# CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

2007 for 2 2 Fit 3: 00

TO:

Office of the City Administrator

ATTN:

Deborah Edgerly

FROM:

Public Works Agency

DATE:

March 27, 2007

RE:

Resolution Proclaiming Friday, April 27, 2007, to be Oakland's Arbor Day 2007 and Authorizing an Official Tree Planting Ceremony at Golden Gate Recreation Center, 1075 – 62<sup>nd</sup> Street and the California College Preparatory Academy,

6200 San Pablo Avenue

### SUMMARY

The Public Works Agency (PWA) recommends the City Council proclaim Friday, April 27, 2007 as Arbor Day in Oakland and authorize an Official Tree Planting Ceremony at the Golden Gate Recreation Center and California College Preparatory Academy. The project goal is to plant 18 street trees in the sidewalks around the school.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of the attached resolution will have no immediate fiscal impact. The trees that will be planted and the stakes to support them have already been purchased using funds in the Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District Fund (2310) Tree Services Organization (30535) Trees Account (52116). The cost of the trees and stakes was \$955.00. This is a restricted funding source within the Landscape and Lighting District (LLAD) fund. Tree Services' personnel will demonstrate proper tree planting techniques and assist the participants with planting the trees. The ceremony will be held during regular work hours using full-time employees.

# **BACKGROUND**

The City of Oakland has been recognized as a Tree City USA® by the National Arbor Day Foundation for twenty-four years. This prestigious award acknowledges the City of Oakland's commitment to tree planting, maintenance and preservation and is celebrated annually with the ceremonial planting of trees. The purpose for these celebrations is to generate interest, educate individuals and initiate the public's activity in urban trees by involving community leaders, students and citizens in planting and caring for trees.

Oakland has celebrated Arbor Day with Official Tree Planting Ceremonies in various parks over the past several years. Recent Arbor Day ceremonies were held in San Antonio Park (2006), deFremery Park (2005), Brookdale Park (2004), Chabot Space and Science Center (2003), Arroyo Viejo Park (2002), Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge and Rotary Nature Center (2001), Verdese Carter Park (2000), and Sobrante Park (1999).

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Planting locations are determined in collaboration with recreation program directors, who help to organize the celebration activities. Neighborhood schools are encouraged to participate in tree planting activities. This year, the celebration will include participation from students of the California College Preparatory Academy, a public charter school.

The trees that are planted will be environmentally tolerant and high quality trees that will assist in creating an urban forest in the city. The celebration includes ceremonial tree plantings, guest speakers and training on the planting and care of trees. Next year, the City of Oakland will again be applying for recognition as a Tree City USA®. Proclaiming and observing Arbor Day is one of the required standards to be considered for a Tree City USA award. This standard requires an approved Resolution that officially proclaims Arbor Day in the City of Oakland.

# **KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS**

There are no identified problems or concerns related to key issues and impacts.

# SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Oakland, like its residents, is well aware that trees positively affect the character and environmental quality of our parks, open space, and residential, commercial, and industrial areas. Trees have dramatic effects aesthetically, ecologically, and often socially. Trees affect air quality, energy conservation, noise abatement, and the reduction of surface water run-off. Involving students and citizens in the planting and care of neighborhood trees has shown to contribute significantly to the psychological health of city dwellers and to the development of pride in neighborhoods.

# DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

The location of the ceremony, tree plantings and associated activities will be accessible to all individuals. The trees will benefit all of Oakland's citizens and visitors equally.

# RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a resolution proclaiming Friday, April 27, 2007, to be Arbor Day 2007 and authorize an Official Tree Planting Ceremony at Golden Gate Recreation Center and the California College Preparatory Academy. This proclamation will meet a standard requirement for the City of Oakland to apply for next year's Tree City USA award.

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# **ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

The Public Works Agency requests that the City Council approve a resolution proclaiming Friday, April 27, 2007 to be Arbor Day 2007, and authorize an Official Tree Planting Ceremony at Golden Gate Recreation Center and the California College Preparatory Academy.

Respectfully submitted,

Rauf Godinez, II, P.H. Director, Public Works Agency

Reviewed by: Bruce Saunders, Assistant Director Department of Infrastructure and Operations

Prepared by: Dan Gallagher, Tree Supervisor II Department of Infrastructure and Operations

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE

CITY COUNCIL:

Office of the City Administrator

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ABSTENTION	٧-			ΔΤ	TEST <sup>.</sup>		

LaTonda Simmons City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the City of Oakland, California