Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Tree Ordinance
Informational Workshop 5/18/21

Staff:
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Summary

- This project will:
  - Evaluate and update regulations concerning management of trees
  - Implement the General Plan

- This workshop will:
  - Highlight existing policy direction
  - Describe existing regulations
  - Identify project timeline
  - Support discussion
Project Objectives

- Identify existing conditions to track efficacy
- Reevaluate current regulations relative to General Plan
- Update current regulations to implement the General Plan
- Facilitate compliance through education and outreach with UC Cooperative Extension
- Follow up by monitoring, learning and adapting
General Plan Direction

- Protect and enhance the County’s natural habitats and diverse plant and animal communities.
- Establish standards and programs to protect native trees and plant communities.
  - Require the identification, preservation and protection of native trees and woodlands in the design of discretionary projects...
  - Identify important oak woodlands, assess current protection, identify options to provide greater protection...
  - Identify and consider designation of old growth Redwood and Douglas Fir as sensitive natural communities...
Current Regulations

- Tree Protection Ordinance
- Valley Oak Habitat Combining Zone
- Heritage and Landmark Tree Ordinance
- Riparian Corridor Combining Zone

Also:
- Timberland Production Zones
- Timberland Conversion Permits
- Vineyard and Orchard Development and Agricultural Grading and Drainage
# Work Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Anticipated Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Goal Setting</td>
<td>1a. Identify existing regulations, policies and practices</td>
<td>BOS Workshop May 18, 2021</td>
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<td>1b. Receive direction from Board of Supervisors</td>
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<td>1c. Identify community goals and objectives (workshop and outreach)</td>
<td>Spring 2021</td>
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<td>2. Baseline Conditions</td>
<td>2a. Identify metrics for measuring current tree conditions</td>
<td>Summer 2021</td>
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<td>2b. Identify current tree conditions for reference baseline and monitoring</td>
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<td>3. Ordinance Updates</td>
<td>3a. Evaluate existing regulations relative to goals and objectives</td>
<td>BOS Workshop October 26, 2021</td>
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<td>3b. Develop draft approaches to achieve project objectives, including public workshops</td>
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<td>4b. Board of Supervisors hearing</td>
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<td>5. Implementation, Education and Evaluation</td>
<td>5a. Education and Best Practices</td>
<td>Ongoing in partnership with UCCE</td>
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<td>5b. Monitor progress and report back</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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Potential Approaches

- Evaluate current exemptions and ordinance applicability
- Evaluate current mitigation options in the Zoning Code relative to modern best practices
- Refine application of Valley Oak Habitat zoning
- Identify native trees of special concern including rare and locally important species and make recommendations concerning protected tree species
- Clarify how tree protections apply in scenic resource areas
Questions

- Are there additional objectives the County should set, beyond those identified in the General Plan?
- When evaluating current regulations, are there certain aspects that should be given special attention?
- How should the County define success for this project?