

CITY COUNCIL ACTION REQUEST

Department(s): Transportation, Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services	CEQA: Categorically Exempt, File No. ER22-049, CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 for Existing Facilities.	Coordination: City Attorney's Office and City Manager's Budget Office	Dept. Approval: /s/ John Ristow /s/ Jon Cicirelli CMO Approval:  1/23/24
Council District(s): Citywide			

SUBJECT: GOOGLE, LLC DONATION OF TREES FOR CITYWIDE PLANTING

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution accepting a donation from Google, LLC of 544 trees that are valued at \$258,315 to be planted throughout the City of San José in median islands, road backups, and parks.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The recommended action allows the Department of Transportation and the Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Department to accept a donation from Google, LLC of 544 trees to be planted citywide.

As described in the Community Forest Management Plan, tree canopy cover decreased from 15.36 percent in 2012 to 13.54 percent in 2018. Since the Community Forest Management Plan adoption, the Department of Transportation and the Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Department are on track to plant and establish over 2,000 trees per year by partnering with Our City Forest and contractors. Due to high demand of good quality tree stock in the nursery industry, sourcing trees is one of the challenges faced when executing planting projects.

Google, LLC has cultivated a surplus of high quality, native trees that will make excellent shade trees for San José. Areas for planting these trees have been identified and prioritized, especially in areas with the lowest canopy cover or where trees have been lost. These donated trees will be planted by Our City Forest and contractors. The donated trees will continue to be stored at their point of origin, in Gilroy, California, and the vendor or planting partner responsible for a planting project will pick trees up directly and plant them in San José when needed. Staff's goal is to plant all the donated trees by the fall of 2024.

Commission Recommendation/Input: No commission recommendation or input is associated with this action.

COST AND FUNDING SOURCE:

The recommendation in this action request will allow the City to accept trees that are valued at \$258,315. Existing funding sources for tree planting efforts will be utilized to plant, water, and establish the donated trees.

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: Sara Davis, City Forester, Department of Transportation, at (408) 794-7165.