

Objective Land Use Standards for Carbon Reduction/Stormwater Management

Motion

- 1) **Whereas**, the Mayor Issued the first Sustainable City pLAN in 2015
- 2) **Whereas** the City of Los Angeles announced an expanded vision of the pLAN as L.A.'s Green New Deal in 2019
- 3) **Whereas**, a 2019 study by Crowther Lab (Switzerland) reports that global tree restoration is the most effective climate change solution to date.
- 4) **Whereas** California is the 12th largest emitter of carbon in the world, among all states and nations
- 5) **Whereas**, the state has enacted a body of legislation [Executive Order S-3-05 (2005), AB32 (2006) and SB32 (2016)] designed to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and these mandated specific GHG sources for reductions, GHG reductions can also be achieved via non-mandated algorithms.
- 6) **Whereas**, the California Climate Action Registry has established the Urban Forest Protocol (2008, revised 2019), which permits municipalities to offset carbon dioxide emissions by participating in forestry projects in which tree planting beyond normal replacements is planned and undertaken for the purpose of sequestering carbon dioxide.
- 7) **Whereas**, the Federal Clean Water Act and the Dept of Water and Power Water Quality Compliance Master Plan (which includes Land Use via Community Plan Updates) mandate stormwater mitigation by municipalities.
- 8) **Whereas**, trees sequester carbon dioxide directly via photosynthesis
- 9) **Whereas**, trees reduce carbon emissions indirectly via reduction in energy consumption resulting from their reduction of the Urban Heat Island Effect via shading (per L.A.M.C. 12.42.A)
- 10) **Whereas**, reforestation (via planting trees in the ground as opposed to in pots) also increases the carbon sequestering ability of soil, which is considered permanent sequestration
- 11) **Whereas**, trees filter stormwater, thereby reducing the discharge of pollutants into US waters (per L.A.M.C. 12.42.c)
- 12) **Whereas**, a 2017 study by the USC Spatial Sciences institute, reported Urban Green Cover in the County of Los Angeles decreased between 14 and 55% from 2000 to 2009 and In CD11 it has decreased between 19 and 25%, all of which is attributed, in the study, directly to a corresponding increase in hardscape.
- 13) **Whereas**, 90% of the Urban Canopy in the City of Los Angeles is on private land

Therefore:

The Mar Vista Community Council requests that the Dept Of City Planning, in its update of the Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey Community Plan, in conjunction with Climate Action Reserve, the Dept of Water and Power and local academic institutions, create objective standards for Carbon Reduction and Stormwater Mitigation for each zone definition*within the Mar Vista Boundaries. These would parallel those in the Climate Action Reserve's Urban Forest Management Project Protocol, and would mandate set requirements, per square foot (or acre) of lot, for carbon reduction and stormwater mitigation for each project submitted on said lots to be effective after approval of the updated Community Plan.

Funding for such a project would be allocated from the City of Los Angeles' Green New Deal/ Sustainable City pLAN and One Water LA 2040 Plan budgets

*Current L.A.M.C Sections:

12.04.05 through 12.16, 12.17.5, 12.18, 12.20, 12.17.1, 12.17.6, 12.19

