



County of Yolo

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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TO: THE HONORABLE DAVE ROSENBERG, Chairman
and Members of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: JOHN BENCOMO, Director,
Linda Fiack, Resource Manager
Planning and Public Works Department

DATE: April 30, 2002

SUBJECT: Update on County Ordinances Pertaining to Implementation of the Legacy of Trees Guidelines and the Regional Urban Forest Master Plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors:

1. **CONSIDER** and file this update on existing County ordinances pertaining to trees and how they can be used for shading and energy conservation throughout the County;
2. **DIRECT** staff to use the attached lists of trees as a reference when implementing County tree planting projects and reviewing projects for approval under current County ordinances; and
3. **DIRECT** staff to return to the Board of Supervisors with a presentation by the Sacramento Tree Foundation on the Final Regional Urban Forest Master Plan, upon completion.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

The recommended actions will provide the Board of Supervisors with current information on existing County ordinances pertaining to trees, and with recommendations of how trees can be used for shading and energy conservation as part of the County's participation in the Regional Urban Forest Master Plan (Master Plan), and through the implementation of the Legacy of Trees Guidelines approved by the Board on July 10, 2001.

BACKGROUND:

On July 10, 2001, the Board of Supervisors approved County participation in the development of a Master Plan and appointed Supervisor Wolk as the County's representative to the interagency steering committee created to oversee development of the proposed Plan. Approval was also given at that time for implementation of the Legacy of Trees Guidelines. As a participant in the effort to develop a Master Plan, scheduled for completion within the next few months, the County has actively contributed to regional and local efforts to utilize trees as a resource for providing shading and energy conservation, and to improve air quality. The County has been instrumental in facilitating efforts to provide an avenue for input and partnerships between the Woodland Tree Foundation, TREE Davis, Caltrans, and other interested participants. These efforts have resulted in the initiation of projects such as the enhancement of Highway 113 in which the use of trees was promoted as a primary resource for beautification of this heavily used corridor between the cities of Woodland and Davis.

Along with the approval for the County to participate in the development of a Master Plan and implement the Legacy of Trees Guidelines, staff was requested to return to the Board with information pertaining to ordinances and input as to ways to enhance the use of trees in projects throughout the County. A list of pertinent existing County ordinances is provided as **Attachment A**.

These ordinances have been taken into consideration in the planning and review of proposed development projects by the staff of the Planning and Public Works Department. This is exhibited by the inclusion of landscaping requirements made a part of the approvals for residential developments such as the Parker Place and Country West II subdivisions currently underway in the community of Esparto, and in projects still in the final planning stages such as the Wildwings Development. Adherence to the ordinances is also apparent in the implementation of public benefit projects such as parks and roadway corridors, and related mediation. Most recently, Parks staff has completed the Millennium Tree Grant Project, utilizing the services of volunteer efforts at such locations as Grasslands Regional Park, and increased tree planting will continue as a part of the most recent plan for revitalization of various County Park facilities.

The Legacy of Trees Guidelines, recommended by the Parks, Recreation and Wildlife Advisory Committee and adopted by the Board of Supervisors on July 10, 2001, is a reference used by Planning and Public Works staff in determining the types of trees and landscaping to be recommended for a particular project. It is a working document that reflects input from organizations such as TREE Davis and the Woodland Tree Foundation. The attached lists of trees (**Attachment B**) recommended for urban and rural development and landscaping projects has been created utilizing these Guidelines, as well as input from TREE Davis and the City of Woodland approved tree list. Staff is recommending approval of the Board of Supervisors to use the lists as a reference for the types of trees to be used in urban and rural development and landscaping projects, as noted, throughout the County.

Staff will continue efforts to keep pace with the trends and implementation of programs, locally and regionally, to encourage the identification of opportunities to use trees for shading and energy conservation, and will arrange for a Sacramento Tree Foundation presentation on the Master Plan when it is completed. Also, review of existing ordinances for compatibility with these efforts will continue as a part of the proposed update of zoning codes, as relates to commercial and residential developments.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

The proposed action will not have an impact on the General Fund. Staff will continue to seek grants and donations for future tree planting projects for implementation of the programs identified in the proposed action.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Planning and Public Works Parks staff is continuing to encourage an awareness among other County departments, including the Central Services Division and the Ag. Department, of the existing ordinances pertaining to tree planting and use in projects throughout the County. Staff is also working with the Sacramento Tree Foundation, the California Department of Forestry, Caltrans, and other appropriate agencies to provide a regional approach.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A.** County Ordinances
- Attachment B.** Urban and Rural Tree Lists

COUNTY CODE

Sec. 8-1.708. Other requirements.

