

Recently your Board received a notice of a proposed tree removal in your neighborhood council district. Any individual or neighborhood council can weigh in on the removal of the tree.

The Urban Forestry Division (UFD) does make an effort to avoid tree removals, but Council Offices as well as members of the public may request reconsideration. **If the removal is for 1 or 2 trees**, the UFD prefers that you raise objections within 3 days, but in most cases you have about 30 days to put the removal on hold for further investigation of alternatives. Trees are removed if there is no challenge.

Objections should be sent to your city council office field rep or planning deputy, as well as to Chief Forester Tim Tyson at timothy.tyson@lacity.org. We recommend copying the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance Trees Committee Chair at trees@ncsa.org, who can put you in touch with your Community Forest Advisory Committee representative, if your council district has one. Either may be able to update you on any efforts already in progress on the particular removal or give you further information on the reason for removal. Be sure to include the address on the removal request in your email.

If the removal is for 3 or more trees, the Board of Public Works (BPW) will conduct a public hearing for the removal of the trees. The date of this hearing will be posted on this site:

https://bsspermits.lacity.org/treepostings/public/pending_postings.cfm. To register to be notified by email when the hearing date is set and to receive a hearing agenda, look through the list of slated removals on this site, find the address of the proposed tree removal, and then click on the number to the left.

The UFD is also required to submit a report to the BPW for review, but any documents in connection with the tree removal, including plans, arborist reports, etc., are not available to the public until the day before the hearing. The link to these documents will be on the BPW Agenda and can be found by clicking on the BPW number to the left of the agenda item, and then clicking on each item on the subsequent cover sheet document.

You may either send a written comment or call into the BPW Zoom hearing and speak, usually for two minutes. Instructions are on the BPW hearing agenda. You may ask for a continuance if you need more time with the documents. It is helpful to have a written council office and/or neighborhood council position letter sent the day before the hearing to the BPW executive officer at Fernando.Campos@lacity.org. (Include the hearing date, agenda item, and posting ID number with the address.) A neighborhood council letter filed with the BPW may give you longer speaking time. Please note that if your board has not taken official action on the tree removal, board members can only speak in their individual capacity with no additional time.

In some situations, you may want to contact the requestor of the removal directly to find an alternate solution. This occasionally can save a tree. Tree removal request notices are currently issued late in the planning process, and projects may be too far along. You may realize more success in preserving trees in the early planning stages at your planning and land use committees by asking about the plans for trees, especially street trees and protected private property trees.

If you have questions about these procedures, please contact us at trees@ncsa.org or visit the NCSA website at ncsa.la/proposed_tree_removal_listings.