



## Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7  
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CONSENT CALENDAR  
 November 27, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington, Councilmember Kate Harrison, and Councilmember Cheryl Davila  
 Subject: Refer the City Manager to Improve the Current Tree Ordinance and Seek Funding Opportunities to Plant More Trees in the City

### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council refer the City Manager to improve the current tree ordinance to protect more trees, develop policy on street tree/hardscape conflicts, encourage more community initiative and participation in the maintenance and care of our street trees and seek potential funding opportunities to plant more trees in Berkeley.

### BACKGROUND:

Coast Live Oak trees are the only trees with any regulated protection within the City of Berkeley. Ordinance No. 6,905-N.S. placed a moratorium on the removal of Coast Live Oak trees, and prohibits any pruning that is excessive and injurious to the tree. Although there is a permitting process for pruning or removing a city tree, the current ordinance does not protect the many other varying trees that exist in our neighborhoods.

Cities like San Francisco and Portland have developed ordinances that the City of Berkeley can use as a reference for protecting and increasing the diversity of trees within the city. The City of San Francisco has established a Tree Preservation Ordinance, which states that no "protected tree" shall be removed or pruned without a permit. In addition, San Francisco has set in place The Urban Forest Plan, which aims to plant 50,000 trees over the next 20 years. The City of Portland has also established a Tree Code with Tree Preservation Standards, requiring individuals to pay a fee to the Tree Planting and Preservation Fund if protection and preservation standards are not met. Similar to the San Francisco Urban Forest Plan, Portland has implemented the Foster-Powell Tree Plan, which strives to increase the number of trees planted at all planning sites across the city. Referencing such ordinances could lead the City of Berkeley to develop an urban plan of its own, which could involve Partners for Parks, local academic experts, and the Department of Environmental Studies.

Trees are more than just beautiful additions to urban life. They are an essential component to providing enormous environmental and social benefits to the City's ecosystem. They help manage stormwater, reduce air pollution, sequester carbon, save energy, increase property values, foster wildlife habitat, provide a more pleasant

pedestrian experience, and benefit human health. Thus, the Council should refer the City Manager to (1) improve our current tree ordinance to protect more trees and (2) seek potential funding opportunities to plant more trees in Berkeley.

<https://sfpublicworks.org/Permits-trees-and-plants>

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/trees/article/686318>

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/trees/article/520568>

<http://www.ssf.net/departments/parks-recreation/parks-division/trees>

[https://www.cityofberkeley.info/pruning\\_removal/](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/pruning_removal/)

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Minimal.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Consistent with Berkeley's Environmental Sustainability Goals.

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