



## City of Homer

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Homer City Council

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### Memorandum 20-047

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council

FROM: Councilmember Rachel Lord

DATE: April 7, 2020

SUBJECT: Right of Way Policy

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On October 14, 2019, City Council passed Resolution 19-073(S) which established a moratorium on cutting, clearing or removal of trees and vegetation in public rights-of-way. The original resolution (19-073) identified a problem surrounding the City's policies for ROW clearing; the substitute maintained the moratorium and created a policy team to work on solutions for the identified problems. The moratorium is in effect until May.

While the advent of Covid-19 has turned everything upside-down, the policy team had already met several times over the winter and developed a draft policy for Council's consideration. This resolution presents that policy and, if adopted by Council, will shift the City's ROW maintenance and clearing work to be 'as-needed'. This has been identified as less cost and time-effective for the City, however the community's desire for more green space and less clearing is identified and appreciated as a higher priority. This policy empowers landowners to maintain the ROW adjacent to their property with guidance from PW if desired, establishes a protocol for ROW clearing, and emphasizes reduced clearing for increased green space as possible while maintaining the City's responsibility for road maintenance and public safety. Good communication between the City and Citizens is critical for success, and Public Works should expand public outreach surrounding ROW maintenance alongside changes to policy and procedure.