

Agenda Report

DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2004
TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE ARROYO PARKWAY STREETScape ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Pasadena City Council approve the design development proposal for the Arroyo Parkway Streetscape Enhancement Project as proposed by Field Operations including amending the Master Street Plan to designate the *Phoenix dactylifera*, Date Palm as the alternative street tree for South Arroyo Parkway.

ADVISORY REVIEWS

Design Commission Recommendation

On June 28, 2004, the Design Commission recommended that the City Council approve the design development proposal for the Arroyo Parkway Streetscape Enhancement Project including amending the Master Street Plan to designate the *Phoenix dactylifera*, Date Palm as the alternative street tree for South Arroyo Parkway with the following exceptions:

- Pedestrian light fixtures need to be further studied to be more sensitive to future development and pedestrian activity;
- Crosswalks need to be redesigned to be sympathetic to the color and pattern of Pasadena in general;
- The design comes back to the Design Commission for final design review.

Urban Forestry Advisory Committee

On May 19, 2004, the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC) considered amending the Master Street Plan to allow for the planting of the *Phoenix dactylifera*, Date Palm as the alternate street tree for South Arroyo Parkway. The UFAC disagreed with staff's

recommendation and voted to recommend approval the *Phoenix canariensis*, Canary Island Date Palm).

BACKGROUND

During the winter of 2001-02, the Art Center College of Design and the City of Pasadena co-organized a competition (partially supported by the National Endowment for the Arts) for design improvements to Arroyo Parkway. The intent of the competition was to create an enhanced entrance to the city via Arroyo Parkway and stimulate new development.

On June 4th, 2002, Field Operations from Philadelphia, PA, was selected as the winner of the competition. In 2003, Field Operations entered into a contract for design services with the City to complete a design plan for the parkway.

The proposed design development plan includes the following changes to the parkway:

- Changes to the **landscape** (e.g., introduction of palm trees along the sidewalk and within median, and new landscape materials within the median);
- Changes to the **lighting** (e.g., pedestrian stick lights that include an LED light, crosswalk lights (in pavement); lighting in the median, and street light mounted floodlights for illuminating the palms);
- Changes to the **road bed and sidewalk** (e.g., decorative crosswalk and tree grates);
- Introduction of street **furniture** along the parkway (e.g., benches, and trash receptacles).

Amendment of the Master Street Tree Plan

Field Operation's concept proposes development of a gateway to Pasadena framing the view from the 110 Fwy. terminus to Old Pasadena and beyond to the San Gabriel Mountains. This is accomplished with lighting and street trees. The proposed plan includes the introduction of an "upper story" canopy of palm trees.

Currently, the street tree for Arroyo Parkway is the *Podocarpus gracilior*. The initial proposal included the *Howea forsteriana*, Kentia Palm. However, based upon the excessive cost of the Kentia Palm, its lack of availability and its susceptibility to Southern California winds, the consultant changed the palm variety to the Date Palm. A matrix was prepared analyzing the unit cost, mature height, availability, and special characteristics the trees exhibit such as wind tolerance, durability as a parkway tree, etc. The Date Palm is grown readily in Southern California and the City will be able to obtain the large quantities needed to complete the project. In addition, the cost of Date Palms is more reasonable when compared to the Kentia Palm.

Pedestrian light fixtures

The proposed pedestrian light fixtures will enhance the gateway by creating a "forced perspective" which visually leads the observer along Arroyo Parkway. The "forced perspective" is created by gradually reducing the height of the light fixtures along the parkway from approximately 30 feet (Glenarm Street) to approximately 3 feet 2 inches (Colorado Boulevard). The reduced height of the fixture addresses the change of scale along the parkway from vehicular to pedestrian.

The light standards exhibit the same brushed stainless steel finish that exists on the proposed trash receptacles and pedestrian benches. The surface of the light standard is solid near the base with a perforated surface near the top to accommodate the illumination. The taller standards will have two areas of perforation separated by a solid field. Finally, there is a blue-colored light emitting diode (LED) installed on both sides of the fixture that further enhances the forced perspective.

Crosswalk Paving Pattern

Field Operations also proposes decorative paving (alternating colors) within the crosswalks at several key intersections along the parkway. These intersections are located where there is a large volume of pedestrian activity, usually near a MTA Gold Line station. The design of select crosswalks also includes luminaires along the perimeter of the crosswalk. The decorative paving and the luminaires serve to alert motorists of the pedestrian activity and create an innovative visual at this intersection. The proposed luminaires along the perimeter of the crosswalk at Fillmore Street will be subject to a pilot approval process through the California Traffic Control Devices Committee prior to implementation.

