

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: October 18, 2021

Reviewed by: NA

SUBJECT: Amending the City Master Fee Schedule to remove the fee for new street trees and associated concrete removal for planting.

REPORT BY: Anne Hsu, City Clerk

SUMMARY

On October 18, 2021 the Council approved a recommendation as submitted by Vice Mayor Jordan to direct staff to prepare a resolution to 1) remove the charge for new street trees and concrete removal for planting them from the Master Fee Schedule in order to make them free to requestors, 2) provide a watering bag with each new street tree as appropriate to the species, and 3) pay for these with Measure DD revenue. This report is provided in follow up to this item to submit said resolution for adoption by the City Council to amend the City Master Fee Schedule.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2021-102, amending the City Master Fee Schedule to remove the fees for new street trees and associated concrete removal for planting to make trees free for requestors and funded by Measure DD revenue.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

On October 18, 2021 the Council approved a recommendation as submitted by Vice Mayor Jordan to direct staff to prepare a resolution to 1) remove the charge for new street trees and concrete removal for planting them from the Master Fee Schedule in order to make them free to requestors, 2) provide a watering bag with each new street tree as appropriate to the species, and 3) pay for these with Measure DD revenue. This report is provided in follow up to this item to submit said resolution for adoption by the City Council to amend the City Master Fee Schedule.

SUSTAINABILITY/SOCIAL EQUITY IMPACT

As provided in the October 4, 2021 Memorandum submitted by Vice Mayor Jordan, if the recommended policy increases the rate of street tree planting, this will reduce temperatures compared to what would otherwise occur and increase the share of trips completed by walking and biking. Besides supporting health, reducing temperatures by accelerating tree coverage would reduce the rate of air conditioning installation and

utilization of existing air conditions. The first reduces capital costs for those households that are able to afford to install air conditioning at all. Both reduce demand for electricity, which needs to be conserved to meet other demands, such as for air conditioning in hotter locations of the State and for electric vehicle charging.

CITY COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE

Goal 1, Objective 1, which is to “advance climate action and adaptation.”

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost for planting street trees, upon request from residents, will be paid by proceeds from Measure DD which was adopted by the voters in November 2020, and includes commitment to furthering local action regarding climate change.

Attachments

1. Resolution No. 2021-102 with Exhibit A – Master Fee Schedule
2. October 4, 2021 Memorandum – Vice Mayor Jordan