

From: [Michael Tobias](#)
To: [WebMail - CCD](#)
Subject: An Emergency Message
Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 6:46:51 PM

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To the Mayor and City Council:

Dear Mayor and your very few councilors:

As President of an LA-based international scientific non-profit, and one who has conducted field research for 50 years on every continent, I am appalled at the obvious ecological ignorance driving your decision to remove 83 ficus trees - the global Buddha tree and, as Cambridge University scientists have published,

“Ficus fruits are a food source for more animal species than any other known fruit, a 2001 Cambridge University study showed. Animals disperse fig seeds (and those of other plants) widely, increasing the landscape's biodiversity and rendering it more resistant to climatic uncertainties.”

These trees are your only shade, solace, and providers of crucial pollination services to the shade-starved denizens of Whittier.

You will be in acute violation of common sense. But you will also be in violation of more than a dozen state and federal statutes should you proceed.

Michael Charles Tobias, PhD

RECEIVED ON:

Council Meeting: _____
Agenda Item No: _____