


LEGALLY REQUIRED OFFICIAL POSTING-PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE UNTIL AFTER BELOW DATE AND TIME.

<p><b>SCNC BOARD</b> Kim Clements Dean Cutler Fiona Duffy Randall Fried Ira Gold Jeff Hartwick Julie Glaze Houlihan Scott Mandell Chip Meehan Brandon Morino Richard Niederberg Karen Sarrow Adele Slaughter Alexa Steinberg Adam Summer Peggy Velasco</p>	 <p><b>STUDIO CITY</b> NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL</p> <p><b>Sustainability Committee</b> <b>MEETING AGENDA</b> <b>Monday, April 10, 2023 - 7:00 PM</b></p> <p><b>4024 Radford Avenue, Editorial 2, Room 6</b> <b>Studio City, CA 91604 (818) 655-5400</b> <b>Enter at Sater Parking Structure 4200 Radford Ave</b></p>	<p><b>PRESIDENT</b> Scott Mandell</p> <p><b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Chip Meehan</p> <p><b>TREASURER</b> Kim Clements</p> <p><b>SECRETARY</b> Peggy Velasco</p> <p><b>CORRESPONDING SECRETARY</b> Jeff Hartwick</p> <p><a href="http://studiocitync.org">studiocitync.org</a></p> 
--	--	---

*Committee Members: Adele Slaughter (Boardmember Resident/Business Owner, Chair), Alexander Black, (Resident), Chris Trent (Resident), Susan Schalbe (Stakeholder), Jessie Sandford (Resident), Chip Meehan (Boardmember, Business Owner/Resident), Melanie Winter, (Business Owner/Resident), Tony Knight (Resident), Andrew Epstein, (Business Owner/Resident), Scott Mandell (Board Member & President, ex-officio)*

- 1) Call to Order & Roll Call (1 min)
- 2) Announcements by Government Representatives or guests (5 min.)
- 3) Public comment within the committees jurisdiction on items not on agenda items ( 2 minutes per speaker)
- 4) Response(s) to Public Comments by Committee Members. (5 min)
- 5) Discussion and rewrite of motion pertaining to [Council File 03-1459-S3](#)  
The Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) supports Council file: 03-1459-S3 to strengthen the [City's Protected Tree Ordinance No.177404](#), as detailed in the Motion introduced by Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Mike Bonin on November 22, 2017.

Since 2017 it has been demonstrated that Protected trees are too easily removed under the

“protected tree ordinance” leading to significant losses canopy coverage and in native habitat throughout Los Angeles.

By way of example - there were 175 known Southern California Black Walnut Trees removed between 2017-2020 in the City of Los Angeles (based on Tree Removal Notices submitted to the BPW). Black Walnut trees are classified as near threatened and are legally protected by Federal Programs. Over 78% of all protected trees that are removed are based on development. Of those 175 Southern California Black Walnut Trees removed only 59 black walnuts were proposed to replace them. Significantly less than what is currently required under the current "Protected Tree Ordinance.”

Southern California Black Walnut Trees are a keystone species (defined as a species that supports other species in a woodland habitat) therefore removing a Southern California Black Walnut negatively impacts other species’ ability to survive. The city of Los Angeles has allowed this threatened species to be removed once every 7.2 days. This is not responsible management and stewardship and the city needs to do better.

Source: research by Travis Longcore researcher, educator, environmentalist,  
<https://ericbrightwell.com/2022/08/24/those-useless-trees-the-california-black-walnut/#:~:text=Southern%20California%20Black%20Walnuts%20are,Los%20Angeles%20Tree%20Protection%20Ordinance>

We suggest the following language be struck from the Protected Tree Ordinance SEC. 46.02.(Board Authority): "The Board of Public Works may grant a permit for the relocation or removal of a protected tree or shrub...(if) It is necessary to remove the protected tree or shrub because its continued existence at the location prevents the reasonable development of the subject property.” This language allows any developer to take out any protected tree."

Ecosystem services provided by trees are essential for our city, particularly as we confront the impacts of climate change. A strong Ordinance is critical in the conservation and preservation of trees and the wildlife habitat these trees support. We request an update on the process of strengthening and amending this critical Ordinance.

SEE attached Tree Report: <https://www.studiocitync.org/assets/documents/15/meeting642cf962a1fed.pdf>

This motion is also to be submitted as a CIS to Council File: 03-1459-S3 <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=03-1459-S3>

6) Discussion and Motion to write a request for action to Councilmembers Raman and Kerkorian regarding two State Bills.

Assembly Bill 1423 regarding PFAS “forever chemicals” in artificial turf. Link to the bill: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB1423](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1423)

Additionally there is the following Senate Bill 499 Early childhood education facilities: school facilities: School Extreme Heat Action Plan Act of 2023. This bill bans the installation of artificial turf in school sites due to the heat island effect. Link to Senate Bill: <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB499/2023>

7) Discussion and Possible motion to add to [Council File-22-0268](#)

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-0268>

A draft ordinance submitted to the Planning Dept, proposes to eliminate site plan reviews for construction of 100% affordable housing of 50 units or greater (under current code no site plan review is required for under 50 units). This potentially affects trees.

This is a link to the (very brief) draft ordinance: [https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/9f1fd78c-42f7-4e3b-a131-a1760b1f5e40/SPR\\_Ordinance\\_Draft\\_22.pdf](https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/9f1fd78c-42f7-4e3b-a131-a1760b1f5e40/SPR_Ordinance_Draft_22.pdf)

The Planning Department's information page with instructions for public comment is here: <https://planning.lacity.org/Proposed-Site-Plan-Review-Amendment-for-Affordable-Housing>

This proposed amendment waives all environmental considerations and makes projects exempt from CEQA. This fast-tracking of projects under this amendment would likely bypass any tree considerations like the Protected Tree Ordinance and Board of Public Works hearings for trees. CFAC wrote a letter pointing out some of the ramifications. SEE Attached PDF: <https://www.studiocitync.org/assets/documents/15/meeting642cf962a36ff.pdf>

We **must** require environmental review on all development, in order to keep a balance between development and green open space. Reckless development impacts our lives and livelihoods. The long-term effect of density housing without trees and green infrastructure will inflict pain and suffering on existing residents as well as future residents.

## 8) Discussion 3651 Woodhill Canyon Demo Permit issued and then Revoked

There are many issues with the construction at this site. A great example of why we need a stronger Tree Protection Ordinance.

<https://planning.lacity.org/pdiscaseinfo/search/encoded/MjU5MzI50>

A categorical exemption was incorrectly applied in this case because it does not meet all of the exceptions for a categorical exemption per CEQA Section 15300.2, due to the following circumstances:

**1. Location.** The subject property is partially located within an identified habitat linkage area known as Habitat Block No. 21 on the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Habitat Linkage Planning Map (revised and re-adopted in April 2021). The property, and that habitat block which includes Wilacre Park, are located in the Santa Monica Mountains Zone, and fall under the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resources Protection Plan (NRPP), adopted by the Santa Monica Mountains (Conservancy), a state agency, on December 13, 2021.

The subject property and area proposed to be developed includes a substantial amount of protected and significant trees. The subject property is adjacent to vacant undeveloped land (apparently under the same ownership - RE40 portion) and is adjacent to a much larger open space area known as Wilacre Park. The CE justification does not address the subject property sensitive location. As such, there is a reasonable possibility that the project will have an impact because of unusual circumstances.

**2. Significant Effect.** The disturbance of trees and shrubs on-site could have a significant impact on wildlife and wildlife habitat. This potential significant impact has not been properly or adequately analyzed. A biological assessment is necessary to determine what is located on and near the site in order to determine what potential impacts would result from the project as a whole and if the project can be properly mitigated.

Currently there is mention in the tree report and CE justification that all protected trees will be preserved with a "redesign" of the project, however, no such redesign plans have been provided. There is mention that the 62 significant trees

will be replaced on a 1:1 basis, however no tree preservation and tree replacement plan has been provided. Ultimately, mitigation measures belong in a mitigated negative declaration, so they can be known to all agencies/parties and properly monitored. Using mitigation measures under a categorical exemption is misapplied.

Additionally, deferring to a tree report as mitigation is improper as a tree report has no authority or jurisdiction to officially mitigate a project. The tree report map is also illegible and at best the tree report is a partial tree inventory that does not include all trees regardless of size. Also, the tree report map does include the proposed project footprint (as well as all aspects including hardscape, swimming pool, sports court, etc.) therefore it is unclear what trees are located within or near the proposed project.

Grading of the subject property, especially within the undeveloped portion of the site, could also have a significant impact with respect to wildlife, wildlife habitat, and potential tribal cultural resources given the sensitive location of the site.

Lastly, the description of the project and the submitted plans are unclear, thus the potential impacts overall are unclear. For example, the submitted plans stamped September 20, 2022 and shown as approved by City Planning per DCP Case Summary and Documents are not complete plans and do not clearly show and identify the subject ownership

**3. Cumulative Impacts.** The CE justification only discusses the cumulative impact of the haul route, not the “whole of the project.” At present the project includes the removal of 62 or 113 significant trees (CE includes contradictory information), grading in a sensitive area, thus it is unclear what the cumulative impacts will be to wildlife, wildlife habitat, existing trees, loss of tree canopy, urban heat island effect, erosion control, urban runoff from excessive hardscape, etc.

9) Discussion and Motion to write a request for action to Councilmembers Raman and Kerkorian regarding two Assembly Bill 1322 written by Laura Friedman (Assembly member for our district).

Link to bill: <https://openstates.org/ca/bills/20232024/AB1322/>

Existing law regulates the use of pesticides and authorizes the Director of Pesticide Regulation to adopt regulations to govern the possession, sale, or use of any pesticide, as prescribed. Existing law prohibits the use of second generation anticoagulant rodenticides in wildlife habitat areas.

