

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** April 8, 2013

**TO:** Trees and Views Committee

**FROM:**  Alison Thornberry-Assef, Assistant Planner

**SUBJECT:** 2013 – TVC Priority List

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### Discussion

At the last meeting on March 7, 2013, the Committee discussed their desire to have the Trees and Views Ordinance updated as part of the City Council's Priority List. In attempts to receive approval from the City Council to update the current regulation, the Committee discussed the top areas of the code that should be considered when updating. Some items the Committee has noted as priorities when updating the regulations are listed below:

- Update the Undesirable Trees List;
- Update the Citation amount and process for illegal removal/alteration of trees – Some trees illegally removed are valued much higher than the \$1,000 maximum fine permitted by the regulations;
- Address the issue of trees and privacy;
- Define more clearly what Pruning without a permit means;
- Include diameter and circumference when describing tree sizes;
- Remove the title, City Arborist, as there is not City Arborist – Redefine what City Arborist means;
- Update Department of Public Works (DPW) regulations for trees located on public property to be more in line with private tree regulations – Require the replacement of removed trees, view claims to be sent to TVC for action;
- Prohibit the topping of trees;
- Require an arborist to be present during PG&E and City tree cutting;
- Remove DPW as the sole authority for trees located in the public right-of-way;
- Reorganize the layout of the code to be more user friendly;
- Update the enforcement section to give the Committee a stronger authority of enforcement – Code should clearly state there is no statute of limitations of enforcement of illegal tree actions; and
- The protected Oak trees shouldn't be limited to just Coast Live Oaks, other Oaks should be included.

### Recommendation

Staff recommends the Trees and Views Committee review, revise, and approve the above list to accompany the Priority Calendar request.

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