

# Amendment to Eastvale Zoning Code to Permit Residential Beekeeping

*Eastvale City Council*

*Emily Elliott, AICP, Planning Department*

Wednesday, July 24, 2019



# Summary

- Residential Beekeeping – the non-commercial, “hobby” keeping of bees
- Not currently permitted in Eastvale
- City Council directed staff to investigate and make recommendations



# Definitions

- **"Bee"**
- **"Residential Beekeeping"**
- **"Bee Box"**



# Bee Facts

Bees serve vital functions

- Agriculture
- Habitat
- Residential landscapes



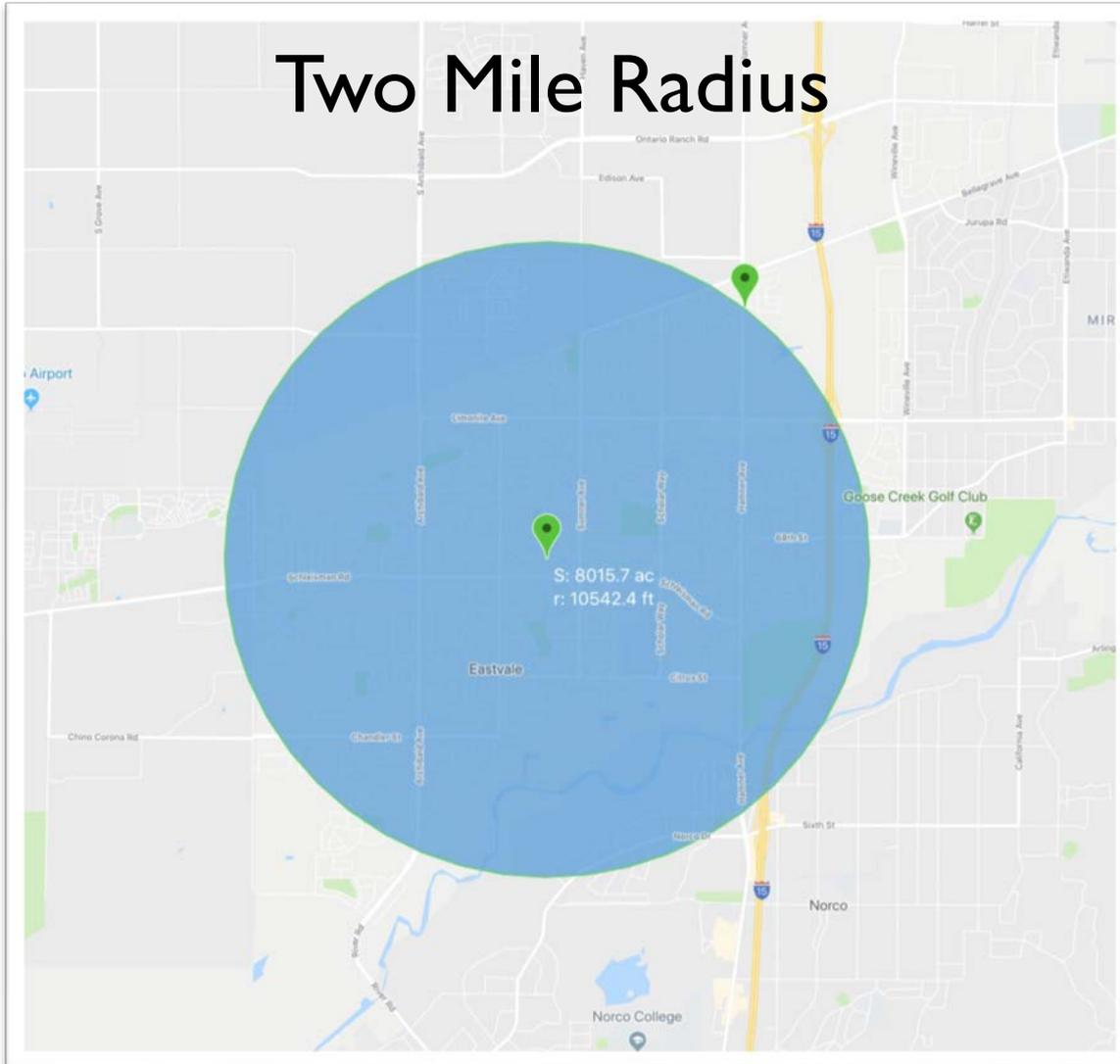
# Bee Facts

- Beekeeping takes little space
- Bees can travel up to 5 miles
- Bees tend to ignore the vegetation within 50 feet of their box



# As the Bee Flies

## Two Mile Radius



Bees travel large distances relative to their size – up to 5 miles.

Most bees will travel 1-2 miles on average.

# What We Learned

- Variety of regulatory styles – permissive, allowed by restrictive, or no beekeeping at all
- Some regulations not related to realities of bees and beekeeping
- Density and population is not related to beekeeping

# Recommended Approach

- Allow Residential Beekeeping with a Permit
- Notice to adjacent owners before permit is issued
- Promote Best Management Practices
- Simple beekeeping standards
- Define nuisance conditions

# Standards for Beekeeping

- Each residential lot may have up to 4 bee boxes
- Boxes not to exceed 6' in height
- Located in the rear yard
- Secured from unauthorized access



# Noticing and Permit

## Permit required

- Establishes a registry of permitted locations
- Noticing of adjacent neighbors required
- Documentation of bee allergy during permit process can halt permit

# Recommendation

Planning Commission **recommend approval** of Zoning Code amendment to allow residential beekeeping.

# City Council Options

- Approval
- Continue and request additional changes and/or conditions
- Deny the code amendment

# Questions - Comments

**Staff is prepared to answer questions from the Council.**

