



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Planning Commission

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: April 28, 2008

COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide
SNI AREA: All

SUBJECT: GP08-T-05. STAFF INITIATED GENERAL PLAN TEXT AMENDMENT TO REVISE THE SAN JOSÉ 2020 GENERAL PLAN TO AMEND THE URBAN FOREST POLICIES

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning Commission voted 5-0-2 (Commissioners Zito and Campos absent) to recommend that the City Council approve the subject General Plan text amendment request.

OUTCOME

The proposed General Plan text amendment:

- Facilitates implementation of San José's Green Vision goal to plant 100,000 new trees within the City by 2023.
- Facilitates implementation of the six tree preservation strategies, designed to enhance the health, condition, and sustainability of the urban forest and maximize its benefits to the community, that were recommended by staff as a result of citywide public outreach regarding tree stewardship.

BACKGROUND

On April 21, 2008, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to consider the proposed General Plan text amendment.

The Planning Commission voted 5-0-2 (Commissioners Zito and Campos absent) to recommend to the City Council approval of the subject General Plan text amendment request. The proposal was on the consent calendar portion of the agenda and was recommended for approval without discussion or public testimony.

In 2007, the City Council directed the administration to review City policies and procedures related to tree preservation and develop recommendations for collective improvements utilizing all available resources. As part of that effort, citywide community outreach was conducted between June and November 2007 to gather public input regarding the City's tree-related

policies, programs, services, and procedures. As outcomes of the review and outreach process, staff recommended six strategies that encompass community concerns citywide to improve and augment tree-related City policies and procedures.

ANALYSIS

See original staff report for analysis of the proposed General Plan text amendment.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Approval of the proposed General Plan text amendment facilitates implementation of San José's Green Vision goal to plant 100,000 new trees within the City in the next fifteen years, the six tree preservation strategies recommended by staff, and the General Plan's Urban Conservation/Preservation and Sustainable City Major Strategies, as well as the Urban Conservation Goal, and the Natural Resources and Urban Forest Goals and Policies.

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Denial of the proposed General Plan text amendment.

Pros: The City would not commit itself to the goal of planting 100,000 new trees citywide. Realization of this goal would likely involve a significant investment of City infrastructure and resources (for example, planting of a single tree through Our City Forest typically requires a \$300 donation).

Cons: Denial of the proposed text amendment does not facilitate the implementation of the Green Vision goal to plant 100,000 new trees as intended nor the six tree-preservation strategies recommended by staff as an outcome of citywide public outreach regarding tree stewardship.

Reason for not recommending: This alternative does not facilitate the implementation of the Green Vision as intended nor the six tree-preservation strategies recommended by staff.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- 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. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, or staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

COORDINATION

This project was coordinated with the City Arborist, the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Services Department, Public Works, and the local non-profit agency Our City Forest to review and discuss the proposed text amendment and receive comments.

FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT

This project is consistent with applicable General Plan goals and policies as further discussed in the staff report.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

BUDGET REFERENCE

Not applicable.

CEQA

The proposed General Plan text amendment is covered by Reuse of the *San José 2020 General Plan* Final Environmental Impact Report, certified by the City Council on August 16, 1994, Resolution No. 65459.


for JOSEPH HORWEDEL, SECRETARY
Planning Commission

For questions please contact Andrew Crabtree, Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement at 408-535-7893.