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### Consumer Price Index Adjustment for In-Lieu Fees for Tree Protection Ordinance

On April 16, 2024, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to bring back for final adoption an ordinance amending Chapters 25 (Subdivision Code) and 26 (Zoning Code) of the Sonoma County Code to update existing tree and woodland protections, including the Tree Protection Ordinance, Riparian Corridor Ordinance, Minor Timberland Conversion Ordinance and Major Timberland Conversion Ordinance. Updates included revising mitigation fees in the Tree Protection Ordinance to be commensurate with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase.

Staff used the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) online CPI Inflation Calculator, found at [https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm) to adjust the existing \$200/Arboreal Value Point fee from March 1989 to March of 2024, which yielded a result of \$510.76, rounded to \$510, which is the amount proposed for adoption as part of the proposed Tree Protection Ordinance returning to the Board of Supervisors for consideration of final adoption on April 30, 2024.

Since the in-lieu fees are not tied to a specific good or service, the value of the dollar at the time is used to calculate the adjustment. Based on BLS data, the CPI for March 1989 is 122.3 and CPI for March 2024 is 312.322, the formula for calculating CPI increase is:

CPI for Current Year	312.322
Less CPI for previous period	122.3
Equals index point change	190.022
Divided by previous period CPI	122.3
Equals	1.55
Result multiplied by 100	155
Equals percent change	155%

Using the CPI adjustment formula above to adjust the existing \$200/Arboreal Value Point fee from March 1989 to March of 2024 with a 155% increase, the resulting value is \$510.76, rounded in the ordinance to \$510/Arboreal Value Point.



