

SCNC Request for Action (RFA) regarding the invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that Councilmembers Adrin Nazarian (CD 2) and Nithya Raman (CD 4) coordinate with Supervisors Lindsey Horvath (Third District) and Kathryn Barger (Fifth District), as well as relevant City, County, State, and Federal agencies, to develop a uniform, coordinated plan of action addressing the proliferation of the invasive Tree of Heaven. While our primary concern is Studio City, we specifically request that a Council File be introduced directing a report back from the relevant City agencies (including but not limited to the Bureau of Street Services, Department of Recreation and Parks, Bureau of Sanitation, and any other departments with jurisdiction over public property, rights-of-way, or urban forestry) on the feasibility of a coordinated citywide plan and policy to inventory, control, and manage Tree of Heaven. If appropriate, we further request advocacy for complementary County and statewide approaches. Background / Impacts Tree of Heaven is a highly invasive, fast-growing, allelopathic species that readily colonizes disturbed sites, sidewalks, vacant lots, hillsides, and riparian corridors. It damages infrastructure (sidewalks, foundations, sewers), outcompetes native vegetation, and is a preferred host plant for the spotted lanternfly, an invasive pest of significant concern to California agriculture and ecosystems. Simple cutting or removal without proper root treatment typically stimulates aggressive resprouting and worsens infestations. Some infested areas of Studio City include: [list specific locations, streets, parks, or properties later]

<https://laist.com/news/climate-environment/why-tree-of-heaven-strikes-terror-in-the-hearts-of-la-gardeners>

<https://www.cal-ipc.org/plants/profile/ailanthus-altissima-profile/>

<https://blogs.cdfa.ca.gov/Section3162/?p=4399>