



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2004

ITEM NUMBER: 9a_

SUBJECT: CITYWIDE NEW AND MISSING-LINK SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

DATE: OCTOBER 13, 2004

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT/ENGINEERING DIVISION

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: ERNESTO MUNOZ, CITY ENGINEER – 714-754-5173

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the removal and replacement of one parkway tree at 141 20th Street, with the replacement tree being a 24" box size.

BACKGROUND

The Public Services Department is responsible for the construction, maintenance, and repair of public improvements within the City's right-of-way. A portion of this right-of-way is referred to as the "parkway," which is located between the curb and gutter and the adjoining property. Concrete improvements within the parkway may include the following: curb and gutter, driveway approaches, and sidewalk. As part of the City's construction program, a New and Missing-Link Sidewalk Construction Project is performed to furnish new sidewalk in those parkway areas currently having no concrete sidewalk to provide a complete path of travel for pedestrians. This project is scheduled to begin construction on December 20, 2004, and consists of: construction of new sidewalk and driveway approaches; reconstruction of damaged curb and gutter, and driveway approaches; the removal and replacement of a parkway tree upon approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission; and other related work as required.

Before seeking approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission for the removal and replacement of parkway trees, the Public Services Department evaluates each tree and recommends a course of action. The Public Services Department then incorporates these recommendations in the final project. Any parkway tree approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission for removal will be replaced on a one-to-one basis.

The existing parkway tree to be removed was planted at an inappropriate location for new sidewalk construction within the right-of-way, and Public Services staff has carefully considered all reasonable and/or practical alternatives to save the tree before seeking the Commission's removal request.

ANALYSIS

Exhibit A identifies the parkway address of the tree to be removed where new parkway improvements have resulted in a recommendation for removal and replacement. It also lists the street affected by the removal of the tree, identifies the number of parkway trees on the street, the number of parkway tree to be removed, and the tree removal percentages per street.

The criteria used for recommendation of parkway tree removal in this project has been set forth in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0, adopted on September 7, 1999, City Council Resolution No. 99-60.

As set forth in the Public Services Department Policy, and in keeping with City Council Policy 200-3, Parkway Maintenance and Tree Preservation, if a property owner opposes the tree removal, staff arranges to meet with the property owner. If practical, and the conditions call for it, the option and feasibility of accepting dedication of an additional easement for sidewalk purposes, in order to protect the tree, is considered and negotiated with the property owner. However, this is not possible at this location.

The property owner adjacent to the affected tree to be removed is notified in writing of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in which the item will be presented, and has been notified of the tree removal by mail as shown in Exhibit B. The property owner has expressed his opposition to the tree removal as documented in his faxed letter to the City (Exhibit C). Until the Parks and Recreation Commission make a final decision, staff continues to be available to discuss the tree removal or any other aspects of the project with the public.

Exhibit D shows photographs of the tree in question depicting its location.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

At 141 20th Street, existing on-site improvements would not provide sufficient room to realign new concrete improvements as an alternative; construction of new sidewalk within existing parkway limits would severely damage the existing tree and could eventually kill it. Too much root removal around the tree may topple it, and that could cause extensive damage to the adjacent properties, their occupants, and pedestrians.

Another alternative is to require replacement at a three to one ratio, as required in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards. However, the City plants hundreds of trees throughout the City each year.

FISCAL REVIEW

The construction funding for the New and Missing-Link Sidewalk Construction has been allocated and approved within the City's budget.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this project.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Commission approve the removal and replacement of one parkway tree in order to allow for furnishing new concrete improvements within the parkway.

ERNESTO MUNOZ
City Engineer

WILLIAM J. MORRIS
Director of Public Services

Attachments: [Exhibit A – Tree Recommendations/Removal Ratio per Street](#)
[Exhibit B – Property Owner Notification Letter](#)
[Exhibit C – Faxed Letter from Property Owner](#)
[Exhibit D – Tree Photographs](#)