

SANTA MONICA CANYON CIVIC ASSOCIATION

October 10, 2018

Hon. Eric Garcetti, MAYOR
303 City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor,


Who speaks for the trees? Trees clean the air. Trees provide shade to ameliorate global warming and the infamous "heat island" effect. Trees sequester carbon and you know what a benefit that is. Trees attract birds and enamor us with their beauty and changes with the seasons. Trees increase property values.

Who speaks for the trees? Developers routinely chop down mature trees and later claim ignorance. Contractors routinely chop down mature trees to make it easier to stage equipment. The City cuts down trees to facilitate sidewalk repair rather than exercise creativity and discretion to protect this precious living heritage. Trees languish and die in City nurseries while tree wells sit empty throughout the City. Trees are not properly trimmed, if trimmed at all, and as a result collapse or split of their own weight.

Who speaks for the trees? The City has no effective forestry plan. The City woefully underfunds and understaffs forestry services that would benefit our streets and parks. Workers spend their days rushing from one avoidable tree calamity to another, which, as they say, is NOT a way to run a railroad.

Mr. Mayor, will YOU speak for the trees? You have the power to dedicate a mere one percent of the City budget to fund adequate forestry services to plan, plant, protect and maintain a robust tree canopy in our parks and on our streets to enrich our lives and future generations. A stroke of your budget pen will be a significant factor in staving off the impact of climate change. Your constituents in Santa Monica Canyon will be watching.

Sincerely,


Marilyn Wexler, President

c- Hon. Mike Bonin, Adel Hagekhalil, Ramon Barajas