

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (N.C.S.)

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PUBLIC WORKS STAFF TO CONTINUE TO CONDUCT THE ADOPT-A-TREE PROGRAM AND THE APPROVAL OF A REVISED STANDARD PLAN FOR STREET TREES

WHEREAS, the City of Salinas recognizes the many benefits that a city derives from having a healthy urban forest; and

WHEREAS, one measure of a healthy urban forest is the amount of land under tree canopy; and

WHEREAS, the national average for tree canopy coverage is 25%; and

WHEREAS, the City's adopted Urban Greening Plan includes a goal to achieve the national average figure of 25%; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 Salinas' tree canopy was measured at less than eight percent (7.6%); and

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2017, Salinas lost 600 to 1,000 mature trees in a 1-day storm thereby reducing the City's tree canopy coverage; and

WHEREAS, as a normal course of events all trees will eventually die and will need replacing; and

WHEREAS, the City has not had a comprehensive tree planting program for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, City staff have determined that the planting of trees on public land is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (Section 15301, Class 1 [h] and Section 15304, Class 4 [b]) because the project proposes new and/or replacement gardening or landscaping with water efficient plants that exclude the use of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, the planting of trees necessitates their subsequent care, including watering; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 2017, the City Council accepted a grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to, among other actions, plant trees to reduce the City's carbon footprint, and thereby directed staff to implement the program; and

WHEREAS, Public Works has developed a community engagement tree planting program called "Adopt-A-Tree" that will complement existing City tree planting in restoring and growing the City's urban forest; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salinas and Public Works have adequate resources to support the

program, as needed; and

WHEREAS, City desires to promote the program, and inform and engage the community, including the City Council for the many benefits that sharing this information broadly may provide; and

WHEREAS, in tandem with the planting of trees in the Adopt-A-Tree program, staff have revised the City Standard Plan for Street Trees; and

WHEREAS, the revised Street Tree Planting and Staking Standard Plan 11 serves as a baseline reference for tree planting within the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Salinas City Council does hereby find that engaging the community in the planting of trees is a desired and timely endeavor and authorizes staff to continue implementation of the City's Adopt-A-Tree Program, subject to the availability of funds to support the program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Salinas City Council does hereby approve the revised Street Tree Planting and Staking Standard Plan 11 for inclusion into the City's Standard Specifications, Design Standards and Standard Plans. The Street Tree Planting and Staking Standard Plan 11 shall become effective upon City Council approval of this Resolution and shall at that time become applicable to all street tree planting, tree related public improvements and facilities projects.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 6th day of November 2018, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:

Joe Gunter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia M. Barajas, City Clerk