



STAFF REPORT ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

To: Mayor Gavin Buckley

From: Sally Nash, Director of Planning and Zoning

Date: July 23, 2021

Subject: O-34-21, Forest Conservation - Reforestation

The purpose of this ordinance is to require “reforestation in certain circumstances to maintain the City’s current tree canopy percentage; and generally relating to reforestation requirements”. The ordinance addresses changes in site conditions and at what point a new forest conservation plan is required.

Staff is not concerned about the concept, but is unclear how the requirement will work in the field. Staff would prefer that ordinance require the applicant to “identify and account for any forest or trees that may have been removed on the property since the original approval”.

Furthermore, under Section 21.71.100(A)(1)(iii), staff does not believe that the existing language should be removed. The existing language of "at least thirty five feet wide and covering at least two thousand five hundred square feet or area" is the minimum within State Law. The proposed language simply states an “equivalent area,” which could be less. Staff recommends that an “equivalent area” be added to existing language.

Prepared by Sally Nash, Director of Planning and Zoning