# Tree Canopy Code Amendments Update & Landmark Tree Ordinance Extension

### **Study Session & Action**

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**Development Services Department** 

December 4, 2023



### **Meeting Purpose**

- 1. Provide an update on the permanent Tree Canopy Code Amendments.
- 2. Request Council extension of temporary Landmark Tree Ordinance until the permanent code amendments are adopted.

### Agenda

- 1. Tree Canopy Code Amendments Update
- 2. Landmark Tree Ordinance





# **Information Only**

Tree Canopy Code Amendments Update

### Tree Canopy Code Amendments Progress

- June 26 Council mid-point check-in and briefing
- July 26 Planning Commission Update Discussion
  - Interest in better definition for hazardous trees
  - Interest in promoting native species
  - Focus on preventing tree removal before development
  - Avoid being overly restrictive, caution with significant tree definition
  - Encouraging more consistency across neighborhoods
- Phase 2 Progress
  - Developing draft code amendments
  - Technical consultant providing guidance on scope tasks
  - Internal focus groups



# **Tree Canopy Code Amendments**

#### **Definitions**

- Update significant tree definition
- Add permanent definition for landmark trees
- Add definition for hazardous trees



# **Tree Canopy Code Amendments**

#### **Tree Removal**

- Permit to remove any significant tree
- Expand replacement requirements
- Evaluate imposing financial penalties for violations



# Tree Canopy Code Amendments

#### **Tree Retention**

- Implement new minimum tree credit approach
  - New retention criteria
  - Scale with development type
  - Look back at recent removal
- Clarify duration for retained trees
- Codify key protections during construction
- Evaluate inspection requirements

# Tree Canopy Code Amendments

### **How will we implement Landmark Trees?**

- Establish permanent definition
- Establish permanent permit requirements
- Criteria to encourage retaining landmark trees with development

### **Next Steps**

### Phase 1: Listening, **Fundamentals**

- Check in:
  - ✓ PC Study Session
  - √ Council Study Session

#### Phase 2: Reviewing & Refining

**Review Proposal:** 

 PC Study Sessions

### Phase 3: Action

- PC Public Hearing & Recommendation
- Council Study Session & Action

Questionnaire

Technical Analysis

### **Listening Sessions**

Public Info Sessions 6/8









## Action

Extend Temporary Landmark Tree Ordinance by adopting Ordinance No. 6767

### **Landmark Tree Ordinance**

- Interim definition:
  - Diameter at breast height of 24" or greater; and
  - At least 20 feet tall
- Clearing and grading permit required to remove

Applicant must provide licensed contractor's information



### **Landmark Tree Ordinance**

- Existing ordinance will sunset December 31, 2023
- Tree Canopy Code Amendments action anticipated Q2 2024
- New ordinance to extend provisions through 2024 or when replaced by permanent code





### **Action Needed from Council**

Adopt Ordinance No. 6767