



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

ORD-33

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August 23, 2005

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Declare ordinance amending Long Beach Municipal Code Chapter 2.63, regarding preservation of historically significant trees, read the first time and laid over to the next regular meeting of the City Council for final reading. (City-wide)

DISCUSSION

In August of 2004, the City Council adopted an urgency ordinance (also known as a moratorium) that temporarily prohibited the removal of certain significant trees. The purpose of the temporary limitation was to allow staff to formulate methods whereby trees of individual importance could be preserved. The options available to staff include formulating new processes and procedures for this purpose; or utilizing existing processes and staff for this purpose.

In reviewing the enabling legislation for the Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) and Certificates of Appropriateness (Chapter 2.63 of the Municipal Code), it appears that there are already general provisions in the Municipal Code for the protection of trees. The CHC can recommend the designation of a culturally or historically significant tree using the existing landmark designation process. However, what is missing, and may be helpful in future cases, is the addition of criteria for consideration of what constitutes a culturally and/or historically significant tree.

Staff recommends Section 2.63.050 of the Municipal Code (Criteria for designation of landmarks and landmark districts) be amended to include the additional sections as follows:

- L. In the case of the designation of a tree(s) based on historic significance, that the tree(s) is (are) associated with individuals, places and/or events that are deemed significant based on their importance to national, state or community history.
- M. In the case of the designation of a tree(s) based on cultural contribution, that the tree(s) is (are) associated with a particular event or that it adds significant aesthetic or cultural contribution to the community.

These changes will clarify the criteria for consideration of a tree(s) for landmark designation. Any tree so designated will be protected from alteration or removal through the Certificate of Appropriateness process.

Assistant City Attorney Michael J. Mais reviewed this report on August 9, 2005 and prepared the attached Ordinance for your consideration.

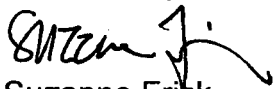
FISCAL IMPACT

None.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Adopt recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

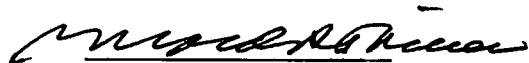


Suzanne Frick
Director of Planning and Building

SF:gc

Attachment: Ordinance

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER