



CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

TO: Honorable City Council

Item No. _____

FROM: City Administrator

SUBJECT: Circle 3.0 Urban Tree Planting Project

MEETING DATE: May 1, 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is seeking recommendations from the City Council with respect to community organizations or local groups that the City Council would like that staff and project partners assist with public education and planting of trees throughout Commerce.

ANALYSIS:

As part of the environmental review for the State of California's High Speed Rail Project, State of California created the CAL Fire Urban Forest Expansion High Speed Rail Grant to plant trees as a project mitigation effort. The purpose of the grant is to partner with cities and community groups throughout the State who are disadvantaged communities within 25 miles of the proposed High Speed Rail Phase 1 Corridor, which includes the Los Angeles area to plant and maintain new trees. (The proposed statewide alignment map is attached).

State of California has partnered with the California Urban Forest Council, Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), and West Coast Arborists (WCA) for project management and implementation. These partners contacted City staff to share an opportunity to receive free trees under the "Invest from the Ground Up" – California Initiative to Reduce Carbon and Limit Emissions 3.0 (CIRCLE) Urban Tree Planting Project.

The City of Commerce falls within the grant criteria and will receive 200 15-gallon trees for planting in the public right-of-way and 200 1-gallon trees for residents at no cost. The City is not allowed to pay the difference to plant larger trees. However, the City will be able to select trees from its own Tree Policy and Master Tree Plan List and identify planting sites in the public right-of-way. Residents would plant the tree themselves on their private property and agree to water both private and parkway trees as required by the City's Tree Policy, Municipal Code and grant.

The public trees will be added to the City's inventory and monitored for 2-years with one structural prune at no cost to the City to ensure healthy tree establishment. Monitoring

visits include checking the trees' health, stakes, and mulch. As a result of monitoring, the project manager may contact residents to let them know that the tree is receiving too much or too little water and/or any other health conditions noted. Tree replacement will be handled on a case-by-case basis should the tree die dependent on the cause of death such as vandalism, lack of watering or bad nursery stock.

Cities are encouraged to recommend community organizations or local groups to work with the project partners on public education and planting the trees in the public right-of-way. The project manager will coordinate with the City a volunteer training workshop in Commerce.

The proposed project timeline is as follows:

Timeline	Action
June 2018 – March 2019	Volunteer training workshop, secure water agreements, plan planting event.
March – April 2019	1-day planting event coordinated with Arbor Day and Earth Day.
April 2019 – March 2022	Monitoring and follow-up to ensure tree watering.

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.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:

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

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: Norma Copado, Assistant City Attorney
Respectfully submitted: Edgar P. Cisneros, City Administrator

Attachments: Proposed high speed rail alignment maps (2)