

MOTION

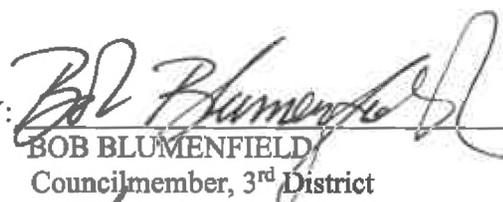
The City has developed multiple community plans and plan overlays to help drive land use decisions and establish neighborhood-specific goals relative to conservation, air quality, and open space preservation. These plans include regulations on the types of trees, plants, and landscaping that can be implemented in a specific area of the City.

Under California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) policy, in order to make landscaping improvements within the State Highway right-of-way, a public agency must enter into a Landscape Maintenance Agreement (LMA) with Caltrans. Currently, Caltrans will not enter into an LMA with any non-governmental entity. If a private firm wishes to make improvements within the State Highway right-of-way they must have a public agency enter into an LMA with Caltrans on their behalf.

In Council District 3, the Warner Center 2035 Specific Plan regulates what type of and how trees and other plants may be planted within the Plan area. Private firms wishing to plant trees and vegetation in accordance with the Plan in areas that fall within the State Highway right-of-way have been unable to do so because of Caltrans's policy.

This is not an issue limited to the Warner Center area. For example, in Council District 12 a private firm has been seeking to make landscaping improvements within the State Highway right-of-way as part of a mixed-use development and has had to request that the City enter into an LMA with Caltrans on their behalf. The City's planning policies have been developed to increase the City tree canopy and encourage the planting of eco-friendly and sustainable vegetation that can beautify a community. The City should ensure that organizations and groups seeking to make landscaping improvements in compliance with these policies are able to do so.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering and Bureau of Street Services, with assistance from the Planning Department, be instructed to report with recommendations on how to address the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) policy requiring public agencies to enter into maintenance agreements with Caltrans on behalf of private entities making improvements within the State Highway right-of-way and to include recommendations specific to improvements within the Warner Center 2035 Specific Plan area.

PRESENTED BY: 
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SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

majs


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