Memorandum

To: Woodland

From: Davey Resource Group, Inc.

Date: June 2018

Subject: Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) Stakeholder Summary

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As part of the *technical needs assessment* task in the development of the Urban Forest Master Plan, Davey Resource Group (DRG) conducted interviews with urban forest stakeholders. The City of Woodland and DRG worked together to identify individuals and organizations/departments whose responsibility and/or leadership has an impact on planning, caring for, or affecting policy for community trees. 18 stakeholders participated in the interview process.

Prior to the interviews, stakeholders were asked to respond to a survey with eight (8) questions designed to solicit input on urban forestry issues, challenges, and opportunities. Their responses provided a foundation and agenda for the interviews and discussion that followed. This memorandum summarizes the information and ideas shared during these discussions and is organized around the pre-interview survey questions.

As part of the *stakeholder outreach* task in the development of the Urban Forest Master Plan, a community presentation was delivered on May 23rd, 2018. The presentation was held at Woodland Community Center to share information about the City of Woodland's Urban Forestry Master Plan and gather input from the community. Eight residents attended the community meeting, which included a presentation by Tina McKeand of Davey Resource Group and opportunities for participants to ask questions. The presentation provided attendees an overview of Woodland's urban forest, an introduction to what will be included in the Urban Forest Master Plan, and what the Davey Resource Group team has completed to date. Following the presentation, attendees were invited to provide input- thoughts, ideas, concerns, questions- on six discussion/opinion boards where a broad topic was introduced on each board followed by initial suggestions generated through the prior stakeholder interview process.

The results of these discussions will be used to inform and provide justification for elements of the Urban Forest Master Plan.

Stakeholder Interviews

TABLE 1: Participants in urban forestry interviews.

Interview Session	Name(s)	Titles/Organization	Urban Forestry Role
Session #1 01/29/18	David Wilkinson	Woodland Tree Foundation	President of Woodland Tree Foundation leads the all-volunteer group to plant and care for Woodland trees.
Session #2 01/30/18	Jon-Paul Valcarenghi Rashid Ali	Urban Forest Subcommittee for Parks and Recreation Commission	The Subcommittee receives regular updates from city staff, provides input and fields community inquiries about the urban forest.
Session #3 01/30/18	Reyna Pinon Ken Loman Mark Hedington Alex Truitt Craig Locke Joey Gines	Department of Environmental Services	Oversees the Climate Action Plan and manages environmental sustainability programs. These programs intersect with the urban forest. Education and outreach.
Session #4 01/30/18	Marinda Griese	Yolo County Public Agency Risk Management Insurance Authority	Manages the City's liability exposure and defend the City in tort claims/litigation following tree and limb failures.
Session #5 01/31/18	Council Member Stallard	Sustainability Sub-Committee	Serves on the City Council and leads the sustainability sub-committee, advocates for more trees and better tree management.
Session #6 01/31/18	Paul Navazio	City Manager	Manages City operations and prepares City budgets.
Session #7 01/31/18	Rebecca Daniels Brian Kirk	PG&E	Manages vegetation above and around utility lines (electric and gas). Maintain easy access for first responders in an emergency.
Session #8 01/31/18	Ken Hiatt Brent Meyer Katie Wurzel	Community Development Planning (Ken - Assistant City Manager/CDD Director) and Community Development Engineering and Traffic	Manages development review process, which includes tree plantings on new developments. Creation of engineering standards and sidewalk design.

1. **Please describe your role and responsibilities for planting and/or managing community (public) trees.**

AND

2. **Please describe your role or your department's in the preservation of trees and canopy on public and/or private property.**

Participants represented the diversity of individuals affecting change in Woodland's urban forest. These individuals engage the urban forest within three broad categories:

Tree Managers - People who plant, care for, work around, and remove trees.
Tree Policy Makers - People who establish or administer city policies related to trees.
Tree Champions - People who advocate for trees within the Woodland community.

In all cases, there was found to be some overlap within these categories. It was common amongst most participants to have had experiences with tree management, tree policy discussions, and tree advocacy.

