

Peninsula Community Planning Board
1220 Rosecrans Street PMB 549
San Diego, CA 92106
pcpbsd@gmail.com

Date: September 30, 2020

TO: Anne Fege, Executive Board, San Diego Regional Urban Forests Council

INFO: Kevin Faulconer, Mayor City of San Diego
Dr. Jennifer Campbell, City of San Diego Councilmember District 2

RE: Healthy Trees for Healthy Neighborhoods Tree Planting initiative

To help encourage the planting of healthy trees on the peninsula, the Peninsula Community Planning Board (PCPB) supports and endorses the Healthy Tree for Healthy Neighborhoods tree planting initiative with proper water and maintenance plan to care for the new trees. The Healthy Tree for Healthy Neighborhoods initiative supports and enhances the City of San Diego's Urban Forestry program and Climate Action Plan in our community.

More healthy trees are needed in street rights-of-way, parks, parking lots, schoolyards, routes to school, backyards and businesses. Trees are affordable ways to shade neighborhoods, implement City of San Diego's Climate Action Plan, provide wildlife habitat and ecosystem services, and offer many other co-benefits.

Trees are cost effective actions for carbon sequestration and climate adaptation, provide positive social benefits and ecosystem services. Some studies have shown that a 90ft canopy tree conveys the same environmental benefits as the sum of the environmental benefits from over 1,300 trees 4ft or under. Cal's Fire report from 2017 reported that there are over 66,000 tree related jobs in California.

Three trees placed strategically around a single-family home can cut summer air conditioning needs by up to 50 percent. By reducing the energy demand for cooling our houses, we reduce carbon dioxide and other pollution emissions from power plants.

Average temperatures in Los Angeles have risen 6°F in the last 50 years as tree coverage has declined and the number of heat-absorbing roads and buildings has increased. Trees cool the city by up to 10°F, by shading businesses, homes and streets, breaking up urban "heat islands."

Many local funding sources can be tapped to provide trees, including "free tree" programs, requests via San Diego's Get it Done app, homeowners' associations, grants to enhance green space in communities, fund-raising campaigns, and private donations.

Thank you for your support and time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Frederick Kosmo,
PCPB-Chair