

RESOLUTION NO. 17-88

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE,
CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A REVISED TREE POLICY AND MASTER TREE
PLAN LIST FOR CITY-OWNED PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAYS AND PARKS**

WHEREAS, the City adopted a Tree Policy and Master Tree Plan List for City-owned public right-of-ways and parks on June 15, 2010 which includes 51 varieties of trees; and

WHEREAS, even though the Policy allows for only 51 varieties of trees, there are 121 varieties of trees in existence in the City; and

WHEREAS, not all of the 121 varieties are appropriate for the City's parkways, which increases maintenance costs due to each species requiring different care and pruning cycles; and

WHEREAS, in addition, staff prunes Ficus trees throughout the City on an annual basis in an attempt to minimize their growth and potential sidewalk damage due to their root structure; and

WHEREAS, the City's Tree Policy is in need of revision to reduce sidewalk displacements and encroachment of tree roots onto private property and to address certain situations and public requests including the following:

1. Types of trees most appropriate for three types of locations: parkways, median islands, and open space such as parks which accommodate climate and water conservation needs.
2. Citywide Ficus tree removals in parkways through a phased approach.
3. Policy to address residents and businesses not wanting trees in parkways fronting their property.
4. Emergency tree-removal services on private property posing a risk to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends a limited phased removal of Ficus in residential areas over an extended period of time to minimize the aesthetic impact at a cost of approximately \$30,000 annually and replacing the Ficus in accordance with the City's revised Master Tree Plan List; and

WHEREAS, staff also recommends continuation of the Policy for tree removal and planting location selection which allows the City to make the ultimate determination.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DECLARE, AND DETERMINE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above findings are true and correct, and are incorporated herein.

Section 2. The proposed Tree Policy qualifies for a Class 8 Categorical Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, section 15308. Class 8 consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by State or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment.

Section 3. The revised Tree Policy and Master Tree Plan List is hereby approved.

Section 4. The implementation of a phased Ficus tree replacement program and annual project appropriation of \$30,000 from Measure AA funds, with the Committee's concurrence, beginning in Fiscal Year 2016/17, is hereby approved.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 15^h day of August 2017.

Oralia Rebollo
Mayor

ATTEST:

Lena Shumway
City Clerk