3. **What are the biggest challenges for your team related to Woodland's public trees?**

Management - Among those who manage trees, participants talked about the challenges associated with Woodland's tree maintenance cycle as a most urgent concern. Woodland has a stated policy of a 7-year maintenance cycle for public trees. However, they currently operate on an approximately 9 to 10-year maintenance cycle. Most trees are maintained via block pruning, conducted by contractors (WCA).

Tree managers reported another large challenge was the preservation of existing trees and growth of newly planted trees to maturity during drought periods. Concerns discussed included the changing climate with increased temperatures, increased drought frequency, and increased storm event intensity. Stakeholders were also concerned that the emphasis on preservation and expansion of canopy might be implemented without establishing proper long-term tree care operations.

Conflicts between trees and utilities were reported among several stakeholders. Tree roots can cause blockage in the sewer collection system, occasionally leading to sanitary sewer overflows which are a big challenge for collections system operators. Root intrusion can prevent and hinder reactive maintenance. In addition to concerns about trees conflicting with above and below ground utilities, stakeholders also expressed concerns about visibility of signs and corridors. Utility managers and Woodland Tree Foundation managers were concerned that the right trees were not being planted in the right places.

Policy Makers - Participants say their biggest challenges are community involvement and funding. Public trees in the park strips in front of single-family homes are watered by the resident who owns or rents a house at the adjacent property. This presents a challenge as they

may be watering the tree incorrectly. Increased community involvement and education will mitigate this issue.

Budget restrictions were a concern, especially with an aging urban forest where older trees may not have the benefit of current pruning techniques and latest industry knowledge. Stakeholders expressed concerns about a sustainable budget, the adequate allocation of personnel, and the uncertain future grant support from CAL FIRE and other sources.

Related to the management of trees near utilities and signs, policy makers reported challenges with trees and tree locations. There is a disconnect where trees are located on site plans and where they are eventually planted in reality. Careful consideration should be taken when choosing the types of trees and planting locations in order to avoid initial or future infrastructure maintenance and repairs.

The City's insurance provider reported a direct correlation in an increase in claims where trees have been permitted to fall outside of a seven-year pruning cycle.

Tree Champions - Multiple participants thought a major challenge was the age demographics of the volunteer workforce. Most of the Woodland Tree Foundation volunteers were reported to be retired. The development and growth of the city has reduced the size of the urban forest. In addition, climate change may be forcing a change in the character of the urban forest, which is primarily seen as conifer dominant forest. The Woodland Tree Foundation reported that they need to get younger and more diverse volunteers to train tree leaders for the future.

4. **What will be the biggest challenges facing Woodland's community forestry program over the next 10 to 20 years?**

Management - Those individuals responsible for the maintenance of trees emphasized the need for sustainable funding and appropriate labor to care for trees. Stakeholders were also concerned about establishing best tree care practices and community education.

Policy Makers - Need for emphasis on trees in construction/development/redevelopment and ensuring these trees do not create utility/signage conflicts. Policy makers also reported the need for a sustainable funding mechanism to care for trees. Irrigation, maintenance, and threats were concerns for younger trees. Another challenge is preserving the health of existing trees and growing newly planted trees to reach maturity during drought periods and in a changing climate.

Tree Champions - Similar to tree-managers, these stakeholders reported the biggest challenges to be a sustainable budget, the adequate allocation of personnel, grant support, and public education.

