On CFAC stationery

To Property Owner and Tree Contractors:

It has come to the attention of the City of Los Angeles Community Forest Advisory Committee that one or more street trees adjacent to the property at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were excessively trimmed or root pruned.

Street trees are public property and improper pruning constitutes destruction of public property.

Aggressive tree pruning or topping stresses the tree and is most harmful under drought conditions. It may lead to a fan out of weak, poorly attached branches and increases chances of the tree developing decay or disease. Incorrect root pruning can lead to tree instability or death.

The immediate effect of over-pruning is shade loss. This increases the ill effects of heat and poor air quality on our city that can be life-threatening to many. It also increases costly air conditioning needs, removes habitat and leads to the decline of bird populations.

Please be advised that any work performed on a City street tree requires a permit from the Bureau of Street Services Urban Forestry Division. This permit includes tree trimming guidelines that must be followed. Pruning for sign visibility does not justify over-pruning. The recommended approach is to prune a tree to grow “Up and Over” signage.

Pruning a street tree without a permit is a misdemeanor and subject to a substantial fine. Root pruning requires an “A” permit. See the following ordinance:

**SEC. 62.169. PERMIT REQUIRED TO PLANT IN STREETS.** (a) No person shall plant, remove, destroy, cut, prune or deface or in any manner injure any tree, shrub or plant in any street in the City, without first obtaining a permit to do so from the Board.

Property owners may prune street trees at their own expense by obtaining a no-fee tree prune permit by calling the Bureau's Service Request line at (800) 996-2489. The permit will be provided within five working days.For more information, please visit the City of Los Angeles Urban Forestry Division website at https://streetsla.lacity.org/urban-forestry-division

All trees provide important environmental benefits and trees with full foliage provide the greatest benefits including a more pleasant pedestrian experience.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

The City of Los Angeles Community Forest Advisory Committee