

**CITY OF TEMECULA  
AGENDA REPORT**

**TO:** City Manager/City Council

**FROM:** Patrick Thomas, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

**DATE:** February 27, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Approve Resolution to Adopt the Urban Forest Management Plan and Make a Finding it is Exempt from California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15307 and 15061

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**PREPARED BY:** Julie Tarrant, Principal Management Analyst

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the City Council adopt a resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TEMECULA TO ADOPT THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE) 2019/2020 URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAM GRANT GUIDELINES AND FINDING THAT THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15307 AND 15061

**BACKGROUND:** On March 15, 2019, the Department of Public Works applied to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL Fire), for the Temecula Urban Forest Management Plan and Inventory project, for consideration of grant funding from the 2019/20 CAL Fire Urban and Community Forestry Program. On March 20, 2019, we were notified that we had been awarded grant funding in the amount of \$323,930 for our project.

The project included the planting of approximately 300 trees, developing a tree inventory and canopy assessment, preparing an Urban Forest Management Plan, ordinance, and policy updates, and providing tree-planting events for community input. In addition, as part of the grant program guidelines and overall project close out requirements, the City is to formally adopt the Urban Forest Management Plan.

The Public Works Department staff, along with Dudek, a consulting services firm, developed and completed the City of Temecula's Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). The UFMP provides an outline of Temecula's urban forest that will be implemented over the next 40 years, including a strategic plan with goals, objectives, and actions based on identified needs. The UFMP incorporates our current Street Tree Master Plan, the City's existing tree inventory and canopy analysis, and key findings as to current practices, plans, policies, and ordinances.

In accordance with the Urban and Community Forestry Program Grant Guidelines, applicants must agree to officially adopt the Urban Forest Management Plan as a guiding policy document in an ordinance, a general plan element, or other binding, enforceable way as approved by CAL Fire. In addition to the adoption of the UFMP, staff intends to bring forth to City Council for consideration to amend the Temecula Municipal Code tree ordinance to align with policies and ordinance updates, as identified in the UFMP.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the City Council finds, determines and declares that the adoption of the Urban Forest Management Plan is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Sections 15307, 15061(b)(3), and 15378(b)(5) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 exempts from CEQA actions taken by agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3) where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the action will have a significant effect on the environment. The City Council finds determines and declares that adoption of the Urban Forest Management Plan is an action of the City Council specifically designed to and does assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource, in this case the urban forest, where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. The Urban Forest Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regulations. Additionally, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the action will have a significant adverse effect on the environment. In this case the Urban Forest Management Plan will enhance the environment and mitigate several existing adverse conditions affecting the environment. Therefore, City Council of the City of Temecula will therefore adopt a Notice of Exemption for the Ordinance and direct the City Manager or his designee to file it as required by law.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact to Adopt the Urban Forest Management Plan.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution
2. Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP)
3. UFMP Technical Assessment
4. UFMP Appendices