

PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to conducting public hearings and requiring public notice for the proposed removal of protected trees.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Bonin – Buscaino):

1. REQUEST that the Board of Public Works continue the current practices regarding protected tree removal by notifying the respective Council District Office and Community Forest Advisory Committee, posting on the Tree Removal Notification System, and holding a public hearing.
2. DIRECT the Bureau of Street Services to require protected tree removal applicants to physically post the subject property ten days prior to the public hearing.
3. REQUIRE applicants to provide written notification of proposed protected tree removal to property owners within a 500-foot radius of the effected property.
4. MODIFY the Tree Removal Notification System to allow for property owners to register and receive future notification of proposed protected or street tree removal applications within 500 feet of their residence.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The Bureau of Street Services reports that this action will not impact the General Fund.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On October 13, 2015, Council considered Motion (Bonin – Buscaino) relative to conducting public hearings and requiring public notice for the proposed removal of protected trees. Motion states that the Board of Public Works has adopted a comprehensive street tree removal permit and tree replacement condition policy. Motion movers believe that public notification and hearing requirements for street tree removals should be expanded to include protected trees on private properties, and recommend that Council request the City Attorney to prepare the necessary effectuating ordinance. Council referred Motion to the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee for consideration.

In a report to the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee dated March 1, 2016, the Bureau of Street Services presents four recommendations for expanding the notification process relating to the removal of protected trees from private property. The Bureau states that protected trees constitute a significant cultural and historical component to the region's ecology. Public notification and permit are required for any proposed tree removal. The Bureau recommends a broader, more proactive public notification system. According to the Bureau, Recommendations Nos. 1 and 2 above can be implemented within 90-120 days. Further review and analysis are needed for Recommendation Nos. 3 and 4. Additional staff and funding resources may be needed for their implementation.

At its special meeting held April 11, 2016, the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee

discussed this matter with a representative of the Bureau of Street Services. The Bureau intends to improve its interaction with the City Planning Department and the Department of Building and Safety regarding tree removal. Recommendations will be made for integrating the Bureau's Urban Forestry Division with permit reviews conducted by Planning and Building and Safety. A representative of the 11th Council District Office expressed support for the Bureau's report. Committee members recommended that Council approve the above recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John', written in a cursive style.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
BUSCAINO:	YES
MARTINEZ:	YES
PRICE:	YES
O'FARRELL:	YES
RYU:	YES

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-