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## Urgent: Please Help Stop Removal of 9 SORO Trees by LA Citywide Program

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J Sol <janesaysbegood@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 5:00 PM

To: charliestein@soronc.org

Cc: Michael Lynn <michaelynn@soronc.org>, jaredweston@soronc.org, olgalexell@soronc.org

Dear South Robertson Neighborhood City Council President & Board Members,

I am a community member of SORO and would appreciate a moment of your time regarding a matter that is very concerning and problematic to our neighborhood. I understand you hold key positions on the Neighborhood Council and could potentially help constituents to permanently HALT the removal of mature trees by the LA Bureau of Engineering and LA Urban Forestry as part of the Citywide Sidewalk Repair Program. While I am in favor of tree trimming at the appropriate time of the year (not Spring or Summer) and would appreciate the repair of our sidewalks, it should not be done at the expense of our quality of life, our ecological system, or our health.

**The Citywide Repair Program has posted (Posting ID 954) a Street Repair / Tree Removal Bid (#48)** for the removal of a total of nine (9) trees, Eucalyptus(2), Ficus(3), Pine(1), Bottle(1), Carrotwood(1), Sycamore(1), in the SORO neighborhood, at least 2 in the Crestview & La Cienega Heights zone.

These trees provide many advantages to the community such as much needed shade via their wide canopies and cleaner air to a neighborhood in close proximity to major freeways. The people of this community often take morning and afternoon strolls, bicycle rides, children play outside, neighbors connect with each other outside of their homes. Knowing this you can see how important tree canopies are not just for shade, overall air quality and necessary for fellowship with friends and neighbors. The SORO neighborhood isn't necessarily about indoor urban lifestyle. These trees provide shelter to various bird species including raptors and other much needed wildlife. The success (to a degree) of the Safe Streets temporary barricades is worth noting because it showcases how necessary outdoor space is to this area. SORO, or least certain pockets, lacks green open spaces even with nearby Reynier Park more trees are needed to try to mitigate climate change. This is not a time to be removing trees at all, especially healthy trees. I feel it is very important to make every effort to save these trees. They are well established and provide a much larger canopy than any young tree that would replace it through this sidewalk repair program. Trees, especially mature trees, enhance the landscape of our neighborhood, assist with air quality, encourage ecological diversity and provide an overall better quality of life, we cannot afford to lose these trees, young replacement trees just cannot compare and would take many years to reach maturity and provide the benefits of existing trees.

While we do not yet know the environmental impact of removing these trees or to what extent it would negatively affect the community it is important to consider alternative measures. In addition, the lack of public input prior to the City making the decision to remove nine mature trees is problematic. There have been instances in the past, albeit in more affluent neighborhoods, where the City has actually protected its trees knowing how important it is to "neighborhood beautification". It seems that these same measures, such as using flexible material rather than concrete, root trimming, expanding the curb, etc.) are not being considered and it seems unfair and a form of discrimination towards our neighborhood. Constituents seem to be ignored by the City and our individual voices often don't carry as much weight as a body such as the SRNC. I am urging you to use your influence and voice the concerns of SORO community members. To my understanding this project is to go to a Public Works Board very soon and I am very concerned that without the South Robertson Neighborhood Councils' opposition the matter will be approved by the City of LA Public Works Board without much, if any, consideration.

I have attached articles and photos. Please keep in mind that the articles refer to species of ficus/fig trees but regardless there are alternatives as you will read in the article on Innovative Sidewalk Repair.

Could we count on you to assist in this matter? Your response would be very much appreciated.

Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully,

J. Sol  
Very Concerned Constituent of South Robertson and Native of the City of Los Angeles

[http://www.lancc.org/resources/NCSA Trees Committee Safe Sidewalks LA 2020.03.07.pdf](http://www.lancc.org/resources/NCSA%20Trees%20Committee%20Safe%20Sidewalks%20LA%202020.03.07.pdf)

<http://www3.apwa.net/Resources/Reporter/Articles/2006/4/Innovative-sidewalk-repair-in-the-City-of-Los-Angeles>

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/opinion-la/la-ol-los-angeles-sidewalks-trees-20150403-story.html>

<https://www.kcrw.com/culture/shows/design-and-architecture/la-removes-street-trees-to-repair-sidewalks>

[https://bsspermits.lacity.org/treepostings/public/pending\\_postings.cfm](https://bsspermits.lacity.org/treepostings/public/pending_postings.cfm)

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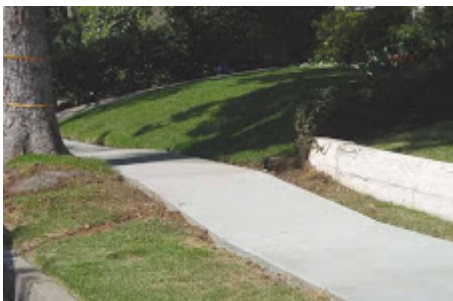
**10 attachments**



**IMG\_1058.JPG**  
93K

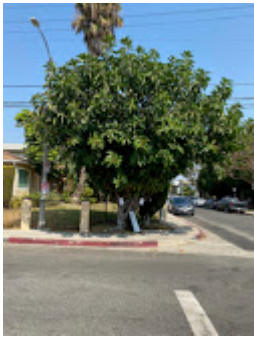


**Sidewalk - Enlarged Tree Well.jpg**  
197K



**Sidewalk - Ramped2.jpg**  
38K

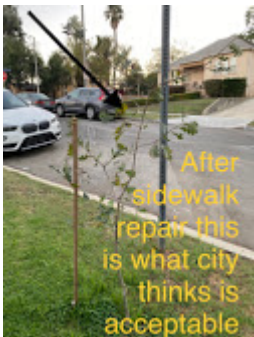
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74K



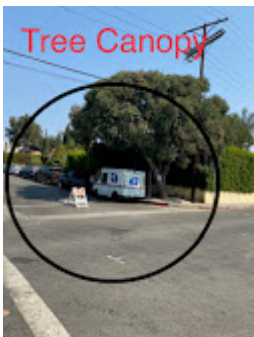
**IMG\_1989.jpg**  
73K



**IMG\_1991.jpg**  
41K



**IMG\_1985.jpg**  
52K



**IMG\_1990.jpg**  
70K

**IMG\_1986.jpg**  
148K



IMG\_1987.jpg  
126K