



CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEM

CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action approving a resolution authorizing a Free Tree Giveaway as mitigation for trees removed by the WWTP Phase 1 Expansion and Plant 5 Ground Storage Tank (GST) projects

DATE: October 16, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTED BY: Kelsey Delgado, CISEC, PMP, Project Manager

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

On October 2, 2025, the City Council conducted a workshop to discuss different options to mitigate the necessary removal of protected and heritage trees by two City projects: the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Phase 1 Expansion and Plant 5 Ground Storage Tank (GST). Of the options presented, City Council expressed interest in hosting a Free Tree Giveaway to meet the intent of tree mitigation requirements as outlined in the City's Unified Development Code (UDC).

For the WWTP Phase 1 Expansion project, three heritage and nine protected trees within the existing sewer easement are marked to be removed, including one heritage tree on the Fair Oaks Ranch Golf and Country Club property. For the Plant 5 GST project, four protected trees are marked to be removed. The replanting of trees on City property or within utility easements is not feasible due to lack of space, potential damage to underground utility lines and interference with future maintenance and repair efforts.

To mitigate the removal, a total of 109 trees of 3-gallon and 15-gallon sizes will be made available to City residents by means of a Free Tree Giveaway event, tentatively scheduled for November 7, 2025 in recognition of Texas Arbor Day. In addition, eleven 15-gallon trees will be provided to the Club for planting on the golf course.

While this approach does not achieve the 1:1 Tree Circumference (TC) replacement ratio, it fulfills mitigation requirements based on the total number of replacement trees. Trees that are 2.5-inch diameter are generally in containers larger than 30 gallons which are more expensive, require specialized equipment, and are difficult to transport and transplant. Free Tree Giveaways traditionally provide smaller trees, which residents can more easily transport and plant successfully.

POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:

The WWTP Phase 1 Expansion and Plant 5 GST projects are utility improvements and are therefore exempt from preservation requirements. However, it must still comply with mitigation requirements of the City's Unified Development Code. The Free Tree Giveaway enhances the urban tree canopy within the City, meets the intent of tree mitigation requirements and provides a meaningful community benefit.

LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:

The Free Tree Giveaway is estimated to cost \$5,000 and will be shared between the WWTP Phase 1 Expansion Project and the Plant 5 GST Project. The split cost would be approximately \$3,905 for WWTP and \$1,095 for Plant 5 GST. Given the relatively low cost, no significant budget impact is anticipated for either project

LEGAL ANALYSIS:

The resolution was reviewed by legal and approved as to form.

RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:

I move to approve a resolution authorizing a Free Tree Giveaway as mitigation for trees removed by the WWTP Phase 1 Expansion and Plant 5 Ground Storage Tank projects, expenditure of the required funds, and providing for an effective date.