

Agenda Report

DATE: November 16, 2009

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER STREET TREE PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council approve an amendment to the Master Street Tree Plan to allow the planting of the *Podocarpus gracilior*, Fern Pine, in lieu of *Brahea edulis*, Guadalupe Palm, on Granite Drive between South Lake Avenue and its eastern terminus; and

Find that the Master Street Tree Plan amendment for Granite Drive is exempt from CEQA review pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, Existing Facilities and 15304, Minor Alterations to Land

URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

At its special meeting on August 12, 2009, the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC) voted unanimously to support the staff recommendation to amend the Master Street Tree Plan to allow for the planting of the *Podocarpus gracilior*, Fern Pine, in lieu of the *Brahea edulis*, Guadalupe Palm, on Granite Drive between South Lake Avenue and its eastern terminus.

DESIGN COMMISSION:

At its regular meeting of October 12, 2009, the Design Commission voted unanimously to support the staff recommendation to amend the Master Street Tree Plan to allow for the planting of the *Podocarpus gracilior*, Fern Pine, in lieu of the *Brahea edulis*, Guadalupe Palm, on Granite Drive between South Lake Avenue and its eastern terminus.

BACKGROUND:

TGP, Inc, developer of a project at 950 San Pasqual that includes the cul de sac area of Granite Drive contacted the City and requested permission to plant a shade tree on Granite Drive between South Lake Avenue and its eastern terminus. Currently, the only tree designated for planting on this street is the *Brahea edulis*, Guadalupe Palm. In the past Indian Laurel Fig trees were planted on the street, however they were no longer considered because they do not meet the environmental and sustainable criteria established by City Council. TGP, Inc. is willing to plant trees along the entire street not, just the area located in the cul de sac.

The following species were selected by the developer's landscape architect as alternates to the Guadalupe Palm that would complement the South Lake Specific Plan:

1. *Platanus racemosa*, Western Sycamore
2. *Zelkova sarata*, Sawtooth Zelkova
3. *Koelreuteria bipinnata*, Chinese Flame
4. *Magnolia grandiflora*, Southern Magnolia
5. *Podocarpus gracilior*, Fern Pine

The above species were reviewed by the South Lake Business District's Board of Directors and received their support. The species were presented to UFAC and considered utilizing the Review and Analysis of Species Matrix. The *Podocarpus gracilior*, Fern Pine was selected by the UFAC because of its high rating of 82 on the matrix. In addition, TGP, Inc. presented a site plan displaying the addition of shade trees on Granite Drive and indicated their desire to plant six 48" box shade trees along this one block street and is incorporating a plan into the project that would help water and maintain the trees. A copy of the plan for tree planting is attached (Attachment A).

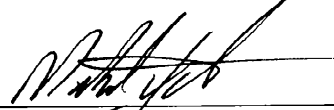
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The proposed change to the Master Street Tree Plan for Granite Drive is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301, Existing Facilities and 15304, Minor Alterations to Land. Section 15301 exempts from CEQA projects involving minor alterations of existing streets provided there is negligible or no expansion of the existing use. Section 15304 exempts from CEQA projects involving alterations in the condition of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes. The proposed amendment to the Master Street Tree Plan will not authorize the removal of existing healthy, mature trees on Granite Drive but will authorize a different specie of tree to be planted in the future.

FISCAL IMPACT:

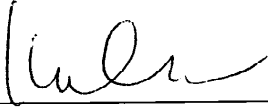
The change in species for all locations will not incur any additional installation or maintenance costs.

Respectfully Submitted,



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Prepared by:



