From: Anna Christensen [mailto:annachristensen259@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 2:42 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Public Comment for LB City Council Meeting 5/12/2020

-EXTERNAL-

On the SpeakUp Long Beach page it says that comments can be posted until 4pm today. However, a resident posted that your office is also accepting public comments by email, but only until 2:45. Here is my public comment:

ASKS from Sierra Club, Long Beach Area Group:Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force,

In response to the destruction of active nests and hatchlings in Ocean Blvd parkway, the following actions are requested:

Immediate Actions:

Responsible Agencies: City of Long Beach/City Council, Coastal Commission, , CA Department of Fish and Wildlife:

1. Prosecution of the destruction of nests and young by West Coast Arborists under the direction of the City of Long Beach, Public Works Department
2. No trimming of trees on the Peninsula or along Ocean Blvd (both sides of street and in medians) during this nesting season (through October)
3. An investigation of the incident on the Peninsula including plans to change existing contracts or policy or create new policy. Investigation must include input from public agencies responsible for environmental protection and from the general public. Any meetings/correspondence must be open to the public and a record must be kept. (Does not apply to the criminal investigation/prosecution conducted by CA Fish and Wildlife)
4. CA Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Commission and City to hold a public hearing regarding this incident and other actions, practices, and policies leading to the destruction of habitat and birds
5. City Council directs Sustainability Commission empowered to investigate and issue a report on a Sustainable policy for Long Beach regarding trees, birds, wildlife, wildlife habitat, marine life and marine habitat.
6. Provide a hotline to report incidents of tree trimming or removal or of the disturbance of bird's nests or nesting birds. Direct City law enforcement agencies (police, lifeguard/marine patrols, animal control to respond immediately and to halt any work being done by individuals or contractors until the concern is resolved and to file a written report of the incident.

Revise/Establish Policy to protect birds in LB

Responsible Agencies: City of Long Beach/Long Beach City Council

Re City Policy:

1. No tree trimming during nesting season, at a minimum residents cannot get permits to trim city street trees during nesting season
2. No regular trimming of City street trees during nesting season by Public Works or Parks, Rec, and Marine Departments, or LB Harbor Department
3. Create data base to record active nests reported by residents, to be checked before trees are trimmed
4. Amend existing contracts with WCA and others, include in new contracts:
     a)   end tree trimming during nesting season
     b)   require that a biologist survey trees to be trimmed biologist conduct nesting survey before trimming tree
     c)   advanced (1 week) notice of trees to be trimmed, posting in area, notice posted on City Sites, published in local papers, residents/community groups notified
     d)   require tree trimming crews to stop work immediately if any person has a question or concern while they are trimming a tree. Require supervisor to resolve the concern (contacting City Agencies if needed) and to file a written report with the Contractor who will file a report with the City

Revise/Establish Policy to protect birds in the Coastal Zone in Long Beach

Responsible agencies: California Coastal Commission/City of Long Beach

includes policies currently covering Tidelands Areas and Marina Drive:

1.   Expand area covered by agreements beyond the Tidelands Areas to include the entire Coastal Zone or at a minimum areas on or adjacent to beaches, bays, rivers, wetlands within the Coastal Zone, including both sides of Ocean Blvd, all of Naples and the Peninsula, and the SEADIP/SEASP area.
2.   Under these agreements, trim trees only as needed for public safety or the health of the tree, trim trees in rotation no more than once every five years, no trimming of trees that have held active nests within 5 years
3.   Post notices on trees to be trimmed 2 weeks in advance, on trees and online
4.   Post biologists bird surveys before trees are trimmed - online
5.   Maintain public data base of nesting sites, allow for public input to help in monitoring existing and new nesting sites
6.   Inform residents, property owners, and boat owners of existing protections for nesting sites and birds and the reason for these protections, enlist their help in identifying and protecting nesting sites and nesting birds

7. Require tree trimming crews to stop work immediately if any person has a question or concern while they are trimming a tree. Require supervisor to resolve the concern by contacting City Staff and to file a written report with the Contractor who will file a report with the City

Educate City Staff, and Contractors
Responsible Agency: City of Long Beach
1. Distribute information on all laws and policies protecting City trees, birds, wildlife and marine creatures and environments and LA Audubon info
> a) to all city maintenance crews, city staff in Public Works, Parks, Recreation and Marine, and in Development Services
> b) to Contractors working for the City on city streets and parks
> c) to Developers/Contractors working for private developers whose projects impact city street and parks

Educate the General Public

Responsible Agencies: City of Long Beach, Coastal Commission, CA Fish and Wildlife, LCWA

1. Post/Distribute laws and policies protecting City trees, birds, wildlife and marine creatures and environments.
2. Post /Distribute LA Audubon info
> a) Through Utility bills, through libraries, through Parks/Rec/Marine, through Nature Center, put on various City webstes
> b) Post/Distribute laws and policies protecting City trees, birds, wildlife and marine creatures and environments.

3. Create program to teach residents how to identify nests and nesting bird behavior