



CITY OF HAYWARD
AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE 02/15/00
AGENDA ITEM _____
WORK SESSION ITEM WS#3

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Director of Community and Economic Development
SUBJECT: Tree Preservation

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council review and comment on this report.

BACKGROUND:

The Minimum Design and Performance Standards contained in the City's *Zoning Ordinance* include a provision for landscape maintenance, including trees. The pertinent section of the zoning ordinance states that: "*Required street, parking lot, and buffer trees shall not be severely pruned, topped or pollarded (cut back to the trunk).*" When this occurs, the property owner is required to replace these trees in order to maintain the minimum landscape obligation.

According to the National Arbor Day Foundation, severely pruning or topping a tree has long-term effects. Not only does it destroy the tree's beauty, it causes increased risk to its health.

- Temporarily cuts off the tree's food-making ability.
- Exposes bark tissue to direct sun, which may result in scalding.
- Stubbed limbs do not heal and are highly vulnerable to insects and disease.
- Weak limbs develop where the larger limb was truncated.
- Severe pruning results in rapid new growth (usually the opposite of the reason for pruning - to control height and spread).
- In older trees, it often leads to death.
- Even with regrowth, the tree never regains the grace and character of its species.

During the past year, an increasing number of trees on commercial, industrial and multi-family residential properties throughout Hayward have been severely pruned in violation of the ordinance as shown in the photographs attached. Although property owners are required to replace these trees, in nearly all cases the replacement tree is not even close to the size and stature of the tree lost since the size of transplanted trees has a physical limit.

City ordinances do not establish a fine for topping or severe pruning, nor do they establish criteria for replacements. Fines may be an effective way to deter this type of tree mutilation.

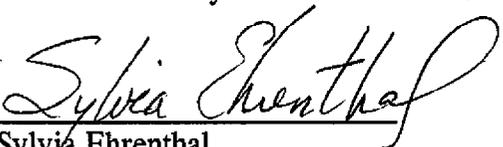
Further, establishing specific criteria for tree replacements would aid in effective enforcement of the City's Minimum Design and Performance Standards with respect to tree maintenance.

The staff seeks guidance from Council relative to the preparation of appropriate regulations with regard to the establishment of fines and specific criteria for tree replacement. Based on Council direction, the pertinent material will be prepared and presented to you for action.

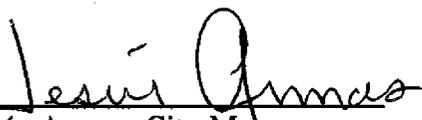
Prepared by:


Cathy Woodbury, ASLA/AICP
Principal Planner/Landscape Architect

Recommended by:


Sylvia Ehrental
Director of Community and Economic Development

Approved by:


Jesús Armas, City Manager

Attachments: Exhibit A - Photographs



7-11 24476 Mission Boulevard



Discovery Inn 305/333 Jackson Street



KFC 1299 W. Tennyson Road



25757 SOTO ROAD
(Trees have since been replaced).

EXHIBIT A