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RESOLUTION NO. 2025-25

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE COASTAL CONSERVANCY FOR WILDFIRE RESILIENCE FUNDS, AND EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT, FOR THE ALBANY HILL EUCALYPTUS PROJECT (CIP NO. 41015) AND ASSOCIATED MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, the City of Albany places a high value on conservation and restoration of natural resources, in mindful response to global climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Albany Hill Eucalyptus Project (CIP No. 41015) was established in 2021 to address the declining eucalyptus forest on Albany Hill, and to facilitate visioning for the future of this element in Albany's natural landscape; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2022, the City Council approved Resolution No. 2022-41, authorizing an application to the State Coastal Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience Grant Program for plan development for forest management and habitat restoration projects and programming on Albany Hill; and

WHEREAS, funds were awarded to the City, and the Albany Hill Forest Management & Habitat Restoration Plan (Plan) was adopted on March 3, 2025 (Resolution No. 2025-10); and

WHEREAS, Albany's neighboring City of El Cerrito is concurrently working on their Hillside Natural Area Fire Resilience and Forest Conservation Management Plan (HNA Plan), also funded by the Conservancy, which addresses similar concerns and priorities as Albany's with regards to phasing out compromised Blue Gum Eucalyptus, addressing fire safety concerns, and prioritizing community investment and sustainable practices; and

WHEREAS, in early 2025, both Cities were approached by the Coastal Conservancy, who invited the Cities to partner on a demonstration project of the Cities' choosing and submit an application to leverage available State Wildfire Resilience funding administered through the Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, Staff from both Cities are developing a shared project scope for coordinated efforts in both Cities, in the hopes of demonstrating innovative practices for wildland management, education, and local partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the shared project scope with the City of El Cerrito may include but is not limited to the following elements, contingent on available funding: (1) execution of forest management projects in high-priority removal areas and for Albany, pilot tree planting in Western Monarch overwintering zone(s), (2) engaging the public through events including (a) partnering with Bay Area Redwood to host milling demonstrations and site tours in both Cities for reclamation and reuse of removed Blue Gum Eucalyptus, and (b) hosting community workdays in both Cities for native & invasive plant education, and (3) community partnership and workforce development activities as per Coastal Conservancy Strategic Plan Goals, which for Albany includes investing in certifications, tools, supplies for Urban Tilth, contributions to Urban Tilth maintenance costs, and contributing funds to support the City's ongoing Habitat Restoration Internship Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that that the Albany City Council hereby authorizes staff to submit a grant application to the State Coastal Conservancy for the Albany Hill Eucalyptus Project (CIP No. 41015) and associated maintenance activities, and authorizes the City Manager to execute a grant agreement for the project,

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ROBÍN D. LÓPEZ, MAYOR

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City of Albany

1000 San Pablo Avenue • Albany, California 94706 (510) 528-5710 • www.albanyca.org

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-25

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY,

The 5th day of May, 2025, by the following votes:

AYES: Council Members Hansen-Romero, Jordan, McQuaid, Miki and

Mayor López

NOES: none

ABSENT: none

ABSTAINED: none

RECUSED: none

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, this 6th

day of May, 2025.

Anne Hsu

CITY CLERK