

DIRECTOR'S MOTION: Aaron Vanek - Zone 6 Director

TITLE: Opposition to Board of Public Works' Scheduled Removal of Healthy Trees on Warren Ave

PURPOSE: To prevent the killing of three mature, healthy Italian Stone Pine trees on the 13000 block of Warren Avenue.

BACKGROUND: On April 15 2026, the Board of Public Works voted to grant a CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) exemption to the Urban Forestry Division to remove three mature but healthy Italian Stone Pines as part of a street repair project. Although these trees are uplifting the asphalt and creating a hazard for motorists and pedestrians, an examination by Master Arborist Nick Araya (TreeCareLA) determined that these three trees are "largely viable and contribute substantial environmental and community value. The benefits provided by mature canopy trees are directly related to crown size and leaf surface area. Newly planted replacement trees, regardless of species, would represent only a small fraction of the current canopy volume and would require decades to approach comparable functional benefit. The removal of mature canopy results in immediate and long-term reductions in shade, microclimate moderation, and neighborhood character."

Rather than full removal, TreeCareLA, Mar Vista Arbor and resident stakeholders instead request the city perform selective root pruning of the three trees and the removal of seven dead or declining trees in the area.

A petition has been signed by 85 (unverified) stakeholders opposing the removal of these trees (see supporting documents).

MOTION: The Mar Vista Community Council disapproves of the exemption of a CEQA review by the Board of Public Works to remove three healthy trees along Warren Avenue and instead recommends that the Urban Forestry Division follows the recommendations outlined in the TreeCareLA report. (See supporting documents.)

DIRECTED TO:

CD11 Councilwoman Traci Park
Bureau of Public Works
Urban Forestry Division
Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA)