

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: February 22, 1999

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY TREE REMOVAL – HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

RECOMMENDATION:

1. It is recommended that the City Council approve a journal voucher appropriating \$58,379 from the Stabilization Reserve to Parks and Natural Resources account 8114 101 765210 for this fiscal year to remove 118 dead, diseased and dying trees and replant with new trees. An additional \$35,000 will be need to be appropriated over the following 2 years to remove stakes, prune and water the new trees. Funds to remove, maintain and replant an additional 160 trees over the next five years will be requested in future year's budgets.
2. It is recommended that City Council authorize the City Manager to increase the current contract # 16401 with Golden Bear in the amount \$28,397 for the removal of 118 trees.

BACKGROUND:

Urban Forestry staff has conducted a city-wide review of trees that are in need of removal resulting from our unusual weather patterns of the past three years. These are trees that need to be removed above and beyond the amounts allowed in the current removal budget. Many trees have succumbed to root fungus and wood decay related to the extremely wet conditions produced by the El Nino rains last year. A significant number of the trees were weakened during the drought, had existing decay, or damage from topping cuts made on them in the 1970's and 1980's. The long period of wet weather this year was enough to cause the trees to decline. The affected species are Holly Oak (*Quercus ilex*), Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*) and Carob (*Ceratonia siliqua*).

The Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC) has discussed and conceptually approved the removals at the February 4, 1999 meeting and recommended species to replace the trees that are to be removed. Staff will return to UFAC with a final list of trees for removal and dates for removal and replanting with additional species recommendations.

Pasadena's Urban Forest normally loses approximately 300 mature trees per year to disease, development and traffic accidents. City crews, in combination with contract crews removed 320 trees in fiscal year 1998 and 1999. Today a need exists to remove 118 dead and dying trees above and beyond the amount allowed in the current removal contract. Included in this request are necessary funds to remove the trees and replant and maintain the new trees in locations where the trees are to be removed. The requested funds are critical to maintain the health and vitality of Pasadena's Urban Forest and continue our status as a National "Tree City USA".

Parks and Natural Resources personnel respond to the large numbers of dead, diseased and dying trees by proactively treating those trees that can be saved, and recommending trees for immediate removal and for removal in two to three years. Additionally, there is a list of trees to be watched carefully over the next 3-5 years and treated or removed at a later date.

Priority List for Tree Removal:

	# OF TREES	REMOVAL	REPLANT	MAINTENANCE	TOTAL
Immediate	118	\$28,379	\$29,500	\$35,400	\$93,379.00
2-3 Years	115	\$29,755	\$34,500	\$41,400	\$105,655.00
3-5 Years	45	\$14,072	\$22,500	\$28,500	\$199,034.00
Totals	278	\$72,206.00	\$86,500.00	\$104,900.00	\$398,068.00

Homeowners will be notified 2 weeks prior to tree removal for trees on this list with door hangers. In addition, the contracts for removal and replanting will be coordinated so that the trees and stumps are removed simultaneously and replanting can occur quickly. Revisions will need to be made to the Master Street Tree Plan for the species choices for some street before replanting can occur

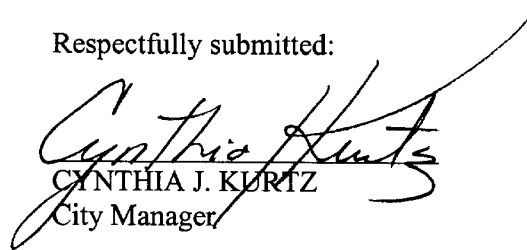
The following is a cost breakdown for the requested monies for FY1999:

	FY 1999	COMMENTS
	<i>Priority #1</i>	<i>Trees that need to be removed this year</i>
Removal	\$ 28,379	118 trees, 2,178 Diameter Inches
Replanting	\$ 29,500	118 trees @ \$250 per tree with labor to plant at 15 gallon size
Maintenance		\$300 per tree for small tree maintenance and watering = \$34,500 to be spent in FY2000/2001
	\$58,879	

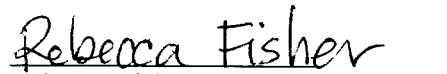
FISCAL IMPACT:

This action will reduce the Stabilization Reserve balance and increase appropriations to budget account 8114-101-765210 by \$58,879.

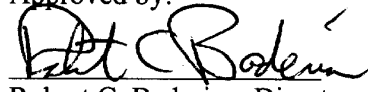
Respectfully submitted:


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

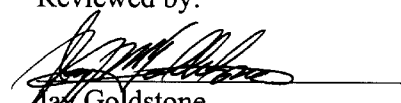
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