

**[POLICY][COMM PLAN][T&I]**-Discussion and possible action regarding submission of letter and CIS (when Council File becomes available) regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on the City's Sidewalk repair Program

Link to DEIR:

<https://sidewalks.lacity.org/environmental-impact-report>.

Motion: Letter/CIS to read:

“ To: Shilpa Gupta  
Environmental Supervisor I  
City of Los Angeles Public Works Bureau of Engineering  
1149 S Broadway, Suite 600, Mail stop 939  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Re: Sidewalk Repair Program Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms Gupta,

Public participation is an essential part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, and therefore we request that our comments/questions be responded to and incorporated into the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

The Mar Vista Community Council requests:

- 1) That s scientific study of ecosystem services provided by trees proposed for removal be conducted and mitigation for these environmental losses be determined and implemented.
- 2) That every possible effort be made to retain and protect existing healthy mature trees by implementing alternative designs, paid for by the program or budget request to the City for earmarked funds, so that no more than 30% of the total projected trees currently slated for removal are actually removed. We would like offers to property owners for easy variances and even incentives for meandering sidewalks. We would like funding to design and build bulb-outs for streets where parking is not an issue.
- 3) That only trees absolutely necessary to be removed for sidewalk repair be removed, not whole blocks of trees that are not causing problems.
- 4) That every tree removal continue to have the due process of notification through an Urban Forestry Division tree removal notice and that removal of 3 or more trees at a given site continue to have a Board of Public Works hearing. We oppose any streamlining that removes adequate time to consider every alternative to tree removals. Given the value of trees, seven days is not enough time for thoughtful approaches.

- 5) That all trees removed for the Sidewalk Repair Program be mitigated at a ratio of 4:1 with species of equal size at maturity and located in the same neighborhood as those removed.
- 6) That newly planted trees are guaranteed good quality soil and amendments, as well as frequent irrigation for a minimum of 3 years and longer as needed by species, in order to guarantee survivability.
- 7) That the EIR be amended to consider tree removal a significant adverse impact with binding mitigation measures that restore the canopy level much sooner than 30 years. Twenty nine years of canopy loss over 1.5% by removing close to 13,000 large trees is counter to any strategy of sustainability.

Cc: Deputy City Engineer Julie Sauter, BOE  
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Council Member Bob Blumenfield  
Council Member David Ryu  
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Council Member Monica Rodriguez  
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