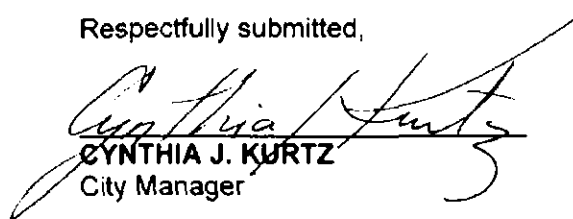
Street Furniture

Field Operations proposes brushed aluminum pedestrian benches and trash receptacles that will complement the light fixtures.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Arroyo Parkway Street Enhancement (Budget Account No. 73201) project is included in the current Capital Improvement Program. A total of \$2 million is available for the aesthetic elements (street trees, pedestrian lights, median island landscaping and decorative crosswalks).


Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

Prepared by:


LEON WHITE
Project Planner

Approved by:

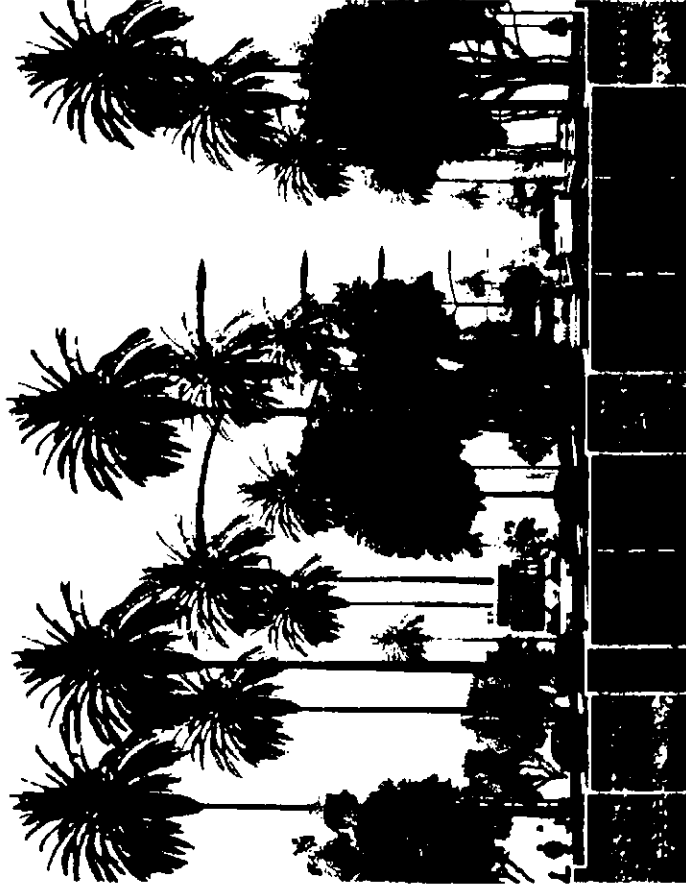

RICHARD BRUCKNER, Director
Planning & Development

Concurred by:


MARTIN PASTUCHA, Director
Public Works

Attachments: Drawings illustrating various streetscape elements

ARROYO PARKWAY STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENT
City of Pasadena, California

