

Agenda Report

Date: April 23, 2001

TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE – UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information purposes only.

BACKGROUND

On April 16, 2000, City Council requested that staff present recommendations to amend the existing tree ordinance to provide adequate protection for trees on private property. The current tree ordinance, adopted in 1987, provides limited protection for trees in the public domain. It does not address private property, where more than 50% of the trees in Pasadena are located.

On December 11, 2000, staff presented to City Council possible amendments to the tree ordinance to protect trees on private property. Council directed staff to conduct extensive outreach to inform the public of the suggested amendments and potential financial impacts. Upon completion of the outreach efforts, staff was directed to return to City Council with final recommendations for an amendment to the Tree Protection Ordinance.

Two community focus meetings have been held to present information about changes to the tree ordinance. During these meetings, an opinion survey was also circulated to obtain additional feedback. Responses were received from a majority of the attendees. The results of these surveys are included as attachment "A". One additional meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2001 in District 4 at Pasadena City College.

The first meeting was held in District 2 at Jefferson Elementary School on March 29, 2001 and had 39 attendees. In general, the audience expressed an appreciation of trees, however they placed a higher value on private property rights. The attendees wanted private property rights taken into consideration when developing a limited private tree protection ordinance. Some residents were opposed to any ordinance regulating their use of private property.

The second meeting was held for Districts 6 & 7 at Blair High School on April 5, 2001. The majority of the attendees were from southeast and southwest Pasadena however there was a small number from other areas of the city. The attendees indicated that they were interested in seeing an amendment for the tree protection ordinance approved as soon as possible. Additional comments supported educating new property owners about the significant trees on their property;

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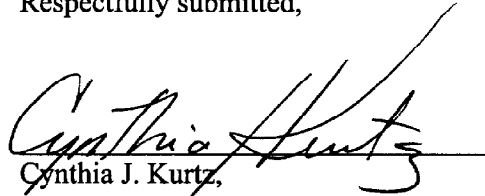
AGENDA ITEM NO. 10.A.

their value to the property; and regulations that may apply to their protection. Attendees were also concerned about prevention of damage to protected trees during the construction process. In this meeting there was less concern for private property rights.

Based on the feedback received in the meetings already held, it is clear that an amendment for tree protection on private property will require further outreach and feedback from Pasadena's residents. Staff will continue to conduct the meetings with neighborhoods and community groups through May 31, 2001. At that time, staff will review all of the feedback and determine the appropriate recommended amendments to the Tree Protection Ordinance.


Beginning in June 2001, staff will return to the neighborhood and community groups with a proposed amendment. At the same time, staff will proceed with documenting any necessary environmental impacts in accordance with CEQA. This will commence with the initial study and will take approximately 30 days, concluding by June 30, 2001. Immediately following the initial study, staff will move forward with the 20 day public review period, and return to City Council on or before August 6, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



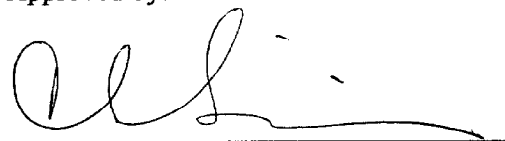
Cynthia J. Kurtz,
City Manager

Prepared by:



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Approved by:



C. Bernard Gilpin, Director
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