



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Tree Mitigation Fund Policy and Oak Wilt Program Workshop
DATE: April 4, 2024
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
PRESENTED BY: Kelsey Delgado, Environmental Program Manager

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The City Council held a workshop in October 2023 regarding a proposed Tree Mitigation Fund. Staff has drafted a proposed policy which establishes a Tree Mitigation Fund and several programs and initiatives for which the City may use funds received from the fee-in-lieu of mitigation.

Through the Tree Mitigation Fund Policy (**Attachment A**), fee-in-lieu funds will be placed in a reserve fund balance line item to be allocated to expense line items during the City's annual budget process. The funds will be reserved for an Oak Wilt Program, tree and landscape protection, city-approved events and other programs or projects as recommended by staff with City Council approval.

An Oak Wilt Program (**Attachment B**) will be established and funded from the Tree Mitigation Fund annually to incentivize and aid in oak wilt treatment within the city limits through a reimbursement process. As proposed, program applicants may be eligible for reimbursement of up to 50% of the total cost of eligible services, with a maximum reimbursement amount of \$1,500 per fiscal year per property.

As part of this workshop, staff is requesting direction from City Council regarding these two items. Based on feedback received, the policy and program will be brought back at a future City Council meeting for consideration and possible action.

POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:

- Supports Priority 2.5 Develop, Implement and Update Environmental Sustainability Programs of the Strategic Action Plan.
- Provides financial assistance directly to residents for oak wilt mitigation and treatment.
- Enables use of fee-in-lieu of mitigation funds for the protection and preservation of existing trees, reforestation, beautification of the City and other events or projects to improve the quality of life and support the hill country aesthetic of Fair Oaks Ranch.

LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:

By establishing a Tree Mitigation Fund, any fees collected from development projects in lieu of mitigation may be used towards an Oak Wilt Program, tree and landscape protection, City-approved events and other programs or projects.