Sacramento Tree Ordinances Update
Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting
October 30, 2013

presented to

Stakeholder Advisory Committee

presented by

Sacramento Tree Ordinances Update Project Team
Project Background
Joe Benassini
City of Sacramento Urban Forester
Project Goals

- Ensure the ordinance reflects public opinion
- Align urban forestry policies with the City’s vision of future development
- Serve as a foundation for an urban forestry master plan
Project Objectives

• Make the ordinance clear and concise
  – If people don’t understand it they will not respect or obey it

• Incorporate three separate ordinances into a single document
  – SCC 12.56 – Trees Generally
  – SCC 12.60 – Dutch Elm-Disease
  – SCC 12.64 – Heritage Trees

• Align policies with City planning, engineering and community development work groups

• Create an advisory body

• Basis to develop urban forestry standards and guidelines
Basic Elements of Ordinances

- Title
- Findings
- Purpose and intent
- Definitions
  - Interpretation
- Jurisdiction
- Policies
- Liability
  - Abate hazards
- Prohibit interference

- Appeals
- Penalties
- Enforcement
- Performance evaluation
  - Periodic review
- Severability
- Administrative responsibility
  - Advisory group
City of Sacramento :: City of Trees

Sterling Tree City USA
Project Objectives and Approach
Jamie Gomes
EPS, Principal-in-Charge
Purpose of Ordinances

- Manage
- Enhance
- Sustain
Existing Conditions

- Multiple ordinances
- Lack of consistency
- Inefficient processes
- Need for enhanced performance standards
- Lack of certainty/predictability for development/design community
Inclusive Approach

• Complete Ordinance Update to Achieve City Goals

• Project Team
  – City Urban Forester
  – Consultant team
  – City working group (department representatives)
  – Stakeholder advisory committee (SAC)
Steps

Comprehensive Process

• Gather information to define issues
• Identify policies/practices to retain
• Prepare strategic plan and ordinance update outline
  – Problem definition
  – Strategic Goals, Objectives and Guiding Principles
  – Operational, Financial and Implementation Plan
• Stakeholder input (internal and external)
• Case study research
• Prepare strategic plan and updated ordinance
Tree Ordinances Update Work Flow

EPS Team and City Project Manager

- Existing City Policies/Practices to Retain
- Working Group Input
- Urban Forestry Science
- Industry Best Practices (Case Studies)
- Stakeholder Input

Strategic Plan Outline
- Problem Definition
- Guiding Principles & Goals
- Guide for Operational & Financial Plan

Strategic Plan and Updated Tree Ordinance

- Policy Options
- Operational & Financial Plan
- Updated Ordinance(s) and Fee(s)

Administrative Draft Plan

Public Review Draft Plan

Final Draft Plan (to City Council)
Output and Schedule

- Strategic Plan and Tree Ordinance
- Updated tree ordinance presented to the following bodies:
  - Law and Legislation Committee
  - Parks and Recreation Commission
  - Planning Commission
  - City Council
- Approximately 11-month process
Estimated Project Schedule

**Task 1: Prepare Strategic Plan and City Tree Ordinance**

**Task 1.1:** Conduct Project Initiation

**Task 1.2:** Prepare Strategic Plan Outline

**Task 1.3:** Synthesize Background Documentation

**Task 1.4:** Conduct Case Study Research

**Task 1.5:** Conduct Stakeholder Outreach

**Task 1.6:** Prepare Strategic Plan and Updated Tree Ordinance

**Task 1.7:** Attend Meetings

- Project Team/ Working Group Meetings
- Stakeholder Outreach
- Commission/Agency/Council Meetings

**NOTE:**
This is an estimate of the timeline to complete the attached scope of services. Please note, the schedule also will depend on the responsiveness and involvement of City staff and other stakeholders.

- City Staff and Consultant Meeting
- Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting
- Stakeholder Advisory Committee Tour
- Draft Outline
- Draft Report/ Ordinance
- Parks and Recreation Commission Hearing
- City Council Law & Legislation Committee Hearing
- Final Outline
- Final Report/ Ordinance
- Planning Commission or City Council
- Precise timing and sequence of Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council Law & Legislation Committee, Planning Commission and City Council meetings remains to be determined.
Project Team Contact Information

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