



**CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE**  
300 Forest Avenue, Pacific Grove, California 93950

**AGENDA REPORT**

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** Council Member Susan M. Goldbeck  
**MEETING DATE:** May 3, 2006  
**SUBJECT:** ADOPTION OF A HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM AND A  
REVIEW OF URBAN FOREST PRESERVATION AND  
ENHANCEMENT WITHIN THE CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Refer the adoption of a Heritage Tree Program and a review of urban forest preservation and enhancement within the City to the Beautification and Natural Resources Committee for consideration and a recommendation to Council.**

**DISCUSSION:**

There has been a great deal of concern about the tree situation in Pacific Grove. On the one hand, there has been much public outcry both from residents and businesses that many of our trees in Pacific Grove are dangerous and should be removed to prevent injury or property damage. On the other hand there is much concern about our losing our trees in the Grove by ill-considered tree removal and/or failure to address ailing trees on a timely basis to avoid losing them when treatment comes too late. Of course our financial situation has been a component in all this as we have not had a full time forester for some time.

As part of our Council's resolve, reflected by your unanimous vote last session to give our committees and commissions more Council direction this item is a proposal to refer the issue of tree preservation as well as the enhancement of our urban forest to the Beautification and Natural Resources Committee. This referral should include the committee's consideration of the establishment of a Heritage Tree Program and in particular, using the model of the City of Santa Cruz which has a very effective program.

The Heritage Tree Program is important because it gives special protection by ordinance for the protection of heritage trees on private property. This issue has not been addressed with any consistency in our City.

Finally, I would like to see the committee make some recommendations to the City as to what can be done now in terms of replanting efforts to replace some of our lost trees especially in public places. The committee could also take a look at the effectiveness of the required plantings that are done in connection with building projects, in particular whether follow up has been done to assure compliance.

If money is a problem, I know that citizens used to have tree planting parties in Washington Park to get the job done. One citizen suggested that perhaps our fire department guys could help out as they have some down time in their work but need to be on the job in case

there is a fire or emergency need. There may be other suggestions which are not particularly costly.

Clearly we need to make a start. A little planting every year is better than taking no action at all. Perhaps some grant funding could be found to do some of this important reforestation work as well. In any event, if we do not want our beloved Pacific Grove to be known instead as Pacific Concrete we need to give this issue some attention.

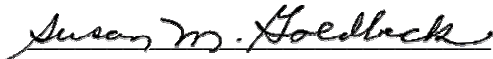
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

NONE

**ATTACHMENTS:**

NONE

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Susan M. Goldbeck  
COUNCILMEMBER