



PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

VII. 2

MEETING DATE: MARCH 26, 2012

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: LAWN STANDARDS POLICY

DATE: MARCH 15, 2012

FROM: CODE ENFORCEMENT/DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PRESENTATION BY: WILLA BOUWENS-KILLEEN, CHIEF OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: WILLA BOUWENS-KILLEEN, AICP (714) 754-5153
Willia.Bouwens-Killeen@costamesaca.gov

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt proposed lawn standards policy.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

At the Planning Commission meeting of December 12, 2011, Commissioner Clark expressed his desire to work with staff to develop a measurable level of compliance as regards enforcement of lawns throughout the City. On January 4, 2012, Commissioner Clark and I met and based on our discussion, including the review of photographs of the condition of several different lawns, we formulated the following guidelines:

1. Compliance will be based on the condition of the lawn during the summer months outside normal dormant periods. For purposes of code enforcement, the enforcement period for lawn condition is June through September.
2. The lawn will be deemed in compliance if it meets all of the following criteria:
 - Lawn is being maintained (i.e., watered, mowed, weeded);
 - A minimum 75% of the lawn is green and/or the resident is making an active effort to correct the lawn. The area would be determined by the Code Enforcement Officer based on a visual survey.

Based on these guidelines, the following lawns would be deemed in compliance:



The lawn below would be considered to be in violation of Code requirements and would be subject to enforcement:



As with any violation, a “fix-it” citation would be issued and the resident would be given a 30 to 60 day period to clear the violation.

Based on these guidelines, the majority of the lawns in the second Residential Neighborhood Enhancement Area are considered to comply with Code; the lawn above is in the process of being enforced.

WILLA BOUWENS-KILLEEN, AICP
Chief of Code Enforcement

Distribution: Interim Development Services Director
Acting Asst. Dev. Services Director
Deputy City Attorney
City Engineer
Fire Protection Analyst
Staff (4)
File (2)