



CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEM

CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action to approve a resolution to accept a monetary donation from the Fair Oaks Ranch Homeowners Association (FORHA) in the amount of \$10,000 for the City's Oak Wilt Program

DATE: November 6, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTED BY: Aithne Loeblich, Environmental Program Manager
David Fairhurst, Vice-President, FORHA Board of Directors

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

Oak Wilt is a serious tree disease that affects all oak tree species, particularly live oaks and red oaks. The disease spreads underground through root systems and above ground through beetle activity, leading to the wilting and death of trees. Our community's oaks are not just a part of our landscape, they are integral to our ecosystem, providing shade, beauty, and habitat for wildlife. Protecting them from oak wilt is crucial to maintaining the health and aesthetic of our environment and the beauty of Fair Oaks Ranch.

In May 2024, Fair Oaks Ranch City Council approved a resolution establishing a Tree Mitigation Fund and creating the Oak Wilt Program. This initiative provides annual funds to incentivize and aid in oak wilt treatment within the city limits through a reimbursement process. Property owners who participate in the program may apply for a reimbursement of up to 50% of the total cost of eligible services, with a maximum reimbursement amount of \$1,500 per property per fiscal year.

Services eligible for reimbursement:

1. Injectable therapeutic and/or preventative treatment
2. Removal of diseased red oak trees
3. Trenching to contain an oak wilt center

In FY 2023-24, the City budgeted \$10,000 for the Oak Wilt Program which was made available to residents from July through September. During that time, ten residents applied for the program and all ten were reimbursed. Due to the success of the program and the growing need to control oak wilt, the City budgeted \$15,000 for the program in FY 2024-25. During that time, seventeen residents applied for the program and of those seventeen, fifteen residents were reimbursed; however, the funds were depleted by February and March of that year. Additional residents contacted the City to submit applications but were turned away due to lack of funding, indicating a greater need for funding to support oak wilt mitigation in the City.

To assist the City in meeting the demand from residents, the FORHA Board of Directors approved a one-time financial donation of \$10,000 to the City's Oak Wilt Program on September 9, 2025. The donation is intended to supplement the Oak Wilt Program's current budget and provide additional reimbursement opportunities for residents.

POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:

- Supports Priority 2.5 Develop, Implement and Update Environmental Sustainability Programs of the Strategic Action Plan
- Acceptance of the donation provides additional reimbursement opportunities to residents for oak wilt mitigation and treatment, helping to ensure the City's urban forest remains healthy and resilient

LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:

For FY 2025-26, the City budgeted \$25,000 for the Oak Wilt Program. This donation of \$10,000 will bring the total budget to \$35,000. The monetary donations will provide additional reimbursement opportunities to residents, further mitigating the spread of oak wilt in Fair Oaks Ranch. These funds are to be made available immediately and used once the City funds are depleted for the fiscal year.

LEGAL ANALYSIS:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:

I move to approve a resolution to accept a monetary donation from the Fair Oaks Ranch Homeowners Association in the amount of \$10,000 for the City's Oak Wilt Program.