

Agenda Report

DATE: May 18, 2009

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT: FOCUSED REVIEW OF THE REMAINING STREETScape AND
SPECIFIC PLANS FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE MASTER STREET
TREE PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council direct staff to work with the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC) to undertake a focused review of the trees in the specific plans that have a total score of 60 or less, or their cumulative total on the priority subtotal is less than 6 as identified on the Review and Analysis of Species in the Specific Plan Areas (Exhibit A) by December 31, 2009, and rescind the moratorium on planting all other trees in the Specific Plan areas.

URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEW:

At their regular meeting of May 4, 2009, the UFAC reviewed a refined analysis of the tree species for Pasadena's Streetscape Plans attached as Exhibit A. In this review, the UFAC discussed the weightings that would be more in alignment with their understanding of the Council and community priorities, suggesting that the column for Aesthetic Value and CO2 Reduction should be higher. The UFAC further indicated that they would like to devote their next meeting to host a public workshop and analyze the matrix before a review of the districts would begin. With a consensus of the evaluation criteria, the UFAC would work with stakeholders for each streetscape plan to review species that no longer meet the City's environmental goals.

BACKGROUND:

At their April 27, 2009, meeting, the City Council requested that the staff provide a more focused approach to the review of tree species planted in the specific plan areas. In response to this, staff revised the attached Review and Analysis of Species in the Specific Plan Areas (Exhibit A), with changes to the criteria weightings to be more in

alignment with Council priorities. The changes included lowering the weighting of the Pest and Disease column to 3 and raising the Micro-Climate Benefit (benefit derived from shade, reduction of air temperatures, and windbreak) column to 5 in order to better indicate these priorities.

Staff has further adjusted the weightings based on feedback from the UFAC by increasing the weighting factor for Aesthetic Value to 3 and the CO2 Reduction to 3 and reduced the value for Degree of Liter to 1 and the Storm Water to 1. Based on the review of the revised data, which places emphasis on City Council priorities and feedback from the UFAC, staff is recommending the review of tree species in the specific plan areas be limited to those species whose total score falls below 60 points and/or their cumulative total on the priority subtotal is less than 6. This will allow for a more targeted review of specific plans with focus on those trees that may be in conflict with City Council priorities.

The evaluation criteria as submitted in Exhibit A, provides a strong basis for evaluating trees based on City Council priorities as well as environmental benefits. The evaluation criterion has been developed by the City's certified arborist with input from experts at the Center for Urban Forest Research (CUFR) through the United States Department of Agriculture, and the US Forest Service. Additionally the weighting factors consider feedback from City Council as well as the UFAC. The Urban Forest Ecosystems SelectTree web page and the University of Florida Environmental Horticulture Department's 680 Tree Fact Sheets web page provided the bulk of the facts on each individual tree species the details of which are found in the footnote section of Exhibit A.

The City Council further requested that staff return with a scope of work, a schedule for review, and target dates for approval by the City Council. Staff proposes to schedule the review of specific plans to begin at the June 2009 meeting of UFAC, starting with the Civic Center plan area that has identified five trees that meet the criteria requiring a review. Each streetscape plan area would be reviewed separately at public meetings hosted by the UFAC with impacted and interested stakeholders. These meetings would encourage participation from the affected business owners, residents and any other interested parties. The review of the specific plan areas will continue with one to two specific plan reviews per month. In addition to the Civic Center, the reviews will include the East Colorado, East Pasadena and South Fair Oaks plan areas. The time frame for the initial review process should not exceed six months.

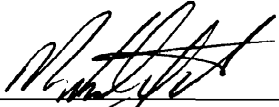
It is anticipated that the public review process will result in recommendations for changes to the MSTP as well as having the potential for changes to one or more of the streetscape plans. To amend these plans will require further review by the Design Commission and the Planning Commission that could be done incrementally as a recommendation is formulated for each plan. The review by the Design and Planning Commissions can be scheduled as soon as agreement is reached at the publicly hosted UFAC meetings however no date is associated with this review at this time. Upon

Commissions can be scheduled as soon as agreement is reached at the publicly hosted UFAC meetings however no date is associated with this review at this time. Upon conclusion of the advisory review by these Commissions, the amendments will be presented to City Council for final review.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

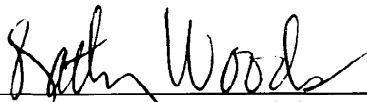
Staff has undertaken the initial preparation for the review of trees in the specific plan areas; however additional assistance could be required depending on the public response and subsequent need to amend the MSTP or any of the specific plans with a projected cost of up to \$75,000.

Respectfully Submitted,




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Approved by:



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