

Venice Neighborhood Council Board Meeting, October 20, 2026

Agenda Item V.E.7. Supporting Document

WHEREAS, A community-led proposal, the **Venice Gateway Planting Plan**, proposes to **plant 42 trees on [Ocean Front Walk](#) (OFW)**, located **between Dudley Avenue and Navy Street on the east side of the parking lot** with a selection that will primarily feature **Guadalupe Palms ([Brahea edulis](#)) and Mexican Blue Palms ([Brahea armata](#))**, supplemented by a small number of shade trees strategically positioned over the existing public benches;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Council District 11 (CD11) and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to expedite all necessary local matching approvals and coastal development permit reviews to facilitate project funding through the LA28 Resilience Champions Fund ahead of the October 30, 2026, application deadline;

WHEREAS, the proposed project addresses a previously vetted footprint approved by both the VNC and RAP, which has been modified in response to community stakeholder feedback to substitute the originally proposed native beach pine trees with high-character, drought-tolerant *Brahea* palm species that integrate with the historic visual aesthetic of [Ocean Front Walk](#);

WHEREAS, the project incorporates targeted canopy coverage by adding specific shade trees over public benches to directly improve pedestrian comfort, manage the urban heat island effect, and elevate local park amenities;

WHEREAS, the heavy weight, mature sizing, and heavy machinery required to plant these 42 specimen trees make the project impossible to execute via volunteer membership labor alone, creating a structural dependency on external grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the **LA28 Resilience Champions Fund Round Two** application window closes on **October 30, 2026**, presenting a time-critical window to secure independent funding for community-driven "Cooling Solutions" ahead of the 2028 Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, this refined 42-tree initiative has achieved broad consensus, including written backing from local boardwalk business owners, and active cooperation from RAP and Councilmember Traci Park's office (CD11).

See Resolution on Board Agenda

Distribution List: Council District 11, the General Manager of RAP, and the California Coastal Commission to satisfy community support requirements for subsequent Coastal Development Permit (CDP) processing.