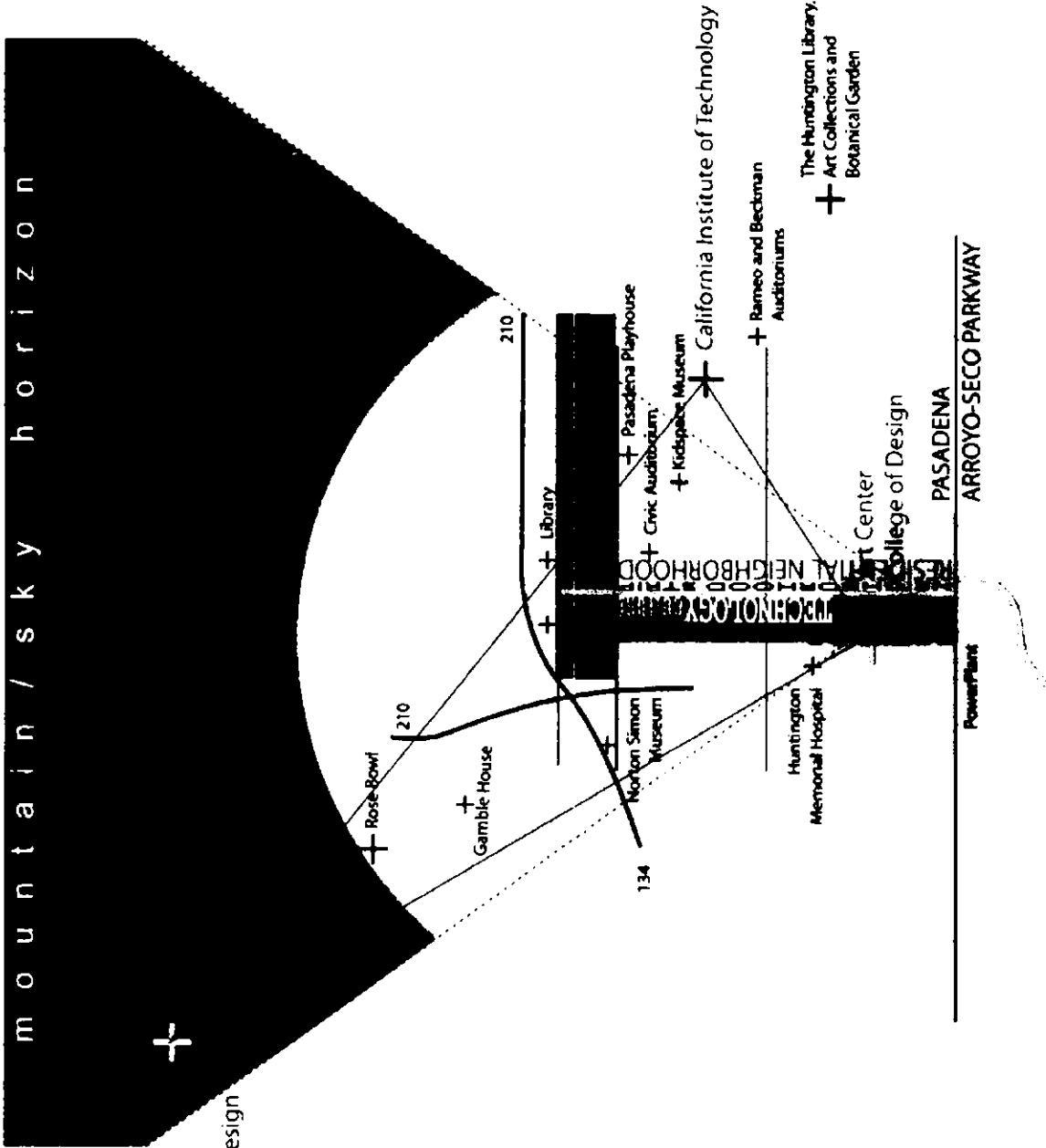


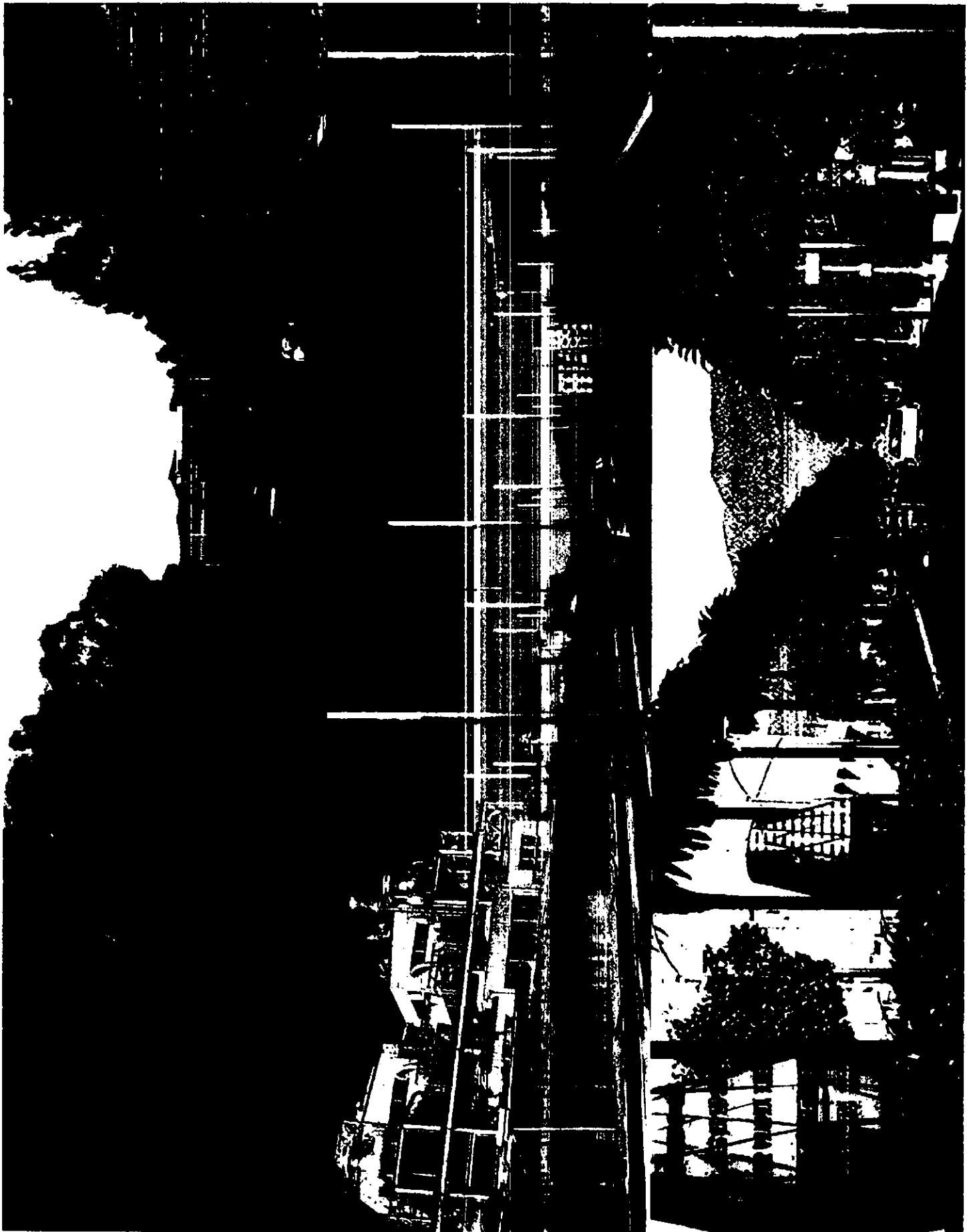
01. Original Competition Proposal

m o u n t a i n / s k y h o r i z o n

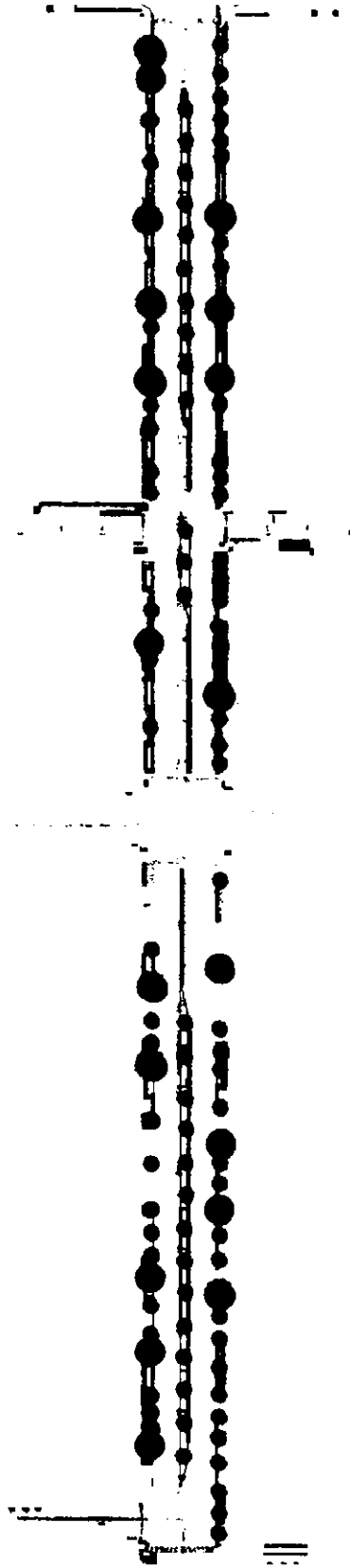


Art Center
College of Design



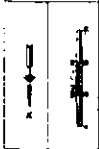


02. Design Development



● Large Tree (Palm) ● Medium Tree (Rounded) ● Small Tree (Rounded)

