

TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER
FROM: BOB LATA, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR *Bob*
SUBJECT: OAK TREE PRESERVATION, CAL TRANS RIGHT-OF-WAY
DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2000

Needs: For the City Council to consider adoption of a Resolution urging the State / Caltrans to preserve mature oak trees located in the Highway 101 corridor right-of-way.

Facts:

1. The City has received information indicating that Caltrans is proposing to cut down oak trees within the Highway 101 right-of-way corridor.
2. The apparent concern is traffic safety / that automobiles could hit the trees
3. The attached Resolution would emphasize the importance of oak trees to the City of Paso Robles and urge the State / Caltrans to pursue measures to avoid removal of the oak trees (e.g. installing guard rails).
4. The intent would be to forward this Resolution to Caltrans and the City's elected representatives.

Analysis
and

Conclusion: Removal of oak trees in the Highway 101 corridor would create a significant and substantial adverse impact to the City of Paso Robles.

The purpose of the Resolution is to communicate the City's concerns.

Policy
Reference: General Plan; Economic Development Strategy

Fiscal
Impact: None

Options:

- a. That the City Council pass the attached Resolution opposing oak tree remove in and along the Highway 101 right-of-way corridor.
- b. Amend, modify or reject Option "a".

h:\bob\60\cc\00\oak preservation 3 Feb 00

RESOLUTION NO. 00-
A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
CALLING FOR PRESERVATION OF OAK TREES
ALONG THE HIGHWAY 101 RIGHT-OF-WAY

WHEREAS, "El Paso de Robles" means "the pass of the oaks" and thereby there is a strong historical and cultural linkage between preservation of oak trees and the City of El Paso de Robles; and

WHEREAS, the City has an Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance which was adopted in 1989, and that Ordinance declares that it is in the public interest and welfare to preserve oak trees to maintain the heritage and character of the City, as well as to preserve the beauty and identity of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City's Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance explicitly calls for the City to encourage other agencies to comply with the provisions of its Ordinance even if the City does not have legal jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, there exist a number of historically and scenically significant oak trees along and within the Highway 101 corridor at the entry of and through the City of El Paso de Robles, and said trees are closely identified with the Paso Robles community; and

WHEREAS, the City has received indications that there may be discussions underway by the Department of Transportation of the State of California that might lead to the eventual removal of some or perhaps all oak trees located with the Highway 101 right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, removal of mature oak trees within and along the Highway 101 corridor / right-of-way would have a significant and substantial adverse impact on the cultural heritage and the scenic appearance of the City of El Paso de Robles and should, therefore, be avoided by all reasonable means.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FOUND, DETERMINED AND RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles that the City Council hereby respectfully requests that the State of California, California Department of Transportation, and other responsible parties develop and implement such measures as are necessary to preserve, whenever technically feasible, existing mature oak trees in and along the Highway 101 right-of-way corridor. Such measures should include but not be limited to installation of guard rails or other traffic safety devices designed to protect both motorists and mature oak trees.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles, this 15^h day of February, 2000, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharilyn M. Ryan, Deputy City Clerk