

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (CM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE ADOPTING THE WATSONVILLE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024

WHEREAS, the City Council authorized the submittal of an application for CAL FIRE Urban Forestry Program grant funds on April 14, 2020, by Resolution No. 46-20 (CM). Following the application, the City was awarded a \$700,000 grant from The CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Program in August 2020; and

WHEREAS, during its meeting on May 11, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 141-21 (CM), awarding a contract to Davey Resource Group, Inc. (DRG), in an amount not to exceed \$268,664, as the consultant selected through an RFP process to provide consultant services to assist the City in developing an Urban Forest Management Plan, Tree Protection Ordinance and other related services to meet the requirements of a CAL FIRE funded grant project; and

WHEREAS, at this same meeting, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 142-21 (CM), approving a contract with Watsonville Wetlands Watch, in the amount of \$349,800 for Urban Forestry Services and to assist with tree planting, Urban Forest Management Plan Development, and grant administration/reporting to meet objectives for the Watsonville Community Forest Project; and

WHEREAS, the Watsonville Community Forestry Project developed and implemented comprehensive urban forest management activities evaluating current urban forest resources, identified locations, opportunities, and needs for urban forest expansion activities, developed appropriate policies to sustain and enhance urban forest resources within the City of Watsonville over time and

implemented urban forest expansion activities in a way that advances these efforts;
and

WHEREAS, Davey Resource Group, Inc., with the assistance of Watsonville Wetlands Watch and City staff, have delivered the City of Watsonville Urban Forest Management Plan pursuant to the contract, to serve as a guiding document for City staff and the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. This action is not subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq. and the CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 15000 et. seq.), including without limitation, Public Resources Code section 21065 and California Code of Regulations 15378 as this is not a “project” that may cause a direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment and because the action constitutes organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. Additionally, even if a “project,” the action would be exempt under the “common sense” exception (14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15061(b)(3)) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this action may have a significant effect on the environment.

2. That the Watsonville Urban Forest Management Plan 2024, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, is hereby adopted.