



CITY OF LABELLE, FLORIDA
Staff Report
for
Tortilla Plant Tree Removal Permit

TYPE OF CASE: Tree Removal Permit Requiring City Commission Approval

STAFF REVIEWER: Patty Kulak

DATE: April 10, 2025

APPLICANT: Lincoln Heartland LLC

REQUEST: Removal of five (5) significant live oak trees totaling 68 inches DBH from the subject property located at 485 E Lincoln Ave to support the development of a Tortilla Manufacturing Plant, with on-site mitigation in accordance with LDC Section 4-80.

LOCATION: 485 E. Lincoln Avenue

PROPERTY SIZE: 7.01+/- acres

STAFF NARRATIVE:

The applicant is proposing to develop a Tortilla Manufacturing Plant on the subject property located at 485 East Lincoln Avenue and, in conjunction with site development, has submitted a request for a tree removal permit to remove five (5) significant Live Oak trees. These trees include three along the rear of the site measuring approximately 12 inches DBH each, one located along the southern property boundary at 1.2 feet DBH, and one at the front of the property along South Elm Street measuring 1.5 feet DBH. Due to the constraints of site layout, including building placement, parking, site access, and required stormwater systems, removal of these trees is necessary for the project to move forward.

To offset the loss of the significant trees, the applicant is proposing on-site mitigation consisting of the planting of 59 Live Oak trees. Each proposed mitigated tree will meet or exceed the minimum requirements outlined in LDC Section 4-80, including a height of ten (10) feet, a minimum spread of four (4) feet, and a four (4) inch caliper at the time of planting. The proposed number and size of replacement trees will total 234 inches based on the minimum required caliper of 4", which will far exceed the required 68 inches of replacement DBH resulting from the removals.

The LDC provisions relating to the protection of significant oak trees allow for removal subject to replanting requirements as specified in LDC Section 4-80.16.5:

“The replacement Live Oak tree must be at minimum: ten (10) feet in height, contain a four (4) foot spread, and have four (4) inch caliper, DBH, at time of planting. All significant oak tree(s) approved for removal shall be replaced on a DBH inch for DBH inch basis.”

Staff finds the request consistent with the LDC, subject to replanting on-site a total of 59 Live Oak trees, a total minimum replanting of 234 inches, meeting the minimum planting specifications outlined in LDC Section 4-80.16.5.6.

SUGGESTED MOTION(S)

APPROVAL:

I make a motion to approve the proposed tree removal permit, subject to the replanting of 59 Live Oak Trees on-site, meeting the minimum size specifications of the Land Development Code.

DENIAL:

I make a motion to deny the proposed tree removal permit.

The request does not meet the intent of the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.

1) Why?

[illegible]

[illegible]