

February 10, 2026

Whittier City Council
13230 Penn St.
Whittier, CA. 90602

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6 (public comment)

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

At your last City Council meeting on January 27, you voted to award \$619,538 in no bid contracts for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) you said wasn't required when you recently voted to suspend Whittier's Tree Protection Manual. This includes \$250,000 for outside legal counsel and a PR firm. The Tree Manual has always allowed the City to immediately remove any diseased, dangerous or hazardous trees without public notice or input. But by suspending it, you are now free to remove healthy trees to make it easier for Developers to build projects.

At that Jan. 27th meeting, Mayor Vinatieri actually said and I quote: "The Tree Manual took care of the situation in the 1990s, but it isn't suitable for the 21st Century." Actually, Whittier's Tree Manual was revised and modernized in 2016. I guess you forgot, Mayor Vinatieri, that you were a part of the unanimous City Council vote in 2016 that revised and updated Whittier's Tree Manual, along with City Council members Fernando Dutra & Cathy Warner.

California Law requires an EIR when a City makes a decision on a Development Project that could adversely affect our Environment. Yet when you voted to cut down ALL of the trees on three blocks of Greenleaf AV in the heart of Uptown, you decided that there was no need for a new, State-mandated EIR. Likewise, in Parnell Park where you recently chopped down 178 old-growth shady trees - **with obvious environmental consequences** - you didn't conduct an EIR. It's interesting that NOW you say you need an EIR - not on a Development Project - but to defend revising a document, the Tree Manual. You're spending over \$600,000 of our taxpayers' dollars to seek legal cover allowing you to chop down healthy, publicly-owned trees which will hurt our Environment.

Whittier residents are becoming more & more aware of your decisions that are negatively impacting our lives. You continue to ignore more than 8,133 signers of the Petition to Save Our Trees who ALL understand we can preserve Whittier's heritage and tree canopy while simultaneously renovating and revitalizing our City. Beautiful cities, including Pasadena and Santa Monica, so value their mature tree canopies that they require Developers to keep mature trees during construction projects, and they maintain their sidewalks.

Whittier's April 14th City Election is 63 days away. The first Candidate Forum last month was packed with 400 residents eager to hear from candidates vying for Mayor and City Council

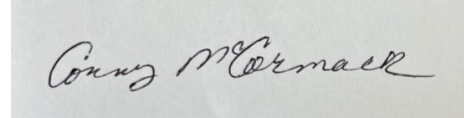
CC: CM; ACM; CA; Council; Original to CC; Public Binder; Department

RECEIVED ON: February 11, 2026

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Districts 2 & 4. Mayor Vinatieri and the two current City Council members seeking re-election chose not to participate. Hopefully, you will attend the next Candidate Forum on Feb. 17th. Voters are eager to hear you attempt to defend your decisions.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Conny McCormack".

Conny McCormack
City of Whittier resident for 30 years
Former L.A. Co. Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (Ret.)
Founder, www.saveourtreeswhittier.com

cc: Conal McNamara, City Manager
Rigo Garcia, City Clerk