On CFAC stationery

Name, or Current Owner/Resident

Address

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Owner or Resident,

It has come to the attention of the City of Los Angeles Community Forest Advisory Committee that one or more trees on your property have been aggressively trimmed or roots pruned.

Aggressive tree branch pruning, or topping the tree, stresses the tree and is most harmful under drought conditions. It may lead to a fan out of weak, poorly attached branches and increases chances of the tree developing decay or disease.

Not all trees can tolerate root pruning, and improper root cutting can lead to the tree falling.

The immediate effect of over-pruning is shade loss. This increases the ill effects of heat and poor air quality on our city that can be life-threatening to many. It also increases costly air conditioning needs and leads to the decline of bird populations.

Please note that not all tree trimming companies have the skill and training to do proper pruning. In the future make sure that the company you hire has an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified supervisor on site and let them know that you don’t want topping.

Finally, trees should not be pruned during hot weather, as this can result in pest attacks and excessive sap bleeding. And please be aware that it is illegal to prune when there is an active bird nest in the tree. In general avoid pruning during nesting season from March to September or have a biological inspection for bird nests.

Your trees add value to your property and to your neighborhood. A healthy mature tree can be worth up to $100,000 or more. All trees provide important environmental benefits and trees with full foliage provide the greatest benefits.

We appreciate your attention to seek appropriate tree care in the future.

Sincerely,

The City of Los Angeles Community Forest Advisory Committee

For more information visit the ISA website TreesAreGood.org and select Tree Care Basics, then select Pruning Your Trees.