

## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2022**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: NATHAN HAMBURGER, CITY MANAGER**

**BY: JESSICA FORTE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS/CITY ENGINEER**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE WALK-ON BARK FROM AGROMIN**

---

Over the past few years, the City's landscape contractor has been installing a fir tree bark known as "Walk-On Bark" to help preserve the health of plants and trees located in street medians and parkways. In order to save on material and delivery costs, staff purchases the bark in bulk quantities directly from Oxnard-based distributor Agromin on an as-needed basis.

The benefits of using Walk-on Bark compared to other products include the following:

- Retains the moisture in the ground for a longer period of time, thus reducing water needs.
- Greatly reduces weed growth.
- Acts as a barrier to protect the irrigation equipment from the elements.
- Longer lasting and more aesthetically-pleasing than mixed and composted materials.
- Healthier for the drought tolerant plants currently being used by the City.

Due to the completion of various landscape improvement projects throughout the City, along with the current drought restrictions, staff believes additional bark is needed in order to properly maintain landscaped areas. The projected cost of \$40,000 exceeds the City Manager's authority and requires approval by the City Council.

There are sufficient funds appropriated in the approved Fiscal Year 2022/23 budget to cover the costs of the material.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council:

1. Authorize the purchase of Walk-on Bark from Agromin in the amount not-to-exceed \$40,000.
2. Authorize the Director of Public Works to approve Walk-on Bark orders on behalf of the City of Agoura Hills.