

RECEIVED ON: June 25, 2024  
Thomas A. Bihr  
Landscape Architect, 4115  
10448 Portada Dr.  
Whittier, CA. 90603  
Tom Bihr's Cell (562) 242-8927  
bihrtom@gmail.com

Council Meeting: 6/25/2024  
Agenda Item No. 10

**Date: June 25, 2024**

**TO: Whittier City Council**  
**C/O: Rigo Garcia, City Clerk** [RGarcia@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:RGarcia@cityofwhittier.org)

**RE: Public Comments, City Council Meeting 6-25-24**

**From:** Tom Bihr <[tmbihr@me.com](mailto:tmbihr@me.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 8:10 AM  
**To:** Donald R Hodel <[drhodel@ucanr.edu](mailto:drhodel@ucanr.edu)>  
**Subject:** The Tree Protection Zone, as defined by the Tree Manual , excerpt...

## **The City routinely works within the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ),**

**Most cities have adopted TPZ Zones, that's a normal and acceptable operation. The TPZ is identified as a construction free zone, whereby trucks, debris and activity are defined to prevent damage to the tree root zone The TPZ is not a construction staging area.**

**Of course, sidewalk repair, grading and public improvements are an everyday occurrence within the TPZ. The TPZ is not an impediment to saving trees, the TPZ establishes an element of safety for the construction site AND TO THE BENEFIT OF THE TREES**

The 6 test plots conducted by WCA technically violated the TPZ, work was performed, concrete removed, examined and paving replaced without deleterious effect.

RECEIVED ON June 25, 2024

Landscape Architect, 4115  
10448 Portada Dr.  
Whittier, CA. 90603  
Tom Bihr's Cell (562) 242-8927  
bihrtom@gmail.com

Also consider the Santa Gertrudes Sidewalk Replacement Project, which is 6 months into completion. Sidewalks were demolished throughout and around dense plantings of Canary Island Pine, there were no Tree Protection Zones identified, machines were running back and forth on the root zone and suffered no ill-effects thus far. However, one tree was damaged beyond repair and the contractor is making amends to pay for the loss of the tree.

The Tree Protection Zone, as defined by the Tree Manual , excerpt as follows:

***“c. At no time shall any equipment, materials, supplies or fill be allowed within the prescribed root protection zone unless otherwise directed by the Director. The root protection zone is defined as the larger of the drip line of the tree or the distance from the trunk equal to six (6) inches for each inch of trunk diameter measured at four and a half (4.5) feet above existing grade. It is recognized that failure to abide by these provisions will result in substantial root damage to trees that may not be immediately apparent. The Director will therefore assess damages according to the International Society of Arboriculture standards and bill the responsible party for removal and replacement of said tree.”***