

Agenda Report

DATE: July 31, 2006

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO THE MASTER STREET TREE PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve an amendment to the Master Street Tree Plan to allow the planting of the *Chitalpa tashkentensis*, Pink Dawn Chitalpa as an alternate tree species on Alegra Street from the dead end to Michillinda Avenue.

URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Urban Forestry Advisory Committee reviewed and unanimously supported the staff recommended amendment at their meeting of June 5, 2006.

DESIGN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The Design Commission reviewed and unanimously supported the staff recommended amendment to the Master Street Tree Plan to allow for the planting of the *Chitalpa tashkentensis*, Pink Dawn Chitalpa as an alternate tree species on Alegra Street from the dead end to Michillinda Avenue, at their regular meeting on July 10, 2006. The Design Commission further recommended that all of the *Calocedrus decurrens*, Incense Cedar trees be removed and replaced at the same time with the new designated street tree.

BACKGROUND

The existing street tree on Alegra Street is the *Calocedrus decurrens*, Incense Cedar. These street trees have been growing in this area for the past 40 years, and have not performed well or naturalized in the existing urban conditions. This has been evidenced by the amount of dead wood in the trees. The neighbors expressed their concern about the need to remove these trees in the future due to failure. Staff held a community meeting to discuss the tree conditions with the neighborhood. After reviewing several considerations, the neighbors chose the *Chitalpa tashkentensis*, Pink Dawn Chitalpa.

Staff is therefore recommending this amendment of the Master Street Tree Plan to allow for the planting of the *Chitalpa tashkentensis*, Pink Dawn Chitalpa for Alegra Street from the dead end to Michillinda Avenue. This tree has a proven record in Pasadena lining the Lincoln Avenue corridor and is the first choice of the residents.

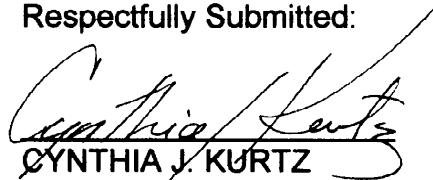
As part of their review of the staff recommendation, the Design Commission recommended that all existing *Calocedrus decurrens*, Incense Cedar trees on Alegra Street be removed immediately and subsequently replaced by the new designated street tree. This represents 58 live trees. Staff supports the removal of these trees, however would have them removed in a phased approach to lessen the impact of the canopy loss. Over time this approach will build a canopy of the newly designated street trees, while phasing out existing canopy coverage over a 12-year period.

Phasing the removal of the *Calocedrus decurrens*, Incense Cedar trees on Alegra Street will allow for the development of the canopy of the newly planted street tree on an incremental basis. Staff would remove fifteen trees based on their condition in FY 2007, and replace with the new street tree. Staff will replace the current vacant sites as well. In FY 2011, another fifteen trees will be removed and replaced, based on their condition. This would continue every four years until all 58 trees are removed and replaced. The implementation of this plan is expected to be complete by fiscal year 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT

The change in species for all locations will not incur any additional installation or maintenance costs.

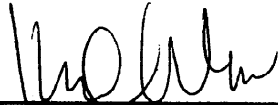
Respectfully Submitted:


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