○ Utility Pole ○ Street Light



PLANNING DEPARTMENT
STREETSCAPE TREE PLANTING
 palms in median
 CITY OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA



● Small Tree
 ● Large Tree
 — Street
 — Median Strip
 — Sidewalk
 — Utility Lines

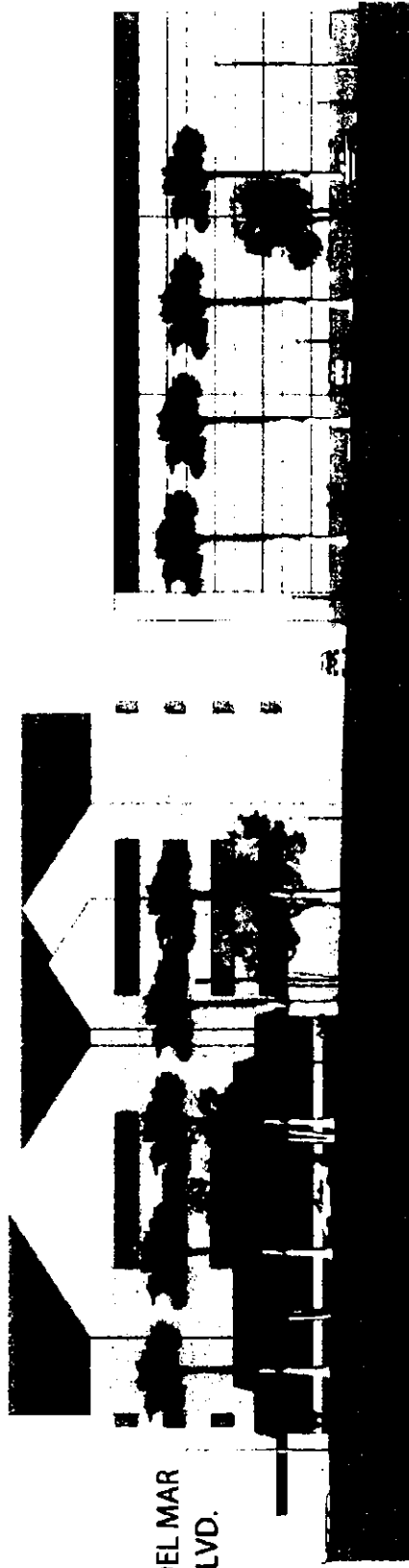
	North
	Scale: 1" = 10'

CIVIL ENGINEERING
STREETSCAPE PLANTING
 palms in median
 City of Los Angeles, California

COLORADO
BLVD.



DEL MAR
BLVD.



