

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT OPEN SPACE DIVISION CARMEL VALLEY MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT JUNE 2015 STAFF REPORT

Ornamental Landscaping

- Please let George or Greg know if you have suggestions on ways to improve maintenance activities within the district.
- Landscape Enhancement Project:
 - LUSA continues to mulch numerous landscapes throughout the Carmel Valley MAD.
 - O At the May 2015 meeting, committee attendees asked if staff could provide information regarding irrigation reduction strategies for the parks throughout the Carmel Valley MAD. Please review the attached maps for reference. The maps identify turf areas under the categories of being Active, Passive or Ornamental areas. Active turf areas will continue to be irrigated 3X a week; Passive areas have been reduced to 2X a week; Ornamental turf areas have been turned off with simulated rain events which are scheduled for 1 to 2X a month to keep the trees alive for longevity purposes. Staff feels additional water savings could be accomplished with the removal of Apentia cordifolia "Red Apple" succulents in a few areas and by incorporating mulch into the landscapes.
 - Oue to the Statewide Mandatory Water Reductions, turf medians are no longer able to receive irrigation. Staff is gathering ideas for a long-term plan if necessary. A new plant palette for the medians may be implemented due to our current drought conditions. Prospect palettes may consist of drought tolerant plants, landscape boulders, cobble river rock, decorative mulch, efficient irrigation, etc. Turf Rebate Programs are also available. Please review the water smart websites for additional information regarding the rebate programs. http://socalwatersmart.com/index.php/qualifyingproducts/turfremoval http://turfreplacement.watersmartsd.org/

Parks

- 1. Carmel Mission Park / Renaissance Park / SDG&E Easement
 - Staff met with Committee President, Rick Newman and the SDG&E's Arborist, Greg Peck to assess eight (8) Torrey Pine trees for removal in the Open Space area, north of Carmel Mission Park. It has been decided that these particular trees will be topped versus being removed to conserve as many trees as possible for environmental and longevity purposes.

2. Torrey Highlands Park

Oconstruction for the Torrey Highlands Park Playground and ADA improvements began the week of October 27, 2014. The project will include upgrades to the play area, paths of travel and restroom. Construction for the project is currently delayed due to root issues with the mature Torrey Pines in the vicinity. Plans for the concrete sidewalk will likely need to be modified in order to accommodate the roots and protect the trees. (No change from last month.)

3. Smart Controllers

O The committee approved the installation of smart controllers for all non-General Fund locations at the October 2014 meeting. Staff is working with LUSA and has submitted rebate information to SoCal Water. It generally takes 4 to 6 weeks for the rebates to be processed. At the April 2015 meeting, the committee approved the purchase of ET Water Smart Controllers to become more efficient and conservative now instead of waiting on the rebate checks to be received. LUSA has begun installing ET Water Smart Controllers in the MAD. Once the rebate checks are received, the MAD will be reimbursed.

Capital Improvement Project L.14000

Staff submitted 5 locations to the Engineering Department for Capital Improvement Projects which is phase one of CIP L.14000 and was approved by the CV Committee on November 5, 2013. CIP L.14000 was created to address un-landscaped (Baldwin) areas within public rights-of-ways throughout the MAD that currently do not have water service. The City of San Diego Water Department has installed all water meters associated with the CIP throughout the Carmel Valley MAD. Based on staff estimates, there are adequate funds within CIP L.14000 (deposited in FY2014) to address the five locations. Staff reviewed and made comparisons to the landscape quotes and feel the rates are appropriate for these particular projects. Due to California's current drought conditions, the governor mandated a 25% reduction of irrigation usage throughout the state. At the April 2015 meeting, the committee decided to delay the remainder of the project (plants and irrigation install) until more information was provided from the government regarding the drought concerns. Greg advised that it would be best if the project continued later in the year as plants require less water in the cooler months and have a better success rate becoming established for longevity purposes and the committee agreed with the plan.

Tree Trimming

 West Coast Arborist continues to provide tree maintenance services throughout the Carmel Valley MAD and delivering mulch to designated areas making distribution/mulching easier and quicker for Landscapes USA.

Landscape Contract and Budget

o Landscapes USA (LUSA) continues to provide services within budget.

Attachments

- 1. Irrigation Reduction Strategy Maps
- 2. Photos of Carmel Mission Park Torrey Pine Trees

Respectfully submitted,

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