(e) *Trees*: Existing trees shall be preserved within any public way wherever, in the opinion of the Commission, such trees are suitably located, healthy, and of desirable variety and where approved grading permits the preservation of such trees. Where required, street trees of an approved type shall be planted in accordance with the County Standards.

Article 8. Tentative Maps

Sec. 8-1.802. Form.

(19) A statement as to the proposed landscaping and tree planting plan;

Article 10. Public Improvements

Sec. 8-1.1001. Required.

(j) The planting of trees as required;

Sec. 8-2.2403. Fences, walls, hedges, and trees.

(b) Where trees are located within twenty (20') feet of intersected street lines, the main trunks of such trees shall be trimmed free of branches to a height of seven and one-half (7 1/2') feet above the curb grade. (§ 25.03, Ord. 488)

Sec. 8-2.2512. Screening and landscaping

Off-street parking areas for more than five (5) vehicles shall be screened effectively by a masonry wall or solid fence, of a design acceptable to the Planning Director, along each side or rear lot line which adjoins a residential (R) zone; provided, however, such wall, from the front property line to a depth equal to the required front yard on the abutting R-zoned property, shall be three (3') feet in height and shall be maintained in good condition without any advertising thereon. As an alternative, screen planting of plant material and design approved by the Planning Director may be substituted for a solid fence or wall provided a bond in an amount specified by the Planning Director, guaranteeing the installation and maintenance of such screen planting, is posted with the County.

The Commission may modify any or all of such screening requirements when, due to special conditions of the size or shape of the lot, differences in elevations between lots, or intervening features such as waterways and other man-made or geographical features, or the distance of the parking area from the adjoining lot, it reasonably appears that the objectives of this section are otherwise accomplished.

(§ 26.12, Ord. 488)

CHAPTER 2**ELM TREES****Sec. 10-2.01. Prohibition.**

No person shall import into or export from the County any plants, or parts thereof, of the genus *Ulmus*, including firewood, logs, cuttings, bark, branches, or mature trees. (§ 1, Ord. 737, eff. October 13, 1975)

Sec. 10-2.02. Violation: Penalties.

Any person who violates the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished as set forth in Chapter 2 of Title 1 of this Code. (§ 1, Ord. 737, eff. October 13, 1975)

Sec. 11-2.415. Tree trimming.

The licensee shall not, and shall prohibit any officer, agent, employee, contractor or subcontractor which it retains from removing or trimming any tree or portions thereof (either above, at or below ground level), which is located within a street without the prior written approval of the Director of Public Works of the County. Such consent may be given or withheld upon such terms and conditions as the Director of Public Works deems appropriate. Each licensee shall be responsible for, shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the City and its officers, agents and employees from and against any and all damages arising out of or resulting from the removal, trimming, mutilation of or any injury to any tree or trees proximately caused by the licensee or its officers, agents, employees, contractors or subcontractors. (§ 1, Ord. 1095, eff. July 27, 1989)

RECOMMENDED TREES FOR RURAL AND URBAN LANDSCAPING

RURAL TREES

Blue Oak
Valley Oak
California Sycamore
Oregon Ash

URBAN TREES

London Plane
Hackberry (European/Chinese)
Pistache
Zelkova
Elm (Siberian)
Cork Oak
Hornbeam
Maple (Campestre)
Camphor

CITY OF WOODLAND (Approved List)

Akebano Cherry
Aristocrat Pear
Chinese Pistache
Crape Myrtle
Eastern Redbud

These varieties are good for planter strips.

Evergreen
Coast Redwood
Cork Oak
Holly Oak
Southern Live Oak

Good for large open space

TREE DAVIS APPROVED

Carob
Redbud
Maidenhair Tree
Crape Myrtle
Pinus Elderica
Chinese Pistache
London Plane
Ornamental Pear
Live Oak
Valley Oak
Pin Oak
Cork Oak
Coast Redwood