

KENTER CREEK COMMITTEE THANKS COUNCILMEMBER BONIN

Hon. Mike Bonin, City Councilman,
11th Los Angeles District
March 15, 2016

Dear Councilman Bonin,

On behalf of the residents and fans of Kenter Creek, I send congratulations on the decision to revoke building permits issued to Sam Shakib in Sullivan Canyon for five years. We are aware of your efforts to improve notice to Los Angeles residents of intent to remove protected trees on developing sites in the wake of the slaughter that occurred in Sullivan. We are the beneficiaries of continuing oversight by your office (Debbie Dyer Harris in particular) in our own efforts to save the mature urban forest of Kenter Creek and prevent disasters such as happened to Sullivan trees last year.

Interdepartmental communication in this area of intensifying public interest is beginning to improve. Responses on the part of LA Street Services, California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, LA Urban Forest Department and, LADBS to our own concerns have recently shown that they are speaking to each other and to the residents. This is progress, but there is a long way to go before many developers learn to respect the laws and ordinances that exist to protect the disappearing urban riparian landscape of Los Angeles.

The consequences must be swift and strong for demolishing landscape without permits, ignoring stop work orders, and failing to apply to Fish and Wildlife before disturbing habitat. The penalties as a rule are so weak that they are ineffective. This week's ruling should set precedent for a change across the board. We hope you will continue to lead the City of Los Angeles in that direction and commend you for your response to citizens in your district to the disappearance of old growth trees.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Pelcyger
Corresponding Secretary for
Kenter Creek Committee of
South Brentwood Residents Association