



## **CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT**

**TO:** Honorable City Council **Item No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** City Administrator

**SUBJECT:** I-5 Joint Powers Authority/Caltrans Urban Reforestation Program

**MEETING DATE:** January 7, 2017

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

City Council to receive and file a report on the I-5 Joint Powers Authority/Caltrans Urban Reforestation Program.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:**

This item is related to a specific 2016 Strategic Goal –“Fiscal Sustainability” and guiding principle - “create and pursue opportunities for collaboration and regional partnerships to maximize resources and address regional issues.”

### **ANALYSIS:**

As part of the I-5 Joint Powers Authority (JPA) scope of work, the JPA must prepare and implement an Urban Reforestation Program as a Mitigation Project which will detail the planting, maintenance and monitoring of thirty thousand (30,000) trees in communities along the I-5 Corridor and areas outside the immediate project area within Los Angeles County. The goal of the Mitigation Project is to reduce the carbon footprint created by widening the I-5 Freeway from the Orange County border to the 605 Freeway as approved in accordance with the 2007 Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

There are approximately 7700 trees being planted within the JPA cities. This work includes monitoring the trees for up to two years. The JPA will also arrange for future maintenance of the trees. The tree planting project to has a component for each city that includes parkway, non-parkway and a residential neighborhood tree giveaway. The City of Commerce will receive approximately 1,000 parkway/open space trees and an additional 200 trees for private residential properties at no cost to the City or residents. The trees were selected in accordance with the City’s Tree Policy and approved tree species list. The public parkway/open space trees will be planted by the awarded contractor at City-determined locations and the residential trees will need to be planted on private property by the resident.

A bid specification for tree planting and maintenance was developed to hire a contractor to perform this work for all JPA cities receiving trees. The I-5 JPA Board approved, in concept, the bid specification and the Caltrans agreement at their January 2016 meeting. The final agreement will be presented to the I-5 JPA Board for execution at an upcoming meeting.

The draft schedule includes the City of Norwalk, as the lead, bidding out the project in April 2017 so that a contractor can be selected and complete a fall 2017 planting cycle. There are up to 4 planting cycles included within the program and staff is not aware at this time if Commerce would receive its trees this year or in a future cycle since the bid specifications do not specify where the contractor must start and end the tree planting. The contractor, once hired, will need to submit a workplan to the I-5 JPA for approval which will outline their proposed planting plan. In addition, there is a two-year plant establishment period with each planting cycle. Also included in the contract are reporting requirements regarding the number of trees planted, a work program for every cycle, mortality guarantee of 100% within the cities as well as required calculations to quantify the carbon sequestering benefit.

Each City will approve and execute a no-cost permit to the contractor selected for the tree planting project. The City will provide direction on where the trees are to be planted as well as provide City inspection at no cost.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve staff recommendation
2. Disapprove staff recommendation
3. Provide further direction to staff

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact to the City of Commerce. The grant is approximately \$4.8 million and will be directly administered by Caltrans via payment to the contractor selected by the I-5 JPA. The JPA will not receive any direct funding.

Approved by: Maryam Babaki, Director of Public Works and Development Services

Prepared by: Gina Nila, Deputy Director of Public Works Operations

Reviewed by: Vilko Domic, Finance Director

Approved as to form: Eduardo Olivo, City Attorney

Respectfully submitted: Jorge Rifá, City Administrator