GLENARN
STREET

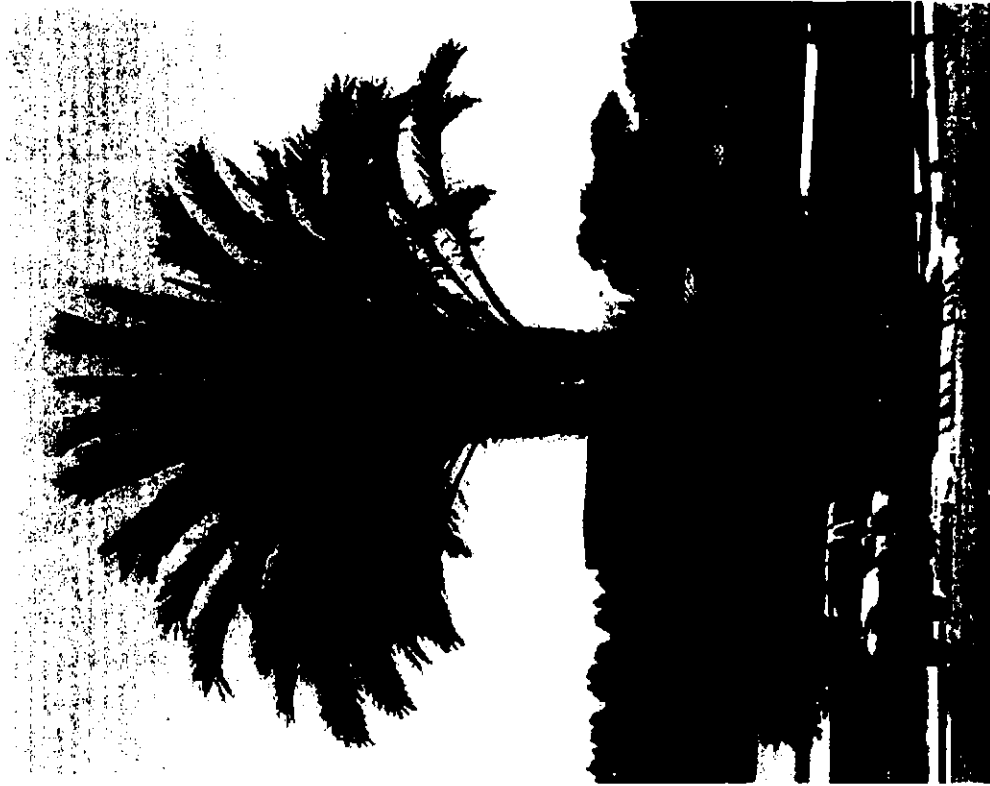




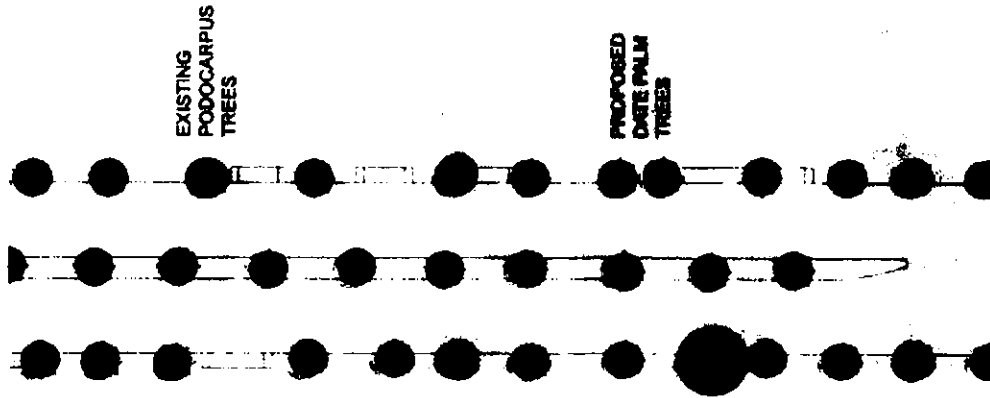


03. Design Elements

Palm Tree Super Canopy



Phoenix Decylifera Date Palm



Planting Materials for the Median



Helictotrichon sempervirens
Sapphire Blue Oat Grass



Agave attenuata 'Nova'
Blue Fox Tail Agave



Leptospermum laevis reevesii
Dwarf Tea Tree



Aloe arborescens variegata
Yellow Torch Aloe

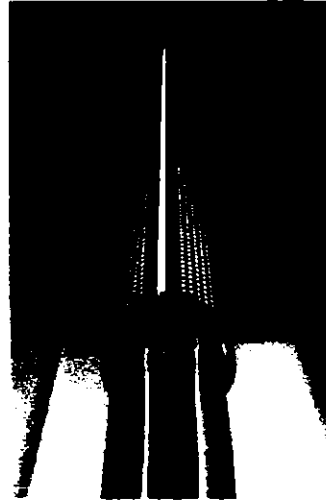
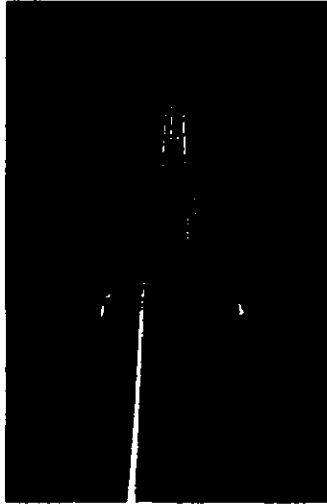


