

MOTION

PUBLIC WORKS

Los Angeles has long been recognized for its iconic palm trees, yet these trees are now in sharp decline. Many palms across the City are dying due to drought, heat stress, invasive pests, and fungal diseases. Unlike broader-canopied tree species, palms provide minimal shade, require significant water, and do not adequately meet the City's needs for equitable shade distribution, climate resilience, and public health protection.

The lack of tree canopy is particularly stark in "shade deserts," including areas of South Los Angeles, where residents face disproportionate impacts from extreme heat. As climate change intensifies, and with major events like the FIFA World Cup, Super Bowl, and the Olympics on the horizon, Los Angeles must prioritize equitable and sustainable tree replacement strategies to ensure adequate shade, sustainability, and livability for all Angelenos.

The Bureau of Street Services (BSS) Urban Forestry Division, in partnership with the Climate Emergency Management Office (CEMO), will be well positioned to develop a comprehensive plan to replace dying and unsustainable trees with species that provide greater shade, are climate-adapted, require less water, and contribute to long-term sustainability and equity goals.

I THEREFORE MOVE that BSS Urban Forestry, with the assistance of CEMO and the Chief Heat Officer, be instructed to report back with recommendations for a citywide tree replacement strategy. The report should include, but not be limited to:

- An assessment of existing street tree conditions, including mortality rates of palms and other vulnerable species;
- Recommended replacement species that are drought-tolerant, climate-resilient, provide significant shade, and are less prone to pests and disease—keeping in mind ongoing maintenance, such as sidewalk erosion protection and flora debris removal;
- A strategy to prioritize planting in "shade deserts" and other heat-vulnerable and historically underserved neighborhoods;
- Projections and canopy coverage goals to prepare for upcoming large-scale events such as the World Cup, Super Bowl, and Olympics;
- Equitable practices for community engagement, workforce development, and long-term tree care and maintenance; and
- Budget estimates, funding sources, and implementation timelines.

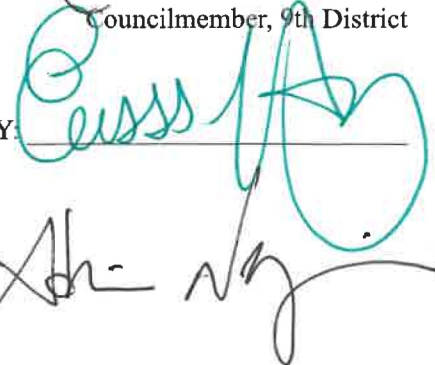
I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services and CEMO be instructed to host at least two community forums in heat-burdened neighborhoods, including South Los Angeles, to gather public input on tree replacement priorities, species preferences, and maintenance needs.

PRESENTED BY:



Curren D. Price, Jr.
Councilmember, 9th District

SECONDED BY:



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SEP 30 2025