



# STAFF REPORT

## CITY of YORBA LINDA

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### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 5, 2024

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** JAMIE LAI, P.E., DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS/ CITY ENGINEER  
PREPARED BY: AUSTIN POSTOVOIT, SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANALYST

**SUBJECT:** APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE ORANGE COUNTY CONSERVATION CORPS FOR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND ASSOCIATED GRANT SERVICES

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC) for Vegetation Management and Associated Grant Services.

### **BACKGROUND**

The City of Yorba Linda's Maintenance and Operations and Landscape Maintenance Assessment District (LMAD) divisions of the Public Works Department, along with the Parks and Recreation Department provide the management and maintenance of the City's various landscaping services. These divisions collectively ensure maintenance of a robust urban forest, hundreds of acres of landscaping while also overseeing vegetation management for more rural areas within the City.

Staff utilizes a variety of means to maintain necessary landscape standards including in-house personnel and considerable contract maintenance service vendors. In addition to employing standard maintenance methods, the Public Works department pursues grant funding and other opportunities that can be leveraged to deliver service at lower cost.

### **DISCUSSION**

The OCCC is an agency that uses training, employment, and educational programs to encourage self-sufficiency and benefits the community through conservation-driven projects. The OCCC specifically focuses on providing natural resource work, generally for limited or no-cost, within the County of Orange by partnering with local agencies.

The OCCC approached Public Works staff in 2023 about the potential to provide no-cost vegetation management and related services to the City via a grant program awarded to OCCC. The grant funding allows the OCCC to submit general scope of work-based projects that support sustainable land management, promote biodiversity protection, habitat

restoration, and wildfire resilient landscapes. The OCCC was granted state funding and permission to perform vegetation management and associated services within the City of Yorba Linda with no City match required. Staff coordinated with the OCCC to develop a MOU which outlines the general scope of services to be provided to the City and obligates the OCCC to be insured and indemnify the City. Staff has also begun coordinating a list of project areas where OCCC crews can begin to provide no-cost vegetation management and other associated services under the supervision of the OCCC supervisors and City inspection/project management personnel. The initial project timeframe would run through December of 2025 but could be extended if funding remains available through the State.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The services provided by the OCCC will result in no cost to the City and are estimated to save thousands of dollars annually by offsetting the cost of vegetation management and other contractual services.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The City Council may decide not to approve the proposed MOU between the City and the OCCC. This alternative is not recommended as it would not allow the City to take advantage of non-cost services that would offset vegetation management costs that would otherwise be borne by the City.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Memorandum of Understanding (OCCC)

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