



Agenda Report

January 23, 2017

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Department of Public Works
**SUBJECT: MASTER STREET TREE PLAN AMENDMENT – ARBOR STREET
FROM ARROYO BOULEVARD TO SOUTH GRAND AVENUE**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council

- 1 Find that the proposed Master Street Tree Plan (MSTP) Amendment for Arbor Street between Arroyo Boulevard and South Grand Avenue is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to California's Administrative Code Chapter 14 Title 3 Section 15061 (b)(3), and
- 2 Adopt the proposed MSTP Amendment for Arbor Street between Arroyo Boulevard and South Grand Avenue, designating *Quercus engelmannii*, Mesa Oak tree as the designated street tree species, in place of *Liriodendron tulipifera*, Tulip tree

URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 14, 2016, the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee unanimously supported the Department of Public Works' recommendation to amend the MSTP for Arbor Street between Arroyo Boulevard and South Grand Avenue, designating *Quercus engelmannii*, Mesa Oak tree as the designated street tree species, in place of *Liriodendron tulipifera*, Tulip tree

DESIGN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

On November 22, 2016, the Design Commission unanimously supported the Department of Public Works' recommendation to amend the MSTP for Arbor Street between Arroyo Boulevard and South Grand Avenue, designating *Quercus engelmannii*, Mesa Oak tree as the designated street tree species, in place of *Liriodendron tulipifera*, Tulip tree

BACKGROUND:

In May of 2016, the Department of Public Works removed five Tulip trees from Arbor Street based on their condition. Shortly following the removal of the Tulip trees, the Department received a request from a resident on Arbor Street to consider replacing the Tulip trees along Arbor Street with a more appropriate tree species (Attachment A)

Pursuant to the established procedure to amend the MSTP (Attachment B), staff provided the requester with

- 1 The City's flow chart outlining the MSTP amendment process,
- 2 Educational materials from the Cal Poly Urban Forest Tree Selection Guide website, and
- 3 A document that provides answers to the most frequently asked questions about the MSTP

Staff met with residents of Arbor Street to answer questions related to the MSTP amendment process and arboricultural criteria to consider for the replacement tree species. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Department received a species-specific request to select *Quercus engelmannii*, Mesa Oak as the designated tree species for this section of Arbor Street. Staff determined Mesa Oak to be an appropriate replacement tree species in light of the following criteria: compatibility with neighborhood design such as overhead power lines and parkway space, drought-tolerance, and species performance. Staff had previously identified the Tulip tree as a poor performing species with a high mortality rate. Staff supports the recommendation to adopt Mesa Oak as the designated tree species for this section of Arbor Street in place of Tulip tree.

Staff prepared a petition listing all property owners in this street segment and provided it to the resident who was serving as the Street Coordinator for this request. The petition (Attachment C) was signed by nineteen of twenty-one residents and submitted to the City.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action of amending the MSTP supports the City Council's goal to increase conservation and sustainability. Amending the MSTP also supports the Open Space & Conservation Element of the City's General Plan by supporting stewardship of natural resources and conservation.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

Planting tree species that are appropriate for their location in the City is the goal of the MSTP. Under California's Administrative Code Chapter 14 Title 3 Section 15061 (b)(3), tree planting is categorically exempt. The proposed MSTP amendment will assist in the

enhancement of the urban forest and is a demonstration of the continued commitment to the development of sustainable growth. Existing healthy City trees will not be removed as a result of this action. City trees that are removed through the City's standard removal process after the approval of this amendment, and any current vacant planting sites respective of this amendment, will be replanted with the replacement tree species, Mesa Oak

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amending the MSTP will not result in any additional costs to the City.

Respectfully submitted,



ARA MALOYAM, P E
Director
Public Works

Prepared by:



Michael R. King, Program Coordinator
Parks and Natural Resources

Approved by.



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager

Attachments (3)

- Attachment A – Letter Requesting MSTP Amendment for Arbor Street
- Attachment B – Procedure to Process Amendments to Master Street Tree Plan (MSTP)
- Attachment C – Petition Signatures for MSTP Amendment for Arbor Street