



CITY of CALABASAS

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2016

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM:  ROBERT YALDA, P.E., T.E., PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER
ALEX FARASSATI, PH.D., ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2016-1531 IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY ENROLLING IN THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2016

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to adopt Resolution No. 2016-1531 in support of the City enrolling in the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat Certification Program.

BACKGROUND:

After an initial consideration on September 28, 2016, the City Council referred this item back to the Environmental Commission. The item was agendaized for the November 1, 2016 Environmental Commission meeting. All commissioners unanimously recommended the adoption of Resolution 2016-1531 to the City Council.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS:

Community Wildlife Habitats provide habitat for wildlife throughout the community—where people live, learn, play and do business. Communities do this

by certifying individual backyards, school grounds and public areas like parks, community gardens and businesses, as National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Certified Wildlife Habitat. Each individual certified site within the community provides the four basic elements that all wildlife need: food, water, cover and places to raise young.

When a community becomes an NWF Community Wildlife Habitat, that community joins a select group of communities that have made gardening for wildlife a priority. By providing habitat, reducing chemicals, adding native plants, adjusting local policies to benefit pollinators and wildlife, reducing polluted runoff and conserving water, that community becomes a healthier place for wildlife and humans alike.

NWF communities also applied outreach methods to educate residents about sustainable gardening practices such as reducing or eliminating chemical fertilizers and pesticides, conserving water, planting native plants and trees, composting and more. The community hosts workshops about gardening for wildlife and holds community events such as stream clean-ups and invasive species removal to make the community healthier for people and wildlife alike. Local citizens become knowledgeable advocates for wildlife and sustainability.

What does Calabasas enrolling in this program mean? At this point, the National Wildlife Federation will just be announcing that City of Calabasas has enrolled and are working toward certification. It does not mean the City has to complete any of the requirements at this time. Some cities take six months, others can take two years.

To achieve certification through this program, the community must meet two sets of goals:

- a) A certain number of homes, schools and common areas must become NWF Certified Wildlife Habitats by providing the four basic elements that all wildlife need: food, water, cover and places to raise young. Certified Wildlife Habitats also require sustainable gardening practices such as using rain barrels, reducing water usage, removing invasive plants, using native plants or eliminating chemicals.
- b) Communities earn education and outreach points through a menu of options that include setting up tables at community events, having a native plant sale, organizing a stream clean-up, and inviting NWF.

The certification criteria are based on each city's population. City of Calabasas shall earn 225 points to become certified. To achieve 225 points, 150 homes, 4 common areas and 4 school campuses shall meet the NWF's requirements. So far, 10 homes have voluntarily enrolled and have been certified.

City staff will create a webpage and conduct outreach to encourage homeowners, schools and businesses to enroll in this program and will work with other City departments to identify 4 common areas to meet the requirements. This effort may take up to 2 years.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

At this time, there is a one-time enrollment fee that shall be provided through Public Works' public outreach account.

REQUESTED ACTION:

That the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2016-1531 in support of the City enrolling in the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat Certification Program.

ATTACHMENT:

Resolution No. 2016-1531