Things to note:

- When wild predators eat rats who have consumed anticoagulant rodenticides, they in turn show symptoms of poisoning. This can lead to death from mange or internal hemorrhaging.
- Nearly 75% of wild animals in California test positive for rodenticide exposure. In the Santa Monica Mountains region, 90% of mountain lions and 92% of bobcats have rat poison in their system.
- At least 29 animal species in California are affected by secondary poisoning, including endangered species such as the San Joaquin Kit Fox.
- Rodenticides are not necessary for effective pest control, and have been shown to have a counterproductive effect by weakening and killing natural predators of rodents.

10) For future discussion the development of Radford Studios <https://planning.lac-city.org/pdiscaseinfo/search/encoded/MjY1MjQ20>

11) Final comments by Committee members—on Projects that effect sustainability issues in Studio City

12) Adjournment (1 min)

**Studio City Neighborhood Council Committee Meeting Agendas are posted for public review on the SCNC website at [studiocitync.org](http://studiocitync.org) and at the Radford Studio Center gate on Colfax Avenue, as well as, at the gate on Radford Avenue.**

The SCNC meetings are held on an active studio lot. Due to security issues, (just like Los Angeles City Hall), all Stakeholders are required to show a valid Driver's License if you are driving a vehicle onto the lot or a valid Driver's License or government issued Identification Card if you are walking onto the lot. An adult must accompany minors (17 years old and younger). For any security questions or concerns, please contact Radford Studio Center Security Office at 818-655-5085.

All Stakeholders are required to park in (or walk into) the studios' Sater parking structure at 4200 Radford Avenue. There are a limited number of accessible parking spaces in front of the meeting room and while there is no direct path of travel to the meeting room via a sidewalk, the studio and SCNC want to assure that Stakeholders with disabilities are able to access the meeting without difficulty. Stakeholders with disabilities who have a valid DMV placard, use a wheelchair, walker or cane, and/or those who have difficulties walking distances should contact Radford Studio Center Security Office at 818-655-5085 to request shuttle assistance at least 24 hours prior to the meeting in order for the studio to arrange services for the meeting.

**PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS** – The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Board (or Committee) on any item from the Agenda PRIOR to the Board taking action on any item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's (or Committee's) jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board (or Committee) is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board (or Committee) meeting. Public comment is limited to 1 minute per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board (or Committee Chair). Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real-time public comment is required.

**THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT** – As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by email: [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org) or phone: 213-978-1551.

**NOTICE TO PAID REPRESENTATIVES** – If you are compensated to monitor, attend or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying) . For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at 213-978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

**PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS** – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board (or committee) in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at our website: [www.studiocitync.org](http://www.studiocitync.org) or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Scott Mandell at [smandell@studiocitync.org](mailto:smandell@studiocitync.org)

**PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS** – Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

1. Radford Studio Center outside the Radford and Colfax gates.
2. <http://www.studiocitync.org>
3. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <http://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>

**Radford Studio Center**  
**Audience Shows and Events Policies**

**To attend an audience, show, event, or public meeting at Radford Studio Center, the following items are required:**

- Valid Government issued Driver's license if you are driving a vehicle onto the lot.
- Valid Government issued Identification card if you are walking onto the lot. A Military ID and Passport ID will suffice.
- An adult must accompany minors (17 years old and younger). Student ID cards are preferred for those who have them.

**The following items are prohibited on your person while attending an audience show, event, or public meeting on Radford Studio Center property:**

- Knives
- Mace/pepper Spray
- Sharp Objects
- Firearms
- Alcoholic beverages
- Drugs (including marijuana for medicinal purposes)

All guests are subject to security screening and search. Guests will be required to pass through a metal detector or screened using a hand-held metal detector.

- Once the audience member has emptied their pockets and turned over any prohibited items, the audience member will be instructed to proceed through the metal detector or screened using a hand-held metal detector.
- Should the audience member activate the metal detector, the person will be asked to step to the side and will be scanned (entire body length front and backside) by the Security Officer with the hand-held metal detector.
- The audience member will not be allowed into the Studio until the Security Officer is satisfied that the individual has nothing on his/her person that constitutes a danger to others.
- Should the guest refuse to be screened, they are subject to being denied access to Radford Studio Center property.
- **NO FIREARMS OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED INSIDE THE STUDIO.** Security Officers who detect that a guest is in possession of a firearm should notify the Security Supervisor and P.O. IMMEDIATELY.
- Off-duty Law Enforcement in possession of a firearm will be instructed to either return the weapon to their vehicle or turn it over to Security where it will be kept, UNLOADED, in a SAFE, located in the security manager's office.
- Any props or toys that resemble weapons in any way are to be denied or confiscated. This includes props / accompanying costumes.

Each guest/audience member will be required to submit a form of identification which will be tagged with an item that is confiscated and held with security. Guests and audience members will be instructed to pick up their confiscated items at the first (1<sup>st</sup>) level of the Sater parking structure near the elevators at the completion of the event. No personal pets are allowed at any time on the Studio lot.

**If, at any time, an audience member or guest, wanders away from their event or meeting space, into an unauthorized area, that person is subject to immediate dismissal from the lot.**

**For any questions or concerns, please contact Security. Security office phone number, (818) 655-5085.**