



# CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

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MEETING DATE: JANUARY 5, 2004

ITEM NUMBER:

**SUBJECT:** MODIFICATIONS TO PLANT PALETTE FOR 19<sup>TH</sup> STREET MEDIAN ISLANDS AND PARKWAYS

**DATE:** DECEMBER 23, 2003

**FROM:** PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT/ENGINEERING DIVISION

**PRESENTATION BY:** WILLIAM J. MORRIS, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** ERNESTO MUNOZ, CITY ENGINEER, AT 714-754-5343

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Parks and Recreation Commission, Westside Revitalization Oversight Committee, and City staff recommend approval of modifications to the plant palette, as listed in Attachment 1, for the 19<sup>th</sup> Street median islands and parkways, between Park Avenue and Placentia Avenue.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On November 20, 2000, City Council adopted Resolution No. 00-83 which created Utility Undergrounding District No. 21 (UUD No. 21). UUD No. 21 requires that all overhead utilities on 19<sup>th</sup> Street, from Anaheim Avenue to Monrovia Avenue, and Placentia Avenue, from 18<sup>th</sup> Street to 20<sup>th</sup> Street, be placed underground.

In addition, funds are currently budgeted to rehabilitate Placentia Avenue from the southerly City limits to Wilson Street, and 19<sup>th</sup> Street from Park Avenue to Placentia Avenue. This project consists of reconstruction of asphalt concrete pavement and construction of concrete bus pads. It will also include removal and reconstruction of damaged curb, gutter, sidewalk, and driveways along 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Placentia Avenue.

City Council allocated funds in Fiscal Years 2002-03 and 2003-04 for the design and construction of landscaped medians on 19<sup>th</sup> Street, from Placentia Avenue to Park Avenue. The construction of landscaped medians and parkways on 19<sup>th</sup> Street will be combined with the 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Placentia Avenue Rehabilitation project.

In order to minimize the impact to businesses along 19<sup>th</sup> Street, reduce traffic "spill over" into the adjacent residential neighborhoods, and still provide a landscaped look to 19<sup>th</sup> Street, a combination of small median islands and landscaped parkways was studied. The layout of proposed landscaped medians and landscaped parkways along 19<sup>th</sup> Street from Placentia Avenue to Park Avenue was approved by City Council on July 7, 2003 (see Attachment 2).

In accordance with the Streetscape and Median Development Standards (Standards), the approved plant palette for 19<sup>th</sup> Street, between park Avenue and Placentia Avenue is as follows:

Primary Trees:

- Brisbane Box, *Tristania conferta*
- Samuel Sommers Magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora*, 'Samuel Sommers'

Median Tree:

- Brisbane Box, *Tristania conferta*

Median Accent Tree:

- Samuel Sommers Magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora*, 'Samuel Sommers'

Median Accent Shrub:

- Dwarf Red New Zealand Flax, *Phormium tenax* 'Dwarf Red'
- Bird of Paradise, *Strelitzia reginae*
- Blue and White Lily of the Nile, *Agapanthus africanus*
- Sea Lavender/Statice, *Limonium perezii*

Median Ground Cover:

- Lavender Lantana, *Lantana montevidensis*
- Iceplant, *Drosanthemum floribundum* 'Rosea'
- Iceplant, *Lampranthus spectabilis*
- White Gazenia, *Gazenia* 'White' (clumping)
- Ivy Geranium, *Pelargonium peltatum*, 'Mitsui'

Attachment 3 contains pictures of the landscape palette listed above.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The consultant landscape architect for the 19<sup>th</sup> Street project has provided a preliminary conceptual design for the planting of 19<sup>th</sup> Street. The consultant and City staff reviewed the design and are recommending some modifications to the proposed plant palette in order to provide more color and variety to the streetscape than is currently provided in the Standards. (Attachment 1)

The proposed plant palette for 19<sup>th</sup> Street, between Park Avenue and Placentia Avenue is as follows:

Primary Trees (Parkway Trees):

- Queen Palm, *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*

Median Tree:

- Crape myrtle, *Lagerstroemia indica*

Median Accent Tree:

- Queen Palm

Median Accent Shrub:

- New Zealand Flax, *Phormium tenax* 'Maori Queen'
- Daylily, *Hemerocallis spp.*
- Kaffir Lilly, *Clivia miniata*

Median Ground Cover:

- Creeping Phlox, *Phlox paniculata*
- Candytuft, *Iberis sempervirens* 'Little Gem'
- Heliotrope, *Heliotropium arborescens* 'Atlantis'

Attachment 4 contains pictures of the landscape palette listed above.

As previously mentioned, the intent of the proposed modifications to the plant palette for 19<sup>th</sup> Street is to add a considerable amount of color to the landscape through the use of flowering perennial shrubs and trees. Substituting more suitable species of trees for the narrow parkways will enhance the corridor without obstructing signs of local businesses or interfering with vehicular traffic. The approved trees listed in the Standards, Magnolia trees and Brisbane Box

trees, would not add the desired color and could cause problems, in the future, due to their large size, form, or root structures.

The Parks and Recreation Commission, at their regular meeting of October 22, 2003, recommended City Council approve the proposed changes to the plant palette for 19<sup>th</sup> Street, as listed in Attachment 1. The proposed plant palette was then presented to the Westside Revitalization Oversight Committee (WROC) at their meeting of November 20, 2003, for their review and comments. The WROC concurred with the proposed plant palette. If approved by City Council, those changes will be included in a future report for the Commission's and City Council's consideration regarding modifications of the Standards. Other proposed changes to the Standards will also be included at that time.

#### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

1. City Council may approve the proposed modifications to the plant palette for 19<sup>th</sup> Street, between Harbor Boulevard and Placentia Avenue.
2. City Council may consider modifying the proposed plant palette.
3. City Council may also consider denying the request to modify the plant palette for 19<sup>th</sup> Street, and utilize the existing plant palette as approved in the Standards. However, staff does not recommend this alternative, as the existing palette cannot be accommodated within the narrow parkways and medians on 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There are no fiscal impacts associated with the proposed modification of the plant palette. Funding is included in the project to provide landscaping. Changing the plant palette will not affect the cost of the project.

#### **LEGAL REVIEW:**

No legal review is required for this item.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Installation of landscaped medians and parkways will enhance the aesthetics of 19<sup>th</sup> Street from Placentia Avenue to Park Avenue. Changes in the approved plant palette for this corridor will improve the aesthetic quality of the area and compliment the improvements under design for construction. It is recommended that City Council approve the proposed modifications to the plant palette for the landscaped areas on 19<sup>th</sup> Street, from Placentia Avenue to Park Avenue, as part of the upcoming Pavement Rehabilitation Project.

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ERNESTO MUNOZ  
City Engineer

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WILLIAM J. MORRIS  
Director of Public Services

- Attachments: 1 - [Proposed Plant Palette on 19<sup>th</sup> Street](#)  
2 - [Approved 19<sup>th</sup> St. median and parkway locations](#)  
3 - [Photographs of Approved Plant Palette for 19<sup>th</sup> Street](#)  
4 - [Photographs of Proposed Plant Palette for 19<sup>th</sup> Street](#)

Distribution: City Manager  
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19thStreetPlantModificationsReport

12/04/03

10:30 a.m.