

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: March 8, 2004

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO THE MASTER STREET TREE PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Fair Oaks Median Island – Amend the plan to allow for the alternate species of *Tipuana tipu*, Tipu Tree, for planting in both the North Fair Oaks median islands (between Holly Street and Walnut Avenue) and the South Fair Oaks median island (located between Columbia Street and State Street).
2. South Hudson between California Boulevard and Arden Road – Amend the plan to substitute the *Platanus racemosa*, California Sycamore Tree, for the *Calocedrus decurrens*, Incense Cedar Tree.

DESIGN COMMISSION:

The Design Commission reviewed and approved the staff recommendation at their regular meeting on February 9, 2004.

URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The Urban Forestry Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the staff recommendation for the Fair Oaks Median Island at their regular meeting on January 21, 2004. The Committee reviewed and approved the staff recommendation for South Hudson at their regular meeting of November 19, 2004

BACKGROUND:

Fair Oaks Median Island:

The Master Street Tree Plan currently calls for the *Lagerstroemia indica*, Crepe Myrtle Tree to be planted on Fair Oaks from the southern city limit at Columbia Street to Orange Grove Boulevard. Staff has been working with the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation on a beautification project at one of Pasadena's most traveled entrances to the City, the South Fair Oaks Median Island (located between the City limits and State Street). Members of Pasadena Beautiful Foundation have been working on a plan that includes the planting of several trees in this median strip. The existing street tree is a deciduous tree, and would be bare for a significant part of the year. Staff, in concurrence with the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation, feels that this entrance to Pasadena should have trees that are significant year round. After careful consideration of several species, staff is now recommending that an alternate species, the Tipu Tree, *Tipuana tipu* be approved for Fair Oaks to allow its planting in the median strip on South Fair Oaks.

Subsequent to the planning of the beautification of the South Fair Oaks median strip, staff was approached by members of the Old Pasadena Business District to improve the look of the median island located on North Fair Oaks between the Marriott and Parsons. Staff suggested to the Old Pasadena Business District that the same approach to beautifying this median strip be taken as the one at the southern entrance. The Old Pasadena Business District approved the approach, and will be funding the cost of the plant material, including the trees. For consistency, staff is recommending that the Master Street Tree Plan be amended to allow for the planting of the *Tipuana tipu*, Tipu Tree in this location as well.

South Hudson Avenue:

The Master Street Tree Plan now calls for *Calocedrus decurrens*, Incense Cedar as the street tree for South Hudson Avenue. Over the past several years, staff has noticed a decline in this tree in several locations. However on South Hudson, the decline has been significant. In particular, staff has noticed the reoccurrence of dead and dying incense cedars trees in the immediate area. In some cases, this has been due to over watered parkways, which is likely the case on South Hudson where turf areas are prevalent. The amount of water needed for the turf, is often unfavorable to the trees. Staff is recommending the change in species to one that is more tolerant of heavy water conditions. Staff has been working closely with the Hudson neighbors, who have indicated in interest in the *Platanus racemosa*, California Sycamore. The California Sycamore meets the criteria for watering concerns, and therefore carries the staff recommendation to amend the Master Street Tree Plan.

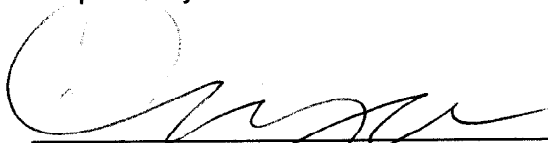
FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no additional fiscal impact associated with the change in species. The cost of maintenance for the City's public trees and the median islands is available through the operating budget for Parks and Natural Resources, a division of the Department of Public Works.


Respectfully Submitted:


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, City Manager

Prepared by:


DARYA BARAR, Program Coordinator
Parks and Natural Resources

Reviewed by:


KATHLEEN WOODS, Administrator
Parks and Natural Resources

Approved by:


MARTIN PASTUCHA, Director
Department of Public Works