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APR 17 2023

CITY OF IRVINE
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Memo

To: Oliver C. Chi, City Manager
From: Larry Agran, Councilmember *LA*
Date: April 17, 2023
Re: **Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP)**

Irvine's urban forest — comprised of approximately 550,000 trees (public and private) — is critical citywide infrastructure that provides widespread community benefits. City staff has appraised the replacement value of Irvine's urban forest at \$181 million. The Public Works and Transportation Department's Landscape Maintenance Division is responsible for over 75,000 City trees and has an annual contracted services budget of over \$3 million. The City of Irvine has been designated as "Tree City USA" for 32 consecutive years by the Arbor Day Foundation.

To further our urban forestation efforts, I am requesting that City Council consider providing direction to City staff to return with the following in Q3 2023.

- An analysis of the current status of the City's Urban Forestry Program.
- Recommendations for developing a comprehensive citywide Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) that provides a framework for future strategies, actions, and measurable outcomes.
- Identification of potential funding sources and opportunities to plant 500,000 new trees within the City's limits, to increase and expand the tree canopy in the City over the next five to ten years.

The UFMP should update the current policies and documents, including the *Urban Forestry Guideline Manual* and *Master Streetscapes Plan*. The timing of this request is to ensure that the UFMP goals coordinate and support both the General Plan Update and the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), which are both underway.

For easy reference, the following documents are attached:

- *Urban Forestry Ordinance (94-08)*. Adopted in 1994 by the Irvine City Council.
- *Irvine Sustainable Community Initiative Ordinance (10-11)*. Adopted by Irvine voters in 2010, this initiative ordinance ratified and implemented

Urban Forest Management Plan
April 17, 2023

policies related to renewable energy and environmental programs for a sustainable community – including an urban forestry program.

By investing in our citywide urban forest, we, can reduce our carbon footprint, decrease energy costs, reduce storm water runoff, increase biodiversity, address the urban heat island effect, clean the air, and increase property values. In addition, trees help to enhance and beautify walkable streets and vibrant pedestrian places.

Please place the above-indicated item on the City Council agenda of May 9, 2023, for discussion and Council action. Thank you.

cc: City Council
City Clerk
City Attorney