

## 2.18 Actions Related to the Urban Forestry Services Reserve Funding.



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR  
AND CITY COUNCIL

**SUBJECT:** URBAN FORESTRY SERVICES  
RESERVE FUNDING

**FROM:** Jim Ortbal  
Jennifer Maguire

**DATE:** May 15, 2017

Approved

D. DSL

Date

5/24/17

**COUNCIL DISTRICT: 4**

## RECOMMENDATION

- (a) Adopt the following 2016-2017 Appropriation Ordinance amendments in the General Fund:
- (1) Decrease the Urban Forestry Services Reserve in the amount of \$200,000;
  - (2) Increase the Non-personal/Equipment appropriation to the Transportation Department in the amount of \$200,000.

## OUTCOME

Approval of these actions will allow the Department of Transportation (DOT) to enter into an agreement with Our City Forest (OCF) to implement tree planting projects and community education on urban forestry in support of the BeautifySJ Program.

## BACKGROUND

Our City Forest (OCF) is a San Jose-based non-profit whose mission is to cultivate a green and healthy Silicon Valley by engaging community members in the appreciation, protection, growth and maintenance of our urban ecosystem, in particular the City's community forest. The City of San Jose is fortunate to have a longstanding partnership with OCF that dates back to 1994.

Currently, the City provides two ongoing grants and other one-time funding managed by the Department of Transportation. OCF also performs work in coordination with the Environmental Services Department (ESD) and Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) on a fee for service basis. Our City Forest provides a wide array of services for the City of San Jose which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- OCF provides tree planting and establishment care services directly to the City of San José for its parkstrips, medians, neighborhood parks, community centers and libraries.

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- OCF recruits and trains AmeriCorps service members to be urban forestry and outreach specialists who assist the community with their tree care needs.
- OCF organizes volunteers and conducts numerous (50+) neighborhood tree planting events on an annual basis increasing both the public's awareness of the Community Forest and sense of community.
- OCF provides education and awareness training about the community forest to local schools, community groups and individual residents.
- OCF uses the City of San José funds as leverage to obtain hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional funding from numerous other State and Federal grants and private donors.

On October 18, 2016, the City Council approved a \$200,000 Urban Forestry Services Reserve as part of the 2015-2016 Annual Report. The reserve was established for future work related to the cultivation of plants and young trees, planting and care for trees in neighborhoods, schools, and parks, and for educating the community on urban forestry and environmental issues. On March 17, 2017, the City Council adopted the March Mayor's Budget Message directing the allocation of this funding to Our City Forest to support BeautifySJ. Approval of the above recommendation will appropriate the reserve funds for this purpose.

### **ANALYSIS**

In support of BeautifySJ, DOT will work with OCF to improve the condition and aesthetics of landscaped medians and roadside areas along major corridors at key entry points into the City. These areas have remained mostly devoid of landscape and have historically received multiple requests for services. DOT will establish an agreement with OCF for the following items:

- Install approximately 110 15-gallon trees and 2,000 cubic yards of wood chip mulch to reduce weed growth and improve tree performance. This includes over 162,000 square feet of landscape within 20 median islands spanning 2.7 miles of roadway.
- Promote community engagement on urban forestry and environmental issues at various City Council, community and educational events over the next year. The community outreach services and the proposed planting project, as described above will be performed as part of the City's Master Fee Agreement with OCF.
- Purchase equipment, trees and assorted supplies for the tree planting, mulching, and critical tree establishment and care (watering, pruning, stake removal, etc.) for a three-year period. An amendment to OCF's operating grant will be made to include these equipment purchases.

### **EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

No additional follow up actions are expected at this time.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

This memorandum will be posted to the City's website for the June 6, 2017, City Council Agenda.

### **COORDINATION**

This memo has been coordinated with the Mayor's Office, and the City Attorney's Office.

### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION/INPUT**

No commission recommendation or input is associated with this action.

### **FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT**

The release of the funds and the resulting grant agreement aligns with the Strategic Framework for the San Jose Community Forest Management Plan and supports Goal #9 of the City's Green Vision to plant a net 100,000 trees in San José by 2022.

### **COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS**

This funding supports Our City Forest Operating costs related to tree planting and installation of mulch (\$130,000); purchase of equipment, trees, and other supplies (\$50,000); and promotion of community engagement (\$20,000).

**BUDGET REFERENCE**

The table below identifies the fund and appropriations proposed to fund the recommendation.

| Fund # | Appn # | Appn Name                       | Total Appn   | Recommended Action | 2016-2017 Adopted Operating Budget Page | Last Budget Action (Date, Ord. No.) |
|--------|--------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 001    | 8486   | Urban Forestry Services Reserve | \$200,000    | (\$200,000)        | N/A                                     | 10/18/2016, 29803                   |
| 001    | 0512   | Non-Personal / Equipment        | \$11,908,452 | \$200,000          | VIII-319                                | 06/21/2016, 29762                   |

**CEQA**

Exempt, Section 15304(b) Minor Alterations to Land, File No. PP13-073.

/s/  
JIM ORTBAL  
Director of Transportation

*Margaret McCahan for*  
JENNIFER A. MAGUIRE  
Senior Deputy City Manager/  
Budget Director

For questions, please contact Russell Hansen, City Arborist, at (408) 794-1914.