



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: May 8, 2025

APPLICANT: Lincoln Heartland LLC

REQUEST: Removal of seven (7) significant live oak trees totaling 93 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 seven (7) significant Live Oak trees totaling approximately 93 inches DBH. The identified trees are located throughout the development site and the developer states the trees conflict with proposed site improvements, including the building location, parking areas, access drives, utility placements (lift station and gas tank), and the required stormwater management systems. Due to these site constraints, the removal of these trees is requested to allow the project to move forward.

To offset the loss of these significant trees, the applicant proposes on-site mitigation through the planting of twenty-five (25) Live Oak trees. Each replacement tree will meet or exceed the minimum specifications outlined in LDC Section 4-80, including a minimum height of ten (10) feet, a four (4) foot spread, and a four (4) inch caliper at the time of planting. The cumulative DBH provided through the replacement trees (96 inches) will exceed the required 93 inches of mitigation for the removed Live Oaks.

The Land Development Code provisions regarding 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 Land Development Code, subject to the replanting of twenty-five (25) Live Oak trees on-site, meeting or exceeding the specifications outlined in LDC Section 4-80.16.5.6, and ensuring a minimum total mitigation of 96 inches of DBH.

SUGGESTED MOTION(S)

APPROVAL:

I make a motion to approve the proposed tree removal permit, subject to the replanting of twenty-five (25) Live Oak trees on-site, each meeting the minimum size specifications outlined in 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]