

October 28, 2019; Agenda Item No. 18

Resolution No. 19-69

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY SUPPORTING
THE ADDITION OF MEXICAN ELDERBERRY AND TOYON TO THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES PROTECTED TREE ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, in the face of climate change, recreational pressures, and ongoing habitat loss Citywide, the importance of native trees to support wildlife, soil stability, and watershed health becomes more important on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, every native tree species provides greater ecological value relative to all other habitat elements; and

WHEREAS, under the effects of climate change and persistent drought years, both the recruitment of new native trees and the health of existing native trees is threatened; and

WHEREAS, Mexican elderberry and Toyon are multi-trunk native trees that warrant full protection under the City of Los Angeles Protected Tree Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City staff and multiple conservation organizations support the addition of the subject species to the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, The proposed action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); Now

Therefore Be It Resolved, That the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy hereby:

1. FINDS that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
2. ADOPTS the staff report and recommendation dated October 28, 2019.
3. FINDS that Mexican elderberry and Toyon are critical high value elements of the City's chaparral and woodland vegetation communities.
4. SUPPORTS the City of Los Angeles' proposed amendment to its Protected Tree Ordinance to include both Mexican elderberry and Toyon as protected native tree species.
5. SUPPORTS amending the Ordinance tree measurement criteria calling for both a multi-stem four-inch cumulative trunk measurement at 4.5 feet above ground level and a two-inch single trunk measurement at 2.5 feet above ground level.

6. AUTHORIZES the Executive Director, or his assignee, to perform any and all acts necessary to carry out this resolution.

~ End of Resolution ~

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a meeting of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, duly noticed and held according to law, on the 28th day of October, 2019 at Woodland Hills, California.

Dated:

Executive Director