



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
COUNCILMEMBER OF THE FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

June 21, 2005

Ken McAlpine
Chairman, Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
7747 Foothill Blvd.
Tujunga, CA 91042

Re: Planning Commission Reform and the Oak Tree Protection Ordinance

Dear Ken:

Thank you for contacting us as the Chairman of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council regarding Planning Commission reform and the Oak Tree Protection Ordinance.

I recognize the importance of appointing knowledgeable and committed staff to the Planning Commissions. In appointing new commissioners, among other qualities, I will consider their experience, their respectfulness towards community members, and their willingness to engage in public discussion of issues brought before them. I am hopeful that your future experiences with the Planning Commissions will be more positive.

With regard to oak tree protection, there is a "Protected Tree" Ordinance which is currently being passed through City agencies and commissions. This new ordinance will update the Oak Tree Ordinance, which was passed in 1980. It will include the protection of more native trees and increase the fines and penalties levied on those who illegally remove or cause the death of such trees.

I am, and will continue to be, one of the strongest supporters of the Protected Tree Ordinance and I am committed to maintaining the existence of large trees in Los Angeles, whether they be oak trees or other native species.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Councilmember, 14th District