

From: Marianne Cole [<mailto:marianne99@earthlink.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:56 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Tree trimming debacle

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Long Beach City Council

I believe the public works department of the city of Long Beach has once more decided to trim a large number of trees throughout the city during bird nesting time. They awarded West Coast Arborists a blanket \$500,000 contract with apparently no instruction to avoid trees with bird nests in them and no arborist on site to assist them in identifying trees with nests. It is illegal to trim these trees during nesting time unless they present some sort of hazard to the public. Neighbors at the site alerted them to the presence of nests and dead birds from their trimming activity. They disregarded any warnings, including from a Marina employee, Corey Forrester, and continued to kill more birds and destroy nests.

On May 6, 2020 West Coast Arborists began trimming a mile long swath of 70 foot palms that began on the median in the peninsula and continued on down by the beach. By the peninsula median, according to eyewitnesses, they left a swath of dead blue heron fledglings. This was also documented with photos and video by neighboring residents.

In February of 2015 a crew of tree trimmers hired by the city also trimmed trees during nesting season, destroying bird nests of protected herons near the Belmont Plaza area. A neighbor also documented the damage and absence of nests afterwards.

Recently the city tried to remove palms by the [2nd Street](#) shopping center that contained nesting herons. Their removal was only stopped through citizen activism efforts with the Coastal Commission. Even now, the trees have been so severely trimmed that it seems very difficult that herons would be able to utilize them for nesting.

I think this shows more than adequate evidence of a clear pattern by the city to willfully disregard state coastal protection laws for bird wildlife. Your shameful and selfish conduct makes me feel very angry. I believe you have used citizen tax money to deliberately try to rid these coastal palms in Long Beach of their native heron population.

The city needs to stop this behavior. I plan to try to speak out against you at the upcoming meeting with the Coastal Commission. Your disingenuous statements to the Long Beach Post that you don't know who could have ordered this latest tree trimming amongst the city staff also points to a cover-up and dishonesty. All city council members voted for this contract for tree trimming during nesting time. They know full well that palm trees should not be trimmed until at least October. So does the public works department of the city. Please don't try to feign some sort of ignorance.

I would like some sort of explanation for this and an answer from you on what you will do in the future to stop this disgraceful conduct.

<https://lbpost.com/news/great-blue-heron-nest-trimming-peninsula>