

Agenda Report

TO: City Council

DATE: October 19, 1998

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Revisions to the Master Street Tree Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve revisions to the current Master Street Tree Plan for North Lake Street, East Washington Boulevard, Old Pasadena, The Playhouse District and North Lincoln Avenue as described in Exhibit 'A'.

BACKGROUND:

The recommended changes to the Master Street Tree plan are necessary for the implementation phase of tree planting projects listed in the Recommendation.

The City Council adopted the North Lake Street Specific Plan and its implementation strategies in October 1996, and the implementing ordinances in October 1997. The plan proposes to replace the (*Pittosporum rhombifolium*) Diamond Leaf Pittosporum on the street which have performed poorly. In the purposes statement of the adopted specific plan is the following objective: "To create a grand, inviting street celebrating North Lake's importance in the city, made vital by people and distinguished by large shade trees." Two of the new species are large canopy shade trees, and one is a smaller tree with outstanding fall color. The new trees will be Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), London Plane Tree (*Platanus acerfolia* 'Bloodgood') and Chinese Tallow Tree (*Sapium sebiferum*). The recommendation for the London Plane and Coast Live Oak trees was reviewed by the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee (UFAC) on February 5, 1998 and the Design Commission on February 23, 1998. The Chinese Tallow Tree was approved by UFAC on July 2, 1998 and approved by the Design Commission on July 27, 1998.

The East Washington Specific Plan was approved June 1, 1998. The plan recommends a major change to the street character which includes a new official street tree, planting the

new trees at a denser spacing, and replacing existing Diamond Leaf Pittosporum trees which are performing poorly. The species, Chinese Flame Tree (*Koelreuteria bipinnata*), was recommended by the consultant, Gruen Associates, was reviewed approved by UFAC on February 5, 1998 and the Design Commission on February 23, 1998.

The North Lincoln Design, Land Use & Market Study was approved by Council on June 18, 1997. The consultant, Takata & Associates recommended two species that were approved, one as the primary species and the second as an alternate. An alternate species was chosen due to potential stock availability problems. The trees are Gold Medallion Tree (*Cassia excelsa*) and Chitalpa (*Chitalpa tashkentensis* 'Pink Dawn'). Planting of the new species would require the removal of poorly performing Holly Oak trees on the street. The species were approved by UFAC on July 2, 1998 and the Design Commission on July 27, 1998.

The Old Pasadena Streetscape and Alleywalkways Plan was approved by City Council on July 24, 1995. Although Council with tree recommendations adopted the plan, a formal revision to the Master Street Tree plan was not completed.

The Pasadena Playhouse Concept Plan for Streetscapes and Alleyways Plan was approved by City Council on April 15, 1996. Then the Design Elements plan was approved on November 18 1996, which changed some of the recommendations in the plan. A formal revision to the Master Street Tree plan was not completed.

Pasadena's Master Street Tree Plan designates specific tree species for individual streets within the City. It was last fully revised and updated in 1976. Several major revisions have taken place since that time in response to a need to increase species diversity, reduce hardscape damage, switch to disease and insect resistant species and provide large canopy shade trees.

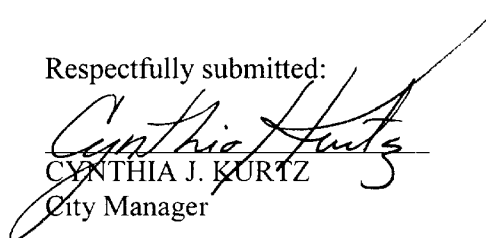
Once a newly designated species is adopted, it will be planted only as a vacant site becomes available. No trees will be removed unless they are damaged or unhealthy and therefore deemed hazardous. It is city policy not to remove healthy green trees. Environmental reports must be prepared for instances where there are healthy trees recommended for removal.

All proposed changes to the Master Street Tree Plan are reviewed by UFAC, which was formed to be advisory to the Design Commission to provide professional assistance and guidance for tree issues in the City of Pasadena. UFAC is comprised of representatives from the Design Review Commission, Cultural Heritage Commission, Pasadena Heritage and the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation. In addition, local tree professionals, horticulturists and landscape architects provide the group with technical expertise. UFAC works in coordination with Parks and Natural Resources to review tree related issues and make recommendations, as needed, to the Design Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT:

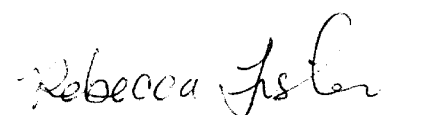
Input of the changes will require staff time to update the inventory program to reflect the new species. Tree planting costs are considered with each individual project and are budgeted per project as they are initiated.

Respectfully submitted:



CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

Prepared by:



Rebecca Fisher, Forestry Supervisor
Parks and Natural Resources

Approved by:



Robert C. Baderian, Director
Parks and Natural Resources