



Staff Report

Agenda Item C-1

Date: March 15, 2024

To: City of Imperial Planning Commission

From: David Ramirez, Code Enforcement Division

Subject: Amendment to Municipal Code, Chapter 14, Section 14-5 – Declaration of Public Nuisance

Background:

The City of Imperial's Code Enforcement Division has received numerous complaints regarding palm trees with dead or decaying palm fronds. Dead and decaying palm fronds present a disorderly and blighted environment and decline the aesthetics in our community. More importantly, dead and decaying palm fronds are a potential fire hazard and present a safety risk to our community. When addressing the concerns, residents express that the Municipal Code is not specific in what defines a palm frond that needs to be removed, or how often they should prune palm trees, therefore causing confusion. Staff consulted with our Parks and Recreation Department and they informed us they provide citywide palm tree maintenance every six months to maintain a clean and aesthetically pleasing appearance within the City. The amendment description will provide a better understanding of when to prune palm trees, but in addition, staff is seeking the Planning Commission's recommendation for a palm tree maintenance schedule to incorporate in the amendment.

The following proposed amendment to Chapter 14, Section 14-5, is necessary for the Code Enforcement Division to more effectively enforce this nuisance within the City:

Current Municipal Code:

Chapter 14, Section 14-5: Abatement of Nuisances

- (o) Growth on palm trees, including but not limited to, dead or decayed palm fronds, noncommercial fruit, or flower/pollen either limp or hanging from palm trees.

Proposed Municipal Code Amendment:

Chapter 14, Section 14-5: Abatement of Nuisances

- (o) Any visible growth on palm trees with dead or decayed palm fronds, that have become yellow, orange, or brown in color, noncommercial fruit, or flower/pollen either limp or hanging from palm trees.