



December 10, 2025

Los Angeles City Council

Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Letter of Support for City Plants and Continuity of Services

Dear Council President and Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

On behalf of ShadeLA, we are writing to express strong support for the continued operation and funding of City Plants, a cornerstone of Los Angeles' urban forestry and heat resilience efforts. **City Plants is currently scheduled to conclude operations on December 31, 2025.** We urge the City to take all necessary actions to ensure service continuity and prevent disruptions to this vital work.

City Plants plays a crucial role in implementing the City's climate and equity goals—coordinating public-private partnerships that expand the tree canopy, reduce urban heat, improve air quality, and deliver community benefits in our most heat-vulnerable neighborhoods. The program also strengthens our local workforce, employing young people and community-based organizations in green jobs that build pathways to long-term careers in sustainability and public service.

A lapse in City Plants' contract or services would have far-reaching consequences. It would interrupt key Mayoral and Citywide initiatives—including tree plantings tied to ShadeLA efforts, Shine LA events, and preparations for the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games—and would suspend critical planting, adoption, and data management programs during the peak planting season. The ripple effects would also undermine coordination with LADWP, Urban Forestry, Recreation and Parks, and nonprofit partners across the city.



Website: shade-la.org
Email: shadela@usc.edu

POWERED BY





We fully support the City Attorney’s intention to transition to a competitive bidding process and agree that transparency and accountability are essential. However, we are deeply concerned about the timeline for issuing and implementing an RFP. Without immediate action to launch that process—and an interim plan for uninterrupted City Plants services—Los Angeles risks a prolonged service gap that would reverse hard-won progress on canopy expansion, community resilience, and climate action.

City Plants exemplifies what effective public-private collaboration can achieve. It is an indispensable partner in advancing the City’s goals for shade equity, workforce development, and environmental justice. **We respectfully urge the City Council to request and approve an extension of City Plants’ agreement with the Board of Public Works through December 31, 2026, to avoid any disruption in service. We also urge the City Council to ensure that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) expedites and prioritizes a clear path for developing an RFP and awarding a competitive bid contract to allow for future continued success and delivery of services of the LADWP Energy Efficiency Free Trees (City Plants) program.**

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to building a cooler, greener, and more resilient Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

The undersigned individuals



Supporting Signatories

- Catherine Baltazar, Associate Director for Advocacy and Organizing, **Climate Resolve**
- Miriam Bar-Zemer, Program Manager, **Festival Trail**
- Carlo Caccavale, Executive Director, **American Institute of Architects, Los Angeles Chapter**
- Pablo Cardoso, Director of Environmental Services, **Koreatown Youth and Community Center**
- Candice Dickens-Russell, President & CEO, **Friends of the LA River**
- Edith de Guzman, Water Equity and Adaptation Policy Cooperative Extension Specialist Researcher, **UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation**
- Veronica Hahni, Executive Director, **Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative**
- Charles Hannah, CEO, **Forward Alliance Los Angeles**
- Michael Kraus, Interim Executive Director, **Green Sports Alliance**
- Stephanie Landregan, Director, **Altadena Green**
- Mia Lehrer, President, **Studio-MLA**
- Theresa Maysonet, Co-Founder, **South LA Tree Coalition**
- Carlos Moran, Executive Director, **North East Trees**
- Claire Robinson, Managing Director, **Amigos de los Ríos**
- Sharyn Romano, Chief Executive Officer, **Los Angeles Beautification Team**
- Drew Ready, Senior Project Manager, **Council for Watershed Health**
- Bruce Reznik, Executive Director, **Los Angeles Waterkeeper**
- Cassie Rauser, Chief Executive Officer, **TreePeople**
- Bo Savage, Deputy Director of Conservation Programs, **Los Angeles Conservation Corps**
- Ben Stapleton, Executive Director, **USGBC California**
- Kate Weber, Executive Director, **USC Dornsife Public Exchange**
- Norma Quiñones, Executive Director, **San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps**

**Organizational affiliations are listed for identification purposes only and do not imply institutional endorsement*

CITY PLANTS

LA CORPS



LA CONSERVATION CORPS



2019-PRESENT

31,628

RESIDENTIAL TREES DELIVERED

27,713

RESIDENTIAL TREES DISTRIBUTED

11,578

STREET TREES PLANTED

470

COMMUNITY EVENTS

AN LA LEGACY

2001 | TREES FOR A GREEN LA

2006 | MILLION TREES LA

PRESENT | CITY PLANTS



Tree planting projects, like the ones that result from the partnership between LA Corps, City Plants & LADWP, increase the urban tree canopy which reduces the heat island effect by allowing trees, not artificial surfaces, to absorb the sun's heat.

More trees can reduce energy costs & pollution, provide stormwater infrastructure and remove greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere.

Focusing on City of LA residents and park-poor neighborhoods that have historically suffered from environmental injustice, partnerships like these can have a lasting impact on the health of our communities.



PLEASE HELP US AVOID A PAUSE IN THESE VITAL SERVICES!

BEYOND



LA CORPS



A pause in services will reach beyond the Corps itself as we partner with organizations throughout LA to carry out the work of increasing LA's tree canopy through the City Plants program. In collaboration with our partners over the past 3 years:

7,753

5-GALLON TREES HAVE BEEN ADOPTED

3,683

STREET TREES WERE PLANTED

LA CORPS PARTNERS

- LA BEAUTIFICATION TEAM
- KOREATOWN YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTER
- NORTH EAST TREES
- CSU SYSTEM
- TREEPEOPLE
- SLA, INC.
- TRIBAL CORPS



**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT
TO HELP KEEP THESE
SERVICES INTACT!**

CONTACT:

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CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

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