

CITY OF OAKLAND
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

TO: Office of the City Manager
ATTN: Robert C. Bobb
FROM: Office of Parks & Recreation (OPR)
DATE: April 17, 2001

RE: RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2001 TO BE OAKLAND'S ARBOR DAY 2001 AND AUTHORIZING AN OFFICIAL TREE PLANTING CEREMONY AT LAKE MERRITT WILDLIFE REFUGE AND ROTARY NATURE CENTER, 600 BELLEVUE AVENUE

SUMMARY

The Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) recommends City Council proclaim Friday, April 27, 2001 as Arbor Day in Oakland and authorize an Official Tree Planting Ceremony at the Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge and Rotary Nature Center, 600 Bellevue Avenue. The project goal is to plant 10 trees at the Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge.

FISCAL IMPACTS

There is no fiscal impact related to this resolution.

BACKGROUND

The City of Oakland has been recognized as a "Tree City, U.S.A." by the National Arbor Day foundation for eighteen years. The award acknowledges Oakland's commitment to tree planting, tree maintenance and tree preservation and is celebrated by the symbolic planting of a tree. The purpose for these celebrations is to initiate activity to help reverse the trend in urban deforestation by involving community leaders, students and citizens to plant and care for trees.

The trees that are planted will be environmentally tolerant and high quality trees that will assist in creating an urban forest oriented environment in the city. The celebrations include ceremonial tree plantings, a "Tree City, U.S.A." award ceremony, guest speakers and hands on training on the planting and care of trees.

Next year the City of Oakland will again be applying for recognition as "Tree City, U.S.A.". The aforementioned symbolic tree planting ceremony will be one of the required components being assembled for the application form for next year's award.

Another requirement for the "Tree City, U.S.A." award is the submittal of the resolution officially proclaiming Arbor Day in the City of Oakland.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

There are no identified problems or concerns related to key issues and impacts.

ENVIRONMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Oakland, like its residents, is well aware that trees positively affect the character and environmental quality of our parks, open space, and residential, commercial, and industrial areas. Trees have dramatic effects aesthetically, ecologically, and often socially. Trees affect air quality, energy conservation, noise abatement, and the reduction of surface run-off. Involving students and citizens in the planting and care of neighborhood trees has shown to contribute significantly to the psychological health of city dwellers and to the development of pride in neighborhoods.

RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE

OPR recommends that the City Council approve a resolution proclaiming Friday, April 27, 2001 to be Arbor Day 2001 and authorize an Official Tree Planting Ceremony at Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge and Rotary Nature Center, 600 Bellevue Avenue.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

OPR requests that the City Council approve a resolution proclaiming Friday, April 27, 2001 to be Arbor Day 2001 and authorize an Official Tree Planting Ceremony at the Lake Merritt Wildlife Refuge and Rotary Nature Center.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE G. MUSGROVE
Assistant City Manager
For the Life Enrichment Agency

Prepared by:
Harry Edwards, Director
Office of Parks and Recreation

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL:

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER