

Shipping | Sale Code:   | Questions? \$300+ orders are eligible for a free item.





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**AERIAL OF ALVARADO TERRACE PARK  
WITH SPECIFIED LOCATION OF DOG WASTE STATION**





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**GROUND VIEWS WITH PROPOSED LOCATION FOR DOG WASTE STATION**





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**Location of Dog Waste Station**



October 19, 2023

Honorable Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners  
221 N Figueroa Street, Suite 350  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Donation proposal for Dog Waste Station at Alvarado Terrace Park**

Esteemed Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the Pico Union Neighborhood Council's (PUNC) proposal to purchase, install and maintain a dog waste station at the Alvarado Terrace Pocket Park in Pico Union. The installation of this station will benefit the neighborhood and the many residents and community members who frequent this park. By providing park visitors with this resource, we can ensure that the Alvarado Terrace Pocket Park remains clean, accessible and vibrant for the countless Angelenos who enjoy this precious green space.

A small plaque will be placed on the dog waste station to notify the public that PUNC is responsible for the donation along with information on how to request bag replenishment and raise any questions or concerns. PUNC has been an invaluable partner and I know that they will continue their tireless efforts to bring more resources to the residents of Pico Union. I support this proposal and hope you will consider granting this request.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eunisses Hernandez  
Los Angeles Councilmember, 1st District

Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 460,  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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(213) 473-7001  
[Councilmember.Hernandez@lacity.org](mailto:Councilmember.Hernandez@lacity.org)



Rap Commissioners &lt;rap.commissioners@lacity.org&gt;

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**Re: re Laurel Canyon Dog Park.**

1 message

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**Rap Commissioners** <rap.commissioners@lacity.org>  
To: Joann Deutch

Fri, Sep 13, 2024 at 7:55 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for contacting the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners Office, your email will be forwarded to staff.

On Thu, Sep 12, 2024 at 5:23 PM Joann Deutch

wrote:

I have been trying to reach the maintenance team for this park by searching the Rec & Parks website.

So far NONE of the listed fone numbers are correct.. or even answer or accept messages.

I asked by 311 operator .. who will be the Maintenance Supervisor for work being done at the Laurel Canyon park tomorrow 9.13?

Can I get a contact... for that person...

Thanks for keeping in touch.

Joann Deutch

*Author*

**Studio City - A Mile of Style**  
**What's History What's Gossip**

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