

Agenda Report

February 11, 2013

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO MASTER STREET TREE PLAN FOR SINALOA AVENUE, WASHINGTON BOULEVARD TO ASBURY DRIVE, AND SOUTH PARKWOOD AVENUE, DEL MAR BOULEVARD TO SAN PASQUAL STREET

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that tree planting is categorically exempt under California's Administrative Code Chapter 14 Title 3 Section 15061(b)(3);
2. Amend the Master Street Tree Plan (MTSP) for Sinaloa Avenue between Asbury Drive and Washington Boulevard by designating *Quercus spp*, oak species, as an approved alternate to the designated street tree, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, jacaranda; and
3. Amend the MSTP for South Parkwood Avenue between Del Mar Boulevard and San Pasqual Streets by designating *Ginkgo biloba*, maidenhair, as an approved alternate to the designated street tree, *Lophostemon confertus*, Brisbane box.

URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 14, 2012, the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC) unanimously voted to recommend that the City Council amend the MSTP for Sinaloa Avenue between Asbury Drive and Washington Boulevard to designate *Quercus spp*, oak species, as an approved alternate to the designated street tree, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, jacaranda.

On January 9, 2013, UFAC unanimously voted to recommend that the City Council amend the MSTP for South Parkwood Avenue between Del Mar Boulevard and San Pasqual Streets to designate *Ginkgo biloba*, maidenhair, as an approved alternate to the designated street tree, *Lophostemon confertus*, Brisbane box.

DESIGN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

On January 28, 2013 the Design Commission voted 7-0-2, with Commissioners Byram and Barar abstaining, to recommend that the City Council amend the MSTP on Sinaloa Avenue between Asbury Drive and Washington Boulevard to designate *Quercus spp*, oak species, as an approved alternate tree in addition to *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, jacaranda, which is the current designated street tree.

On January 28, 2013 the Design Commission voted 7-0-2, with Commissioners Byram and Barar abstaining, to recommend that the City Council amend the MSTP on South Parkwood Avenue between Del Mar Boulevard and San Pasqual Streets to designate the *Ginkgo biloba*, maidenhair, as an approved alternate tree in addition to *Lophostemon confertus*, Brisbane box, which is the designated street tree.

BACKGROUND:

Sinaloa Avenue

There are 44 public trees sites on Sinaloa Avenue between Asbury Drive and Washington Boulevard. In 1994 the MSTP was amended to replace *Ceratonia siliqua*, carob, and *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*, carrotwood, with *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, jacaranda, as the designated street tree. At present, seven of the sites are planted with *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, jacaranda.

There are five vacancies on the block, which compelled the block captain to take action. In July 2012, the block captain contacted the Department of Public Works to request additional information about the condition and performance of the existing street trees and the City's street tree program. Consequently, the City received a petition for a non-specific species amendment signed by 24 of 37 property owners. On September 12, 2012, the Department of Public Works held a neighborhood meeting to review the amendment process and solicit desired tree attributes from attendees.

Based on the residents' desired street tree attributes, the Department of Public Works provided information about five tree species and locations of mature specimens within Pasadena. Accordingly, the block captain advised the Department of Public Works that the property owners wanted to designate *Quercus spp*, oak species, as an approved alternate to the designated street tree, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, jacaranda.

Based on this recommendation, the block captain circulated a petition among residents to consider this amendment. The petition illustrates that 24 of 37 residents support the amendment.

The designated street tree will be planted unless the residents request that the approved alternate be planted.

South Parkwood Avenue

In August 2012, the Department of Public Works was notified that several non-conforming trees had been planted on South Parkwood Avenue. The Department of Public Works contacted residents adjacent to the newly planted trees to educate them regarding the MSTP and request removal of the trees. This action led a property owner representing the South Parkwood Avenue neighborhood between Del Mar Boulevard and San Pasqual Street to submit a request to amend the MSTP.

The City received a petition for a non-specific species amendment signed by 35 of 40 property owners. The Department of Public Works held a neighborhood meeting with residents to review the MSTP amendment process and solicit desired tree attributes. Residents also used the opportunity to express concern about the maintenance demands of the existing street tree.

Based on the desired street tree attributes identified by property owners, the Department of Public Works provided information about 13 tree species and locations of mature specimens within Pasadena. The property owners reviewed the information, asked clarifying questions, and met on four occasions. Based on communication with the applicant, the Department of Public Works prepared a petition to amend the MSTP by adding the *Ginkgo biloba*, maidenhair, as an approved alternate to the designated street tree, *Lophostemon confertus*, Brisbane box.

The applicant circulated the petition to resident property owners, and the Department of Public Works mailed information about the process and proposed amendment to the one non-resident property owner. The petition supporting the MSTP amendment was signed by 29 of 40 property owners.

The designated street tree will be planted unless the residents request that the approved alternate be planted.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed action of tree planting would advance the City Council's Strategic Plan Goals (2009-2012) by increasing conservation and enhancing sustainability. Tree planting will also result in improved air quality furthering Council Action 18 of the Green City Action Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

All planting of trees in the public right-of-way furthers the City's goals for the urban canopy. Tree planting is categorically exempt under California's Administrative Code Chapter 14 Title 3 Section 15061(b)(3). These projects will assist in the renewal of the urban forest and are a demonstration of the continued commitment to the development of sustainable growth.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amending the MSTP will not result in any additional costs. Existing trees will not be removed as a result of this action, and street tree vacancies will be replanted as part of the regular street tree planting program.

Respectfully submitted,



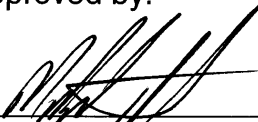
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