Short-term challenges and opportunities identified included:

- Cyclical Pruning
- Planting the right tree in the right place
  - Removing trees that are incompatible with power lines, roads, sidewalks
  - Establishing compatible species within Woodland's urban forest

- ○ Replacing trees that have reached the end of their natural life with better suited or more resilient trees
- Proactive communication with stakeholders
- Stump removals are slow, which also slows replacement planting
- Many trees in newer subdivisions are not surviving
- Utilities owners should be included in review process where utilities and project/trees with potential conflicts are involved
- Need a better species palette for street trees, park trees, and city facility trees
- City water has recently changed from well water to Sacramento River water

Long-term challenges and opportunities identified included:

- Managing the infrastructure issues in a growing community with limited resources
- Ongoing education of the community / City staff
  - ○ Right Tree Right Place
  - ○ Proper Tree care
- Staying on course for the 7-year pruning cycle which will lower city liability exposure
- Possibility of a Park District to provide long-term funding
- Youth engagement to take over volunteer work for the next generation of tree volunteers
- Continued relationship with CAL FIRE and other external grant sources
- Existing Tree Maintenance Zones do not make sense anymore due to changing tree counts
- Need to verify locations for trees during development to ensure they are planted in the right place
- To reduce liability exposure the city needs to maintain tree inventory
  - ○ Tree inspections need better notes, formatting, and best management practices
    - ■ Describe exact location/issue
    - ■ TRAQ requirements
- Regional partnerships provide opportunities for economy of scale
- Underground utilities are desirable where possible

5. **With regard to the existing Approved Tree List, are there species that should be added or removed from the current palette? Why?**

Stakeholders reported that the city arborist was interested in planting additional tree species. In part because of the Woodland's new water source.

Primary concerns for approved tree species focused on four themes:

- Compatibility with utilities
- Minimal maintenance needs
  - ○ Add a "water use" category for trees
- High environmental benefits
  - ○ Shade
  - ○ Carbon Storage
  - ○ Stormwater Management

- Native/Well Adapted
  - Present
  - Future (climate change)

Trees that stakeholders identified as troublesome included:

- Mulberry
- Willow
- Aristocrat pear

Trees that stakeholders identified as desirable included:

- Linden
- Tulip tree
- Chinese Pistache
- Valley Oaks
- Sycamores

6. **What type(s) of outreach or education programs are most effective for engaging the community?**

Stakeholders emphasized that elected officials are an additional audience that should be continually addressed. Further, real estate organizations should be educated on the dollar value enhancements associated with trees on private property.

Stakeholders reported that print outreach was the least effective method. More effective methods included:

- Tabling at community events
- Social media
- Radio advertising
- Door to Door outreach

Stakeholders reported events that were family-friendly were among the best attended:

- Getting parents interested in trees through their children, thus, through educational programs through the schools.
- Family-friendly events (kids welcome/kid activities)
- Tree plantings at local schools

Other effective events and types of outreach that were found to be effective included:

- Arbor day celebration
- Community tree planting
- Classes on tree maintenance
- Rebates/providing services
- Brief door-to-door education
- Presentations to community organizations

- Collaborating with volunteer/service groups
  - "Water Wise" workshops

Programs directed at service groups and schools are most effective. Planting trees is one of the best ways to give back to your community, not just for now, but for years to come. The value of every tree increases year-by-year.

7. <u>What benefits of trees are most important to you, and which do you think are most important to residents in Woodland?</u>

Management - Those individuals responsible for the maintenance of trees emphasized shade and beauty as the most important benefits. These individuals also reported the related benefits of cooling the nearby area, providing habitat to wildlife, and softening the urban environment.

Policy Makers - Those individuals managing trees emphasized the benefits outlined in the City's 2035 Climate Action Plan:

- Building shade – reducing indoor heat and energy demand for air conditioning.
- Pavement shade – reducing the "heat island" effect and energy demand for vehicle and building air conditioning.
- Insulation – serving as windbreaks, reducing the movement of outside air into interior spaces and conductive heat loss.
- Transpiration – converting moisture to water vapor, cooling the air by using solar energy that would otherwise heat the air.
- Carbon sequestration – capturing and storing CO_2 from the atmosphere.

Tree Champions – Tree champions value trees because they; provide the public with benefits to health and wellness, clean the air, store carbon, and increase the walkability of the community. These stakeholders also reported that a vibrant urban forest furthers the Woodland's legacy as the "City of Trees."

