

Agenda Report

DATE: October 13, 2003

TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO THE MASTER STREET TREE PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve to the following amendments to the Master Street Tree Plan:

1. Add the *Prunus serrulata* 'Pink Cloud' as an alternate street tree for Highland Street between Garfield and El Molino Avenues; and
2. Add the *Cedrus deodara* Deodar Cedar as an alternate street tree on Rio Grande Street from Los Robles to Michigan Avenue; and
3. Add the *Tabebuia avellanedae*, Pink Trumpet Tree, to allow for planting in the new traffic circles on Glenarm Street; and
4. Add the *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak, on New York Drive between Altadena Drive and Sierra Madre Villa; and
5. Add the *Tabebuia avellanedae*, Pink Trumpet Tree, as a alternate street tree on East Colorado from Catalina Avenue to Holliston Avenue; and
6. Add the *Koelreuteria bipinnata*, Chinese Flame Tree, and *Pistacia chinensis*, Chinese Pistache, as alternate street tree species on East Colorado from Sunnyslope Boulevard to Sycamore Avenue.

URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Urban Forestry Advisory Committee recommended that the City Council approve the staff recommendation.

DESIGN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Design Commission recommended that the City Council approve the staff recommendations with the following exception:

The Design Commission recommended that the City Council not approve an amendment to the Master Street Tree Plan with regard to East Colorado, voting to retain the existing plan.

BACKGROUND

Highland Avenue:

The "Pink Cloud" is a cherry tree that has been recently donated by Pasadena's sister city in Japan. This donation has made 200 trees available for planting in Pasadena to date. Eighty of these trees have been planted in the City's parks. With approximately 1000 of these trees promised to the City of Pasadena over the next nine years, additional locations for future plantings need to be identified. Incorporating the 'Pink Cloud' Cherry trees on Pasadena's streets will further enhance the success of the relationship between the cities. The ultimate goal for the trees is for planting in locations that are readily seen by residents and visitors of the Pasadena Cherry Blossom Festival. Staff has reviewed several locations in Pasadena and is now recommending Highland Street, between Garfield and El Molino Avenues, as one of these locations.

Rio Grande Street:

The Master Street Tree Plan currently calls for the *Calocedrus decurrens* Incense Cedar on Rio Grande. The Incense Cedar has not adapted well in this urban parkway setting that receives higher volumes of irrigation than the species requires. The result has been the early and unexpected death of several mature trees. Staff has considered several options, and is now recommending the *Cedrus deodara* Deodar Cedar for Rio Grande.

Traffic Circles on Glenarm:

The Master Street Tree Plan currently calls for the Crepe Myrtle to be planted on Glenarm Street. However, community meetings resulted in a recommendation to plant the Pink Trumpet Tree for better visibility. Staff concurs with the visibility concerns, and is now therefore recommending the *Tabebuia avellanedae*.

New York Drive:

The Master Street Tree Plan currently calls for the the *Eucalyptus ficifolia* to be planted on New York Drive between Altadena Drive and Sierra Madre Villa. A recent donation by John McDannel, has made the *Quercus agrifolia* available for planting in this

location. The *Quercus agrifolia* is natural in this setting, particularly with limited irrigation available. The *Eucalyptus ficilolia* is native to Australia. The area surrounding New York Drive is a natural setting, and staff supports the planting of native trees in this area. Therefore staff recommends amending the Master Street Tree Plan to add the *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak, on New York Drive between Altadena Drive and Sierra Madre Villa.

East Colorado Boulevard:

The City of Pasadena was recently awarded a grant to plant 250 trees on East Colorado. The proposal paralleled the East Colorado Specific Plan that called for the species as identified in the Master Street Tree Plan, adopted by City Council in 1991. The species identified in the Master Street Tree Plan for the impacted areas is the *Platanus acerifolia* London Plane tree. The London Plane tree at its maturity will reach an average height of 65 feet, and have a canopy spread of 40 feet. As staff prepared for the actual planting by placing markers in front of the locations for trees, business and property owners became concerned that the trees would block their businesses and signage.

In response to the concerns, staff reviewed the Master Street Tree Plan for East Colorado Blvd. The tree species identified in the plan for East Colorado from Holliston Avenue to Sierra Madre Boulevard is the *Tabebuia avellanedae* (Pink Trumpet Tree). Staff is recommending that this species be utilized as an alternate species extending west to Catalina Avenue. Similarly, the area from Sierra Madre Boulevard to Sunnyslope Boulevard has the *Koelreuteria bipinnata* (Chinese Flame Tree) and *Pistacia chinensis* (Chinese Pistache) trees designated as the street tree species. Staff is recommending that these trees be approved as alternate species extending east from Sunnyslope Boulevard to Sycamore Avenue.

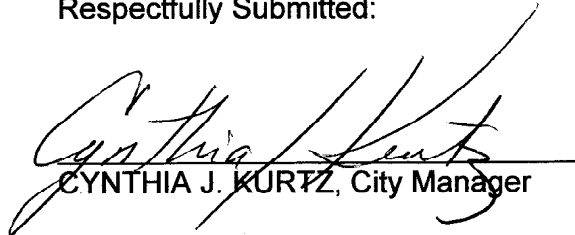
At the Design Commission's regular meeting of February 24, 2003, staff presented the above recommendation. The Commission received the report and public comment. The public did not support the staff recommendation, because they were not familiar with the staff recommendation, and in general did not support the planting of any trees. At this meeting, the Design Commission voted to recommend that the City Council retain the species identified in the Master Street Tree Plan.

Since the meeting of the Design Commission, staff has met with the businesses and residents to familiarize them with the staff recommendation. The business owners are now supportive of the staff recommended amendments. Staff therefore recommends the alternate *Tabebuia avellanedae* (Pink Trumpet Tree) on East Colorado from Catalina Avenue to Holliston Avenue and the *Koelreuteria bipinnata* (Chinese Flame Tree) and *Pistacia chinensis* (Chinese Pistache) on East Colorado from Sunnyslope Boulevard to Sycamore Avenue.

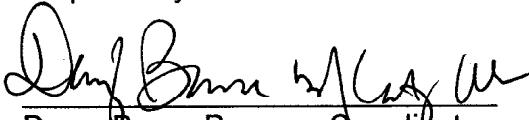
FISCAL IMPACT:

The recommendation to allow for an alternate species for East Colorado will not increase the cost for the initial planting or maintenance of the City street trees. The remaining recommended amendments to the Master Street Tree Plan will not generate any additional costs, and will therefore not impact the Department of Public Works' operating budget.

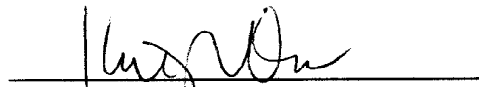
Respectfully Submitted:


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, City Manager

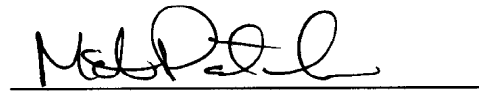
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