

Natural Resources Department - Administrative Policy

Definition of “Resource Management Activities” Relative To “Land Conservation Activities” As Defined By Open Space Yes – Sales Tax Ballot Language

The question is “What is the definition of the resource management activities that can be charged to the “Land Conservation Activities” portion of the Open Space Yes – Sales Tax Revenues?”

The Ballot language which directly pertains to this definition is as follows:

Section 3. THAT 100 percent of the proceeds from the Tax shall be deposited into the Sales and Use Tax Fund and shall be apportioned as follows:

- a) Not less than 80 percent of the total annual revenue of the Tax shall be used solely for Land Conservation Activities as defined herein.
- b) Not more than 20 percent of the total annual revenue of the Tax shall be used solely for Operations Activities and Maintenance Activities as defined herein.

Section 4. THAT “Land Conservation Activities” herein defined to solely include the following:

- e) Improving acquired lands by restoring and enhancing native plant and animal communities;
- f) Providing funds to the Natural Areas Enhancements grants program to protect, restore and enhance native plant and animal communities on private and publicly owned natural areas;
- h) Administering and directly supervising Land Conservation Activities as described in this section.
- i) Land Conservation Activities shall not include any activities defined herein as Operations Activities or Maintenance Activities.

Section 6. THAT “Maintenance Activities” of conserved and protected lands is herein defined to solely include the following:

- a) Controlling noxious weeds and invasive species and maintaining native vegetation and habitats;

- c) Controlling erosion and preventing soil loss due to natural causes or human impacts;
- e) Administration and directly supervising all Maintenance Activities described in this section.

Therefore, Resource Management Activities that can be charged to the "Land Conservation Activities" portion of the Open Space Yes – Sales Tax Revenues shall be defined in general as follows:

- 1) Providing funds for all Resource Management activities performed by City staff or Contractors; all administrative, supervisory, consultant services, staff training, and project management activities; and all equipment, materials, supplies; required to restore lands managed by Natural Areas to more natural conditions by: enhancing wildlife habitat; restoring topography; restoring streams; and restoring native plant and animal communities.
- 2) Providing funds to the Natural Areas Enhancements grants program to protect, restore, and enhance native plant and animal communities on private and publicly owned natural areas.

Specific Resource Management Activities include, but are not limited to the following:

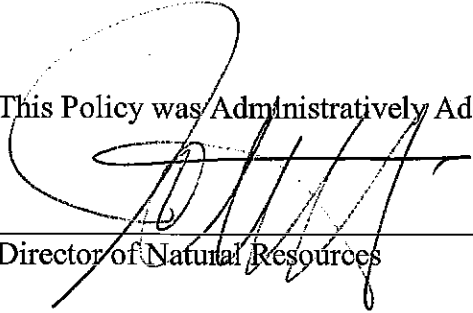
- 1) Restoration Planning:
 - a. Inventory and mapping of vegetation, habitat and animal communities.
 - b. Planning restoration goals and plans for each site.
 - c. Prescribing activities necessary to obtain restoration goals.
 - d. Develop annual work plans necessary to perform the prescribed activities.
 - e. Monitoring and mapping of progress.
 - f. Annual reassessment of restoration goals, activities, and work plans.
- 2) Restoration Work
 - a. Site cleanup including: demolition of structures; removing parking lots, roads, ditches, fences, trash and debris; environmental cleanups; removing non-native vegetation; and grading to restore topography to a more natural condition.
 - b. Improving soils which may include: removing rocks; adding a layer of topsoil; tilling; and adding soil amendments.
 - c. Prescribed burns to enhance native vegetation or to control invasive species.
 - d. Seeding of native grasses, cover crops and forbs.
 - e. Planting of native trees and shrubs.
 - f. Reseeding as necessary to establish minimum cover.
 - g. Replant as necessary to replace trees and shrubs that do not survive initial planting.

- h. Control of invasive species (weed control) until native vegetation is well established to 85% in cover and abundance or more of native vegetation.
- i. Relocating and controlling prairie dogs to protect and enhance habitat.
- j. Wildlife management, control and species reintroduction.

3) Restoration Projects may include:

- a. Stream, river or irrigation canal restoration.
- b. Pond and reservoir aquatic and bank restoration.
- c. Wetland restoration and creation.
- d. Riparian restoration and creation.
- e. Restoration of farm lands, gravel mines, water storage sites, and industrial sites.
- f. Flood control and river stabilization projects which will protect and or enhance habitat.

This Policy was Administratively Adopted By:



Director of Natural Resources

6-24-10

Date

NOTE: While this policy was executed by the Director on June 24, 2010; it was originally drafted and has been utilized since the inception of Open Space, Yes!