



Sacramento Tree Ordinance Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting #5 Summary

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
300 Richards Blvd., Sacramento

Meeting Attendees

Project team members in attendance included:

- Joe Benassini, City of Sacramento
- Deanna Hickman, City of Sacramento
- Amy Lapin, EPS
- Jamie Gomes, EPS
- Gene Endicott, Endicott Communications

Approximately 21 stakeholder organization representatives and/or community members attended the meeting.

Meeting Introduction and Purpose

Gene Endicott provided an overview of the meeting agenda and facilitated Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) and project team self-introductions. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review and solicit feedback on the draft tree ordinance content.

Draft Ordinance Structure and Content

Joe Benassini reviewed the draft tree ordinance structure and content. The current version of the draft includes 12 sections:

1. Findings and Purpose
2. Definitions
3. Inspection, Maintenance and Removal by City
4. Capital Improvement Projects
5. Tree Permits
6. Appeals
7. Maintenance Responsibility and Liability of Property Owners and Public Utilities
8. Legacy Trees
9. Tree List
10. Violations
11. Solar Shade Control Act
12. Liability



The attached PowerPoint presentation used in the stakeholder meeting and the “Summary of Tree Ordinance Revisions” detail the proposed ordinance content.

Issues Raised by Stakeholders

- Concern about impact of the new ordinance on the Urban Forestry Master Plan.
- Want to see Master Plan elements continue in context of the new ordinance.
- Would like to see more coordination internally between departments on planning and enforcement issues.
- 10-day permit noticing is inadequate.
- Concern about changing definition of “heritage tree” to “private protected tree.” Makes it seem easier to remove those trees.
- How is “excellent health” defined for purposes of identifying legacy trees and is that too high of a standard?
- Want more clarity regarding role of private property owner in identification of legacy trees.
- Coordinate tree list with other experts, including those working on air quality.
- Financial penalties should also be for restitution in addition to daily fines.
- Legacy trees don’t belong in the program because the goal could be accomplished as a Public Works program. (Legacy Trees section has been removed from the proposed updated ordinance.)

Next Steps

Amy Lapin reviewed the current schedule for City review of the proposed revised ordinance. Next steps include:

- Continued review and edit by the City Draft Ordinance Review Committee (DORC)
- Presentation of revised ordinance and other ordinance modifications to City Council Law & Legislation Committee.
- Presentation of final report and overview revised ordinance to City Council.
- Establish ongoing focus group for tree-related issues and assistance with update of the Urban Forestry Master Plan.
- Prepare tree list and excluded tree list.
- Establish tree-related fees through City Council resolution (e.g. application fee, compensation for damage or destruction of City Street Tree)
- Establish potential replacement option through City Council resolution for damage of City Street Tree.
- Work with City departments to streamline development application and process for reviewing tree-related issues at onset of project.
- Prepare updated Urban Forestry Master Plan.
- Potential update of Chapter 12.56 “Trees Generally” based on updated Urban Forestry Master Plan content.



City Council Law & Legislation Committee and full City Council consideration of the updated ordinance currently is anticipated to occur in November and December 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.