



# CITY OF SUNNYVALE

## DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

January 8, 2013

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Grace Leung, Director of Finance *Grace Leung*

**FROM:** Drew Corbett, Assistant Director of Finance *Drew Corbett*

**SUBJECT:** Budget Issues Submission for Public Hearing

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Enclosed in this section of your Council Packet is the one budget issue that has been submitted for consideration at the Budget Issues Workshop on February 1.

Budget issues can originate from a variety of sources: Council, Boards and Commissions, and members of the public. Those budget issues proposed by a member of the public must be sponsored by a member of the Council or a board or commission. For any budget issues proposed and sponsored at tonight's Public Hearing, staff will prepare a summary of each issue to be included in the Council packet for the workshop on February 1.

## BUDGET ISSUE SUMMARY FORM

**Budget Issue Title:** Update to the Heritage Tree Inventory

**Lead Department:** Community Development

**General Plan Chapter:** Community Character

**1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?**

The City of Sunnyvale's tree preservation ordinance requires permits to remove trees 38" and greater in circumference (measured at four and a half feet above ground). In addition, certain trees have been identified to have local historic and/or aesthetic characteristics that warrant inclusion in the Cultural Resources Inventory. Such trees are further protected by ordinance and require a public hearing through the Heritage Preservation Commission in order to be removed from the City's Heritage Resource inventory.

The City's inventory of Heritage Trees was last updated in 1991 after being created as part of the original Heritage Resource inventory in 1979. The goal is to add trees to the inventory, and this can be done by Council at any time as provided in the Zoning Code. Because this would require the use of a consultant; however, additional funds would be required to complete the work. The study would include an updated survey of trees throughout the City, including those on public and private property, to determine possible significance. A historical consultant would assist in the identification of such trees for possible inclusion in the City's inventory.

**2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?**

**Goal CC-5 Protection of Sunnyvale's Heritage**

To enhance, preserve and protect Sunnyvale's heritage including natural features, the built environment and significant artifacts.

**Policy CC-5.4**

Seek out, catalog and evaluate heritage resources which may be significant.

**Policy CC-5.5**

Archeological resources should be preserved when possible.

**Zoning Code 19.96.050.**

As detailed in this code section, the City Council can designate trees as heritage resources based upon specific criteria.

3. Is the budget issue a: PROJECT  X  OPERATING \_\_\_\_\_

4. If the issue is operating, specify the change in service objective(s) that would result (from what, to what). If the issue is a project, write N/A.

N/A

5. Origin of issue: Council \_\_\_\_\_ Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_

Board and Commission  X  Board/Commission: Heritage Preservation Commission

Staff \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

6. Projected cost (list rough annual cost of budget item):

Initial Project Expenditure \$10,000

Annual Operating Costs \$0

Annual Revenue \$0

7. Recommended funding source:

New revenue source \_\_\_\_\_

Service level reduction \_\_\_\_\_

Other  X

Please describe recommended funding source: There is no funding source identified to cover the cost of this study. Therefore, funding would have to either come from the General Fund's Budget Stabilization Fund or would need to be absorbed within the budget of the Community Development Department.

**8. Staff evaluation and recommendation of proposed budget issue:**

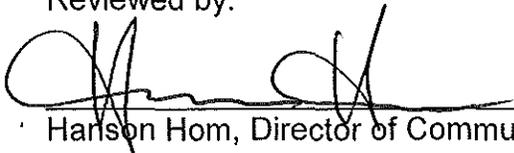
Evaluation: While updating the Heritage Trees inventory may be useful for the City, the funds needed to hire a consultant to do the work would be expensive and the list is not an immediate necessity. The City Council currently has the ability to add trees to the heritage inventory and this process can be utilized until the City has a greater need for an updated list or until additional funding becomes available.

Refer budget issue for consideration in Recommended Budget \_\_\_\_\_

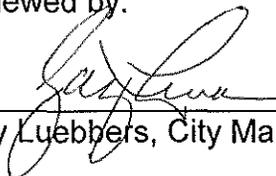
Defer budget issue to future fiscal year     X    

Drop budget issue \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by:

  
Hanson Hom, Director of Community Development

Reviewed by:

  
Gary Luebbers, City Manager