

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** December 9, 2002

**FROM:** City Manager

**SUBJECT:** Hermosa Road Sanitary Sewer Project:  
Exchange of Public Utility Easements  
at 1155 Hermosa Road

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution to:

- 1) Approve and accept a Grant of Easement for public utility purposes at 1155 Hermosa Road and consenting to the recordation thereof;
- 2) Direct the City Manager to execute, on behalf of the City, a Quitclaim Deed releasing all of the City's right, title, and interest in the public utility easement at 1155 Hermosa Road acquired in 1938.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Hermosa Road Sanitary Sewer project, which is included in the adopted Capital Improvement Program, provides for replacing an 8-inch diameter sewer with a 15-inch diameter sewer in Hermosa Road west of Laguna Road and across the single-family residential property at 1155 Hermosa Road. It also includes the abandonment of a 4-inch diameter water main across private property between Hermosa Road and Glen Summer Road.

The existing sewer is badly damaged – tree root intrusion has created many offset joints – and it is undersized for the peak flows it must carry. These factors have caused frequent blockages and upstream spills that have resulted in untreated sewage flowing across lots on Glen Summer Road, Hermosa Road, Laguna Road and along these streets.

The original project concept called for installing the new 15-inch diameter pipe on the same alignment as the existing pipe within an existing public utility easement. However, initial investigation revealed that doing so would require the removal of extensive vegetation on the lot at 1155 Hermosa Road consisting of 20 trees, 16 shrubs, and a 40-foot long hedge composed of 20 individual plants.

An alternative proposal calls for installing the new pipe on an alignment that is generally parallel with and 11 feet south of the existing line and runs through an adjacent lawn area. This reduces the removals required from 20 trees to nine trees. These nine trees consist of a 3-inch diameter Variegated Tobira, a 5-gallon Japanese Maple, a 2-inch diameter Fuyu Persimmon, a 3-inch diameter Victorian Box, a 3-inch diameter Mulberry, a 6-inch diameter Carolina Cherry, and a 36-inch diameter Aleppo Pine. None of these trees fall within the specimen or native tree designation of the Pasadena tree protection ordinance, and as such, are not protected trees. The removal of the 36-inch diameter Aleppo Pine tree is necessary for the reconstruction of the sewer, both in its original alignment and in the proposed alignment. In addition, the trunk of the Aleppo Pine is leaning severely and appears to pose a threat to the home at 340 Glen Summer Road.

Parks and Natural Resources has determined that the new alignment would have significantly less impact on the existing vegetation than reconstruction in the existing alignment would have. Therefore, the Director of Public Works, on behalf of the City Manager, pursuant to Section 8.52.080D of the Pasadena Municipal Code (the "City Trees and Tree Protection Ordinance") which authorizes the removal of trees needed to protect public health and safety, has approved the removal of the nine trees described above. Twenty-seven new trees will be planted as part of this project to mitigate the loss of the nine trees to be removed.

The property owners, Robert P. Goodwin and Kathleen F. Goodwin, are enthusiastic about this concept and have, therefore, executed a Grant of Easement prepared by the Department of Public Works and approved by the City Attorney's office that provides for construction of the new sewer, its future operation and maintenance, and the potential future installation, operation, and maintenance of a new water line. The easement document is ready for approval and acceptance by the City Council.

In exchange for the property owners granting the new easement it is proposed that the City execute a Quitclaim Deed that has been prepared by the Department of Public Works and approved by the City's Attorney's office releasing to them all its right, title, and interest in the public utility easement acquired by the dedication shown on the Map of Tract No. 11361 recorded in Book 211, Pages 25 and 26 of Maps in the Office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County on October 14, 1938.


The project, including the proposed exchange of easements, was determined to be categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on behalf of the Environmental Administrator on July 10, 2002 pursuant to Sections 15301(b), minor alteration of an existing sewerage with negligible expansion of use, and Section 15204, minor alterations in the condition of vegetation, of the State CEQA Guidelines, and a Notice of Exemption therefore was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on July 16, 2002.

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**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Sufficient funds are available in Budget Account 76537 (Hermosa Road Sanitary Sewer) to complete the project.

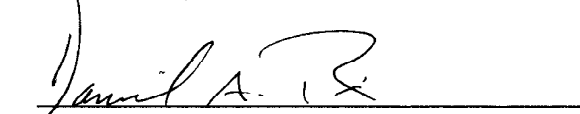
Respectfully submitted,

  
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
City Manager

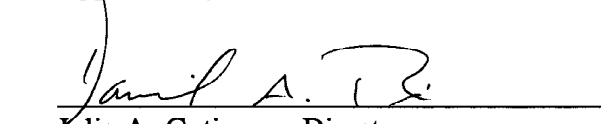
Prepared by:

  
Robert Gardner  
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Reviewed by:

  
Daniel A. Rix  
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Approved by:

  
Julie A. Gutierrez, Director  
Department of Public Works

Enclosures

RG:rl  
11-708-02-AC