Philomis fruticosa
Jerusalem Sage



Philomis fruticosa
Jerusalem Sage

Pedestrian Light Column with LED Lights



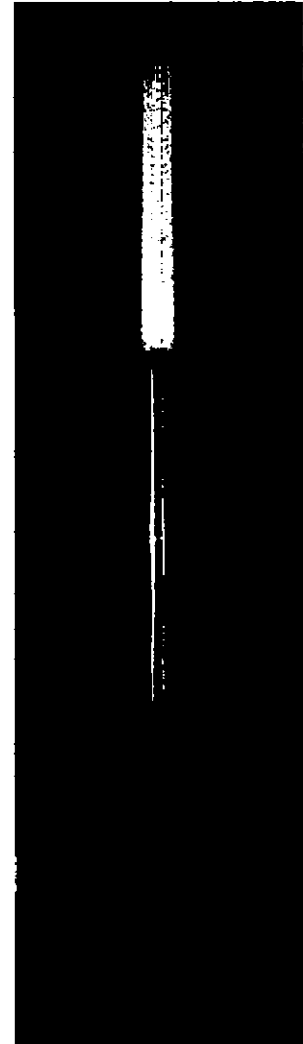
Protective Shield Detail



Bollard Type Fixture



LED Lights Detail



Pedestrian Type Fixture

Color Concrete Patterned Crosswalk
with Blue LED Drive-Over In-Ground Lights



Street Furniture



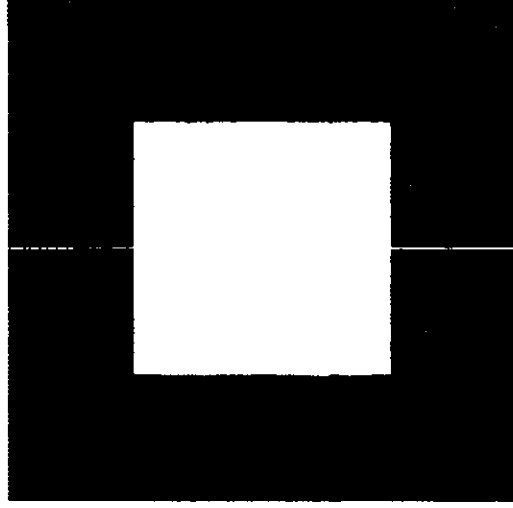
Stainless Steel Trash Receptacle



Stainless Steel Benches



Custom Stainless Steel Tree Grate



2 November 2004

Mayor William J. Bogaard
Mayor Pro Tem Sid Tyler
Councilmember Victor Gordo
Councilmember Steve Haderlein
Councilmember Chris Holden
Councilmember Paul Little
Councilmember Steve Madison
Councilmember Joyce Streater
City of Pasadena
100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

Art Center

Phone 626.396.2200 Fax 626.405.9104

Dear City Councilmembers:

I am writing to strongly endorse the new plan for the Arroyo Parkway designed by landscape architect James Corner of Field Operations.

As you may know, in 2002, the Field Operations team won an international design competition, co-organized by the City of Pasadena and Art Center College of Design, with the support of a National Endowment for the Arts New Public Works grant of \$40,000. The competition-winning team also featured Nancy Goslee Powers, a locally based landscape architect. Powers designed the acclaimed Monet-inspired sculpture garden at the Norton Simon Museum.

The Field Operations concept for the Arroyo Parkway harmonizes with Pasadena's unique identity as a historically significant and technologically innovative community. To develop a contextually responsive design, James Corner undertook a major study and survey of Pasadena's rich natural and cultural history and met with community advisors. Working closely with Nancy Goslee Powers, Corner selected a spectacular collection of trees and plants in accordance with Pasadena's natural habitat, the environment and scale of the existing streetscape, and with reference to the Pasadena landscapes at the turn of the last century. The special features of the Arroyo Parkway streetscape also alludes to the fact that Pasadena is the proud home to technological and scientific innovations cultivated by the California Institute of Technology and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The Field Operations design thus weaves together a unique synthesis of historically sensitive and technological innovative landscape design.

Highlighted during the competition – and true today – is the critical importance of Arroyo Parkway as the historic "gateway" to Pasadena from downtown Los Angeles. Because of the significance of Arroyo Parkway as a key gateway to Pasadena, it is wholly appropriate to have a landscape design for this major thoroughfare that displays the best aspects of Pasadena's civic identity.

For all of these reasons, I strongly endorse the new Arroyo Parkway design as a way to further enhance the beauty of Pasadena and boldly plan for its future.

With all best wishes,



Richard Koshalek
President

