



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: John Stufflebean

**SUBJECT: DECLARATION SUPPORTING
BAY FRIENDLY GARDENING**

DATE: 01-23-08

Approved

Date

1/28/08

COUNCIL DISTRICT: City-Wide

RECOMMENDATION

Adoption of a resolution for San José to be a charter signatory to the Bay Friendly Coalition Declaration supporting the Seven Principles of Bay Friendly Landscaping and Gardening which provide a model approach to sustainable landscaping for residents and businesses city-wide.

OUTCOME

Approval of this recommendation will support the implementation of the Seven Principles of Bay Friendly Landscaping and Gardening, putting San José at the planning table with stakeholders from all nine Bay Area counties. San José would also have access to tools for professional gardeners, municipal staff, and home gardeners to preserve water, waste, and energy resources, reduce pollution, and greenhouse gas impact, and to protect local habitat and human health. The Principles outlined in the Declaration are aligned with the City's Green Vision, Urban Accords, and Zero Waste goals.

BACKGROUND

Staff has participated in the Bay Friendly working group with StopWaste.Org (Alameda County Solid Waste Authority) since 2004 to organize and build a Bay Area Coalition for Sustainable Landscaping based on the resource tool box developed by Alameda County and made available to interested agencies. The Bay Friendly Coalition is the newly formed group of water agencies, civic governments, trade organizations, and non-profit groups representing all nine Bay Area counties. The purpose of the Coalition is to combine and leverage regional resources in order to promote sustainable landscaping practices for residences, as well as professional landscapers and City staff.

Agencies who sign the Declaration will be recognized as Charter Signatories at the Bay Friendly Landscaping and Gardening Conference on February 29, 2008. This conference, held at UC Berkeley, will be the first public event produced by the Coalition. Agencies who have signed this Declaration include: San Francisco, Palo Alto, Marin, East Bay MUD, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Sonoma County Water District, the Association of Bay Area Cities (ABAG), and all of the cities in Alameda County including Oakland, Hayward, and Fremont.

ANALYSIS

As a signatory Charter supporter, the City would be on the organizing team with the opportunity to tailor the Bay Friendly Coalition programs and initiatives to meet local needs and available resources. The Bay Friendly Landscaping and Gardening program connects many environmental disciplines such as solid waste, water, energy conservation, and green building design. This integration facilitates the leveraging of regional and City resources. Staff from the Airport; Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services; and General Services have been learning about available Bay Friendly resources through the City's pesticide management team, and delegates are planning to attend the Coalition conference in February. Coalition participation will provide regional resources that can be used to help San José support City goals such as pollution prevention through integrated pest management, water conservation, weed abatement, and waste reduction through landscaping operations.

Bay Friendly tools, including best management guidelines, training programs, tours, and brochure materials have been fully developed by StopWaste.Org, and are available for City staff, as well as residents and businesses, to use immediately.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

Although this recommendation does not meet any of the criteria listed below, this memorandum is posted on the City's website for the February 12th, 2008 Council agenda.

- Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater.
- Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City.
- Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach.

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COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Departments of General Services, Transportation, Parks Recreation and Neighborhood Services, Airport, and the City Attorney's Office.

COST IMPLICATION

Not applicable.

BUDGET REFERENCE

Not applicable.

CEQA

Not a project.



JOHN STUFFLEBEAN
Director, Environmental Services

For questions, please contact Jo Zientek, Deputy Director, Integrated Waste Management Division, Environmental Services at (408) 535-8557.

Attachment

7 PRINCIPLES OF BAY FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING & GARDENING

1. ***Landscape Locally;*** recognizes that built landscapes are a part of the larger ecosystem of the San Francisco Bay watershed and that they can contribute to its health if designed and maintained using sustainable practices.
2. ***Landscape for Less to the Landfill;*** means that we should reduce waste by choosing the right plants, avoiding invasive plant species, using recycled and salvaged products in the landscape and by composting, mulching and grasscycling plant debris.
3. ***Nurture the Soil;*** soils are living ecosystems and when landscape practices allow the soil food web to thrive it can filter pollution, store water, provide plant nutrients, and help plants resist pests naturally.
4. ***Conserve Water;*** means using a holistic approach of creating drought resistant soils with compost and mulch, selecting plants naturally adapted to summer-dry climates, using stormwater, graywater and recycled water in the landscape as much as possible and using efficient irrigation systems that include self adjusting, weather-based controllers.
5. ***Conserve Energy;*** by reducing the need for mowing and shearing, by shading buildings and paved areas, using efficient outdoor lighting, and buying local landscape products.
6. ***Protect Water & Air Quality;*** through maximizing permeable surfaces and minimizing stormwater runoff, using integrated pest management, minimizing the use of synthetic pesticides and avoiding overuse of fertilizers, reducing fossil fuel consumption, and planting trees to remove CO₂ and absorb air pollutants.
7. ***Create Wildlife Habitat;*** recognizes that biodiversity is crucial to the health of natural ecosystems and that by using native plants and increasing the diversity of plant palettes, our built landscape can provide food, water, shelter for birds, butterflies, beneficial insects and other creatures.