

RESOLUTION NO. 20- 55

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENICIA
REQUESTING CALTRANS TO FUND THE EFFORT TO PLANT REPLACEMENT
TREES ALONG THE I-780 CORRIDOR THROUGH BENICIA AND WORK WITH
LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IN TREE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the Benicia General Plan identifies I-780 and I-680 as principle scenic routes in Benicia; and

WHEREAS, General Plan Policy 3.9.2 states the City to *Work with the State to complete and maintain landscaping of I-680 and I-780*; and

WHEREAS, trees serve important functions of cleaning our air and water, capturing greenhouse gases, providing wildlife habitat and reducing summertime temperatures in our urban areas; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans removed over 400 diseased eucalyptuses along I-780 in 2005, and indicated this landscaping would be replaced as a separate project, subject to the availability of funding; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans is currently removing a substantial number of trees along I-780 and I-680 as part of a \$9.73 million project to remove dead or dying drought-damaged trees in four North Bay counties and has no plans to replant these trees; and

WHEREAS, during the CalTrans CEQA public presentation to the City Council several years ago for tree removal along the I-780 corridor, council and the public requested replacement tree planting; and

WHEREAS, during that same presentation to the City Council, CalTrans indicated there were no plans to plant trees at that time; and

WHEREAS, local organizations such as the Benicia Tree Foundation have approached CalTrans on more than one occasion through the Adopt-a-Highway Program to assist in planting and maintaining trees along the I-80, I-680 and I-780 corridors; and

WHEREAS, CalTrans has rejected those entreaties from local organizations; and

WHEREAS, replanting trees would mitigate the impacts to our “scenic” I-780; and

WHEREAS, now is the time to replant appropriate trees in furtherance of state policy to be carbon neutral by 2045.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City Council of the City of Benicia is requesting CalTrans to fund the effort to plant replacement trees along the I-780 corridor through Benicia and work with local organizations in tree planting and maintenance projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the City shall seek arrangements with CalTrans to pursue commitments to maintaining freeway onramps and exits free of litter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the City and CalTrans shall work together to seek other funding sources for tree planting and maintenance projects.

On motion of Council Member **Largaespada** , seconded by Council Member **Strawbridge**, the above Resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Benicia at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 2nd day of June, 2020 by the following vote:

Ayes: **Council Members Campbell, Largaespada, Strawbridge, Young, and Mayor Patterson**

Noes: **None**

Absent: **None**


Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor

Attest:


Lisa Wolfe, City Clerk

Date June 5, 2020