8. <u>Please add any additional information that you feel is relevant to the background and development of the Urban Forest Master Plan:</u>

Stakeholders emphasized that the Urban Forest and Open Space is one of six focus areas of the City's 2035 Climate Action Plan (CAP). Objective I Goal UF-1:

- Developing and adopting an Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) aimed at expanding canopy cover from 8.4% to 25% by 2035 with objectives that include greenhouse gas reduction, air quality improvement, energy conservation, stormwater runoff management, and non-interference with utility lines.

Stakeholders again emphasized the importance of funding the urban forest and its care.

Stakeholders reported that there are many mostly vacant parking lots which would benefit greatly from shade trees. Stakeholders suggested replacing some of the pavement with natural pervious surfaces. Stakeholders also recommended that any new development needs to have adequate unpaved areas that will accommodate medium- to large-sized trees.

- Explore the development of a "pavement management plan" commensurate with our urban forestry plan.

Community Presentation

Attendees were invited to share their thoughts, ideas, concerns and questions on six broad topics. Staff were on hand at each of the six boards to facilitate discussion with attendees and answer questions. Attendees were invited to express their opinions using dots (where green= a positive "vote"/agreement for the suggestion, yellow= concern/hesitation of the suggestion, and red= a negative "vote"/disagreement or dislike of the suggestion). Attendees were invited to use as many dots of each color necessary to express their opinion of each suggestion on each board. In addition, each board provided an area for Additional Suggestions where attendees were invited to write down their thoughts, ideas, concerns, questions on a sticky note and adhere it to the board for other attendees to review and "vote" on, as well.

1. **Preferred Outreach**

The most popular types of outreach were brochures and social media. Voting results emphasized that all outreach materials should be bilingual.

Outreach	Green	Yellow	Red
Website		2	
Bilingual	4		
Video (Youtube)	1	1	
Train Tree Care Companies		1	
Workshops / Presentations	2		
Brochure (real estate / water bills)	3		
Newspaper / Articles	2		
Interpretive trails / displays		1	
PSAs	1		
Volunteer Opportunities	1		
Social media	3	1	

2. Desired Canopy Goal

Votes indicated overwhelming support for a Woodland canopy cover goal of 35%. This figure was a benchmark established by the Sacramento Tree Foundation Greenprint initiative.

Canopy Cover %	Green	Yellow	Red
14.5% (Existing)			3
20%			
25% (Climate Action Plan		1	
35% (Greenprint)	6	1	

3. Desired Level of Tree Care

Votes indicated a strong preference for the moderate level of tree care (plant health care). Votes strongly opposed minimal or no tree care.

Level of Care	Green	Yellow	Red
Minimal (clearance, hazards, reactive)			3
Plant Health Care (Moderate) (pruning cycle, care for significant trees and populations)	7		
None (Keep them natural)			3
Best Possible Care			

4. Support and Location for More Trees

The votes indicated the most support for the addition of more trees in parking lots and streets / medians.

More Trees?	Green	Yellow	Red
Parks		1	
Streets / Medians	3		
Parking Lots	4	1	
Commercial / Industrial (District 4)	1	1	
Private Property / Residential	1		
Railroad Row			
No More Trees			5
Interpretive trails / displays		1	

5. Protection for Trees on Private Property

Support for tree protection on private property varied. 2 votes were cast to strongly support tree protection on private property, but 5 votes were cast to strongly oppose those tree protections.

Protection for Trees on Private Property	Green	Yellow	Red
Strongly Support	2		
Support	1	4	
Neutral / Not Sure		1	
Commercial / Industrial (District 4)	1	1	
Opposed		1	
Strongly Opposed			5

6. Support for Special Assessment District

Special Assessment Districts are taxes generated to be used for the management and care of the urban forest. Overall, there was a range of support for the Special Assessment District. 5 votes strongly opposed the Special Assessment District.

Special Assessment District	Green	Yellow	Red
Yes < $60/year ($5/month)	3		
Yes < $120/year ($10/month)	1	2	
Nope			5
Maybe - Depends on Conditions	2	1	

--END OF MEMORANDUM--