



CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEM

CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action approving a resolution authorizing the establishment of a Tree Mitigation Fund and the creation of an Oak Wilt Program.

DATE: May 2, 2024

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTED BY: Kelsey Delgado, Environmental Program Manager

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The City Council held a workshop on April 4, 2024, to review and provide feedback on the draft Tree Mitigation Fund Policy (**Exhibit A**) and Oak Wilt Program (**Exhibit B**). Other than a spelling correction, both documents are the same as previously presented. By approving this resolution, the Tree Mitigation Fund and Oak Wilt Program will be established.

Through the Tree Mitigation Fund Policy, fee-in-lieu of mitigation 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 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. 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.

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.

LEGAL ANALYSIS:

Legal has reviewed the resolution and approved it as to form.

RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:

I move to approve a resolution authorizing the establishment of a Tree Mitigation Fund and the creation of an Oak Wilt Program.