Kathleen L. Woods, Administrator
Parks and Natural Resources Division

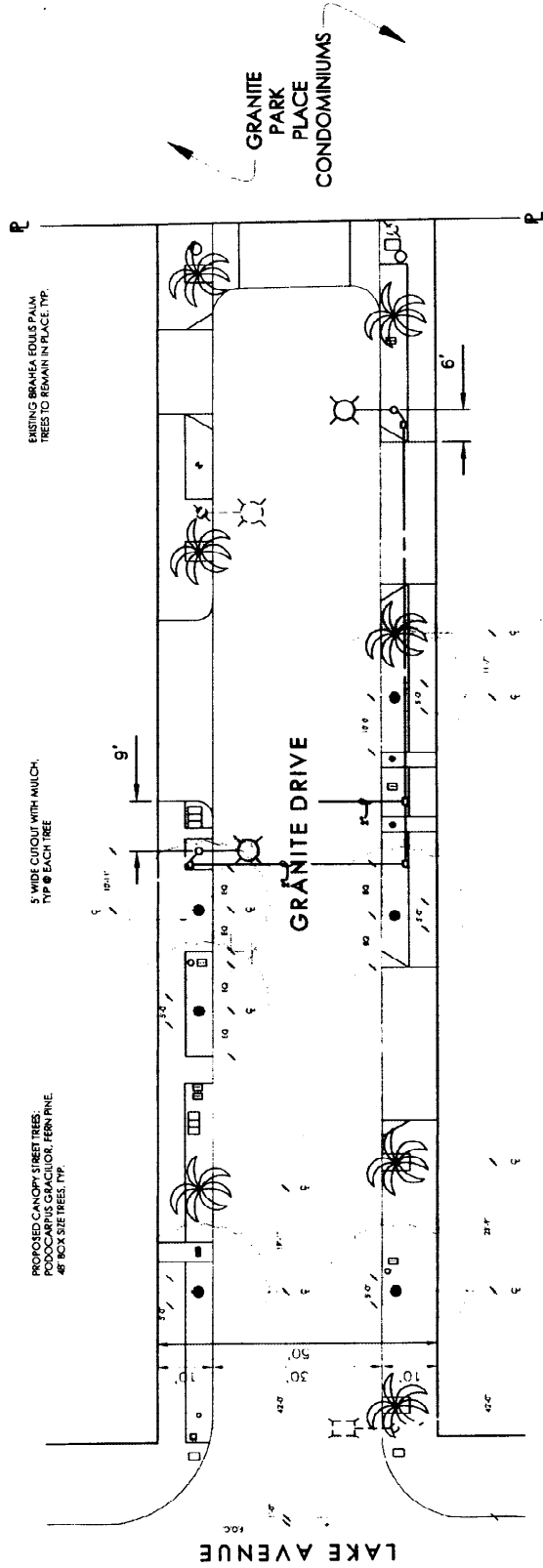
Approved by:



Martin Pastucha, Director
Department of Public Works

ATTACHMENT A

- NOTE:
 1. REMOVE EXISTING VEGETATION, CONCRETE OR BARK FOR NEW 5x5 TREE CUT OUT, TYPICAL @ EACH NEW TREE LOCATION.
 2. NEW STREET TREES SHALL BE INSTALLED, TRUCK WATERED AND MAINTAINED PER CITY OF PASADENA REQUIREMENTS.
 3. FINAL LOCATION OF NEW STREET TREES PER CITY OF PASADENA STREET TREE MAINTENANCE DIVISION. CONTACT MR. KENNETH GRAHAM @ 626-744-9860



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS
 F.O.C. FACE OF CURB
 C CENTER LINE
 P PROPERTY LINE
 EQ EQUAL

10-13-09
 VTBS 401

TGP

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
 THE PLANNING STRAIN DESIGN
 17000 VERMONT AVENUE, SUITE 204
 BECHTEL, CALIFORNIA 94704
 TEL: (925) 941-1111

VORNADO REALTY TRUST
 One Post Office Square, Suite 3150
 Boston, MA 02109
 TEL: (617) 239-6402



PROPOSED STREET TREES FOR GRANITE DRIVE

WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENT		PROJECT ENGINEER		REVISIONS		CITY OF PASADENA - PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	
DATE	FIELD BOOK NO.	DATE	APPROVED BY	NO.	DESCRIPTION	SHEET	OF
	NONE					5835	1
PROJECT NAME: GRANITE DRIVE				PROJECT: GRANITE DRIVE			
PROJECT LOCATION: From Lake Avenue to East End				PROJECT: GRANITE DRIVE			
SCALE: 1" = 10'				SCALE: 1" = 10'			

STREET LIGHTING PLAN