



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

FROM: Councilmember Jimenez
Councilmember Khamis

**SUBJECT: Urgency Ordinance to Control
Feral Pig Population**

DATE: September 23, 2020

Approved

Date: 9/23/2020

RECOMMENDATION

Direct staff to prepare a temporary urgency ordinance to allow a state licensed trapper authorized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) pursuant to a depredation permit to utilize archery equipment to dispatch feral pigs on private property and agenda for 10/06/2020 City Council meeting.

BACKGROUND

In 2013, invasive wild pigs caused tens of thousands of dollars in damage to residential and business properties within City limits and some of the more aggressive pigs struck fear into residents, necessitating urgent action. Councilmember Khamis and former Councilmember Pete Constant secured approval from the Rules Committee to proceed with an urgency ordinance allowing the discharge of a firearm to euthanize feral pigs captured by a licensed trapper pursuant to a DFW depredation permit. Councilmember Khamis' work ultimately led to a permanent change in the municipal code to help control the wild pig population.

Unfortunately, feral pigs remain a destructive nuisance, most recently on Coyote Creek Golf Club property in Council District 2. The pigs have inflicted well over \$10,000 in damage despite the efforts of professional trappers to address the problem. These pigs have become "trap wise" and no longer can be simply captured using bait.

To provide relief, we are recommending that an urgency ordinance be approved to allow licensed trappers pursuant to a depredation permit to use archery equipment to dispatch "trap wise" wild pigs. This avoids the challenges and concerns associated with the discharge of a firearm within City limits. We are recommending that the urgency ordinance sunset within a short amount of time, just enough to allow the work to be complete. Permanent changes to the municipal code may be evaluated at a later time.