



City of Needles, California Request for Board Action

CITY COUNCIL NPUA BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
 Regular Special

Meeting Date: October 5, 2021

Title: Electric Public Education Funds

Background: In 2018, the Board of Public Utilities requested staff to implement a \$50,000 public education fund split between the three utilities. The electric department has historically funded an annual sustainable energy solar camp held by the Needles Unified School District. Students were able to attend for ten days to learn and complete projects using examples of sustainable energy such as; wind, solar, water as well as an understanding of the electrical system within the City of Needles.

In FY21 a pilot Free Shade Program was implemented which consisted of providing residential customers with up to two free desert-adapted trees (Mesquite, Desert Willow, Rosewood) to plant in energy-saving locations around their homes. Shading homes helps reduce energy costs in the summer and also provides a Greenhouse Renewable credit for the city. The city has a set required goal to plant 100 trees a year over the next 10 years.

The FY 21 pilot program purchased 98 trees for 57 households with a maximum of two per household. The program was completely sold out of trees within two weeks. Staff's recommendation is to allow the pilot program for an additional with the clause that those who were provided a tree in the first round are not eligible for this round. The timeline is to issue the notification, trees can be delivered as early as November depending on outcome.

Fiscal Impact: \$16,667 is available in the FY21 electric budget for public education

Recommended Action: Authorize staff to proceed with the FY22 NPUA Free Shade Program not to exceed \$14,999.

Am Sylvia Miledi

Submitted By: Rainie Torrance, Assistant Utility Manager

City Management Review: Rick

Date: 9/30/21

Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled: <input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="checkbox"/>
			Agenda Item: <u>3.</u>

GET *two free* DESERT-ADAPTED TREES

COURTESY OF THE NEEDLES PUBLIC UTILITY AUTHORITY ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

LET'S PLANT SOME SHADE!

The Needles Public Utility Authority Electric Department wants to help you become more energy efficient with (up to) two free desert-adapted tree starts for planting in energy-saving locations around your home. These 24-inch boxed starts are low-water, low maintenance plants that will help you create shade for years to come.

TREE TYPES OFFERED (YOU MAY CHOOSE TWO)

Mesquite



Desert Willow



Rosewood



- Tree supply is limited and will be offered on a first come, first serve basis.
- Deadline to request trees is October 31, 2021.
- We will contact all residents who submit requests with the tree distribution and pickup date.
- Before you dig: remember to call Dig Alert (dial 811) to determine no utility lines will be impacted.

NOT AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO RECEIVED A TREE IN 2020.

REQUEST YOUR TREE BY OCTOBER 31, 2021

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Tree Selection (you may pick up to two):

Mesquite Desert Willow Rosewood

Completed requests can be emailed to rtorrance@cityofneedles.com or mailed to: 817 Third St., Needles, CA 92363