

RESOLUTION NO. 27-17

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, MITIGATION
MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM AND THE
DRAFT URBAN GREENING MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond applied and received a Prop 84 Urban Greening Planning grant to develop the Urban Greening Master Plan (the “UGMP” or “Plan”); and

WHEREAS, the UGMP provides a roadmap for a strategic approach to the preservation, management, and expansion of Richmond’s urban forest, including the quantification and analysis of urban forest data; and

WHEREAS, this Plan buildings on and supports the City’s on-going efforts that promote the City’s broader sustainability and health goals including General Plan 2030 “*Goal CN6: A Healthy Urban Environment*”, which calls for elevating the quality of urban areas by restoring urban creeks, creating green streets, and supporting the stewardship of the urban forest; “*Action CN6.E: Urban Forestry*” calling for the implementation of landscaping practices in urban areas of the City to reduce heat island effect and contribute to carbon mitigation; and *Goal CN6.2: Protection and Expansion of Tree Resources*, calling for the expansion and maintenance of street trees; and

WHEREAS, the UGMP was developed with significant community input and engagement from area residents, businesses, stakeholder groups, and public agencies; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the responsibility given to the Planning Director of the City of Richmond by City Council Resolution 125-03 for the general administration of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the State CEQA Guidelines, and in accordance with CEQA, an Initial Study and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) were prepared for the UGMP, for which a Notice of Intent was published on August 9, 2016 announcing a thirty (30) day public comment period; and

WHEREAS, on August 9, 2016, the draft MND was available for public comment and distribution with the public comment period ending September 9, 2016. Following the public comment period, a final Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared. The final MND includes minor edits to the draft MND text in response to comments received (Exhibit A, attached hereto). As required by CEQA, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been prepared to report on and monitor the changes which are required to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects (Appendix A of Exhibit A, attached hereto); and

WHEREAS, the minor revisions to the MND do not constitute “substantial revisions” as defined in Section 15073.5(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, thus the MND is not subject to recirculation prior to adoption; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, after hearing all interested person and considering all relevant evidence, the Council finds and determines as follows:

1. The UGMP MND, consisting of the draft MND in Exhibit A, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, included as Appendix A to Exhibit A, have been prepared and completed in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs Section 15000 et. seq);
2. The MND for the project was prepared, published, circulated and reviewed in accordance with the requirements of CEQA, including all public notice and comment period requirements, and the State CEQA Guidelines, and constitutes an adequate, accurate, objective, and complete MND in accordance with the requirement of CEQA statutes and the State CEQA Guidelines;

3. The MND for the project and all comments received within the public comment period have been reviewed and found adequate by the Council prior to approving the project, and the MND reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the City; and
4. The Initial Study for the project identifies potentially significant effects on the environment; however, revisions to the project and incorporation of the mitigation measures in the project will reduce any and all significant adverse environmental impacts to a less-than-significant level. There is no substantial evidence in the record that the resulting project, as mitigated, in light of the whole record before the City of Richmond will have a significant effect on the environment.
5. The MMRP for the project will ensure compliance with all mitigation measures incorporated into the project and will reduce the potentially significant environmental effects of the project to a less than significant level.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council does hereby find that the above recitals are true and correct and have served, together with the Agenda Report dated April 4, 2017 as the basis for the findings and actions set forth in this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council does hereby adopt the MND, MMRP and UGMP (Exhibit C, attached hereto);
