



May 15, 2018

Phil Bourquin, Community Development Director
City of Camas Community Development Department
616 NE Fourth Avenue
Camas, WA 98607

RE: Draft Camas Urban Tree Program

Mr. Bourquin,

The Building Industry Association of Clark County (BIA) commends the City of Camas for development of a tree planning, permitting and protection code. We applaud the city's desire to use grant funding for the development of this long-needed code and understand the time restrictions inherent in the grant funding but have some concerns with the process to date.

According to the background section of the document, the program was developed by city staff with the assistance of consultants from the Davey Resource Group and informed by surveys, feedback requests and meetings with neighboring jurisdictional staff, parks representatives, property owners, the general Camas public and a civil engineer.

Unfortunately, it seems this process has overlooked some very important segments of the affected stakeholders; namely those that would bear the financial burden of these regulations and the contract professionals they would work with to address the proposed requirements. These include, but aren't limited to, developers, architects and designers, biologist, and industry advocates such as the BIA.

Without the input of these groups, potential financial impacts, design issues and implementation challenges cannot be fully addressed or mitigated in the final program.

Although we have recognized numerous concerns with the proposed language, due to the short time in which we have been aware of this proposal, we have only given the proposal a cursory review and would need more time to quantify and properly convey these concerns. Because of this, and the fact that a large segment of stakeholders has been left out of the initial discussion and draft creation, the BIA respectfully requests that the Planning Commission return this program back to the staff for further work and review.


Ryan Makinster
Government Affairs Coordinator
BIA of Clark County