



# Park and Recreation Commission

*City of Arts & Innovation*

---

**TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS**

**DATE: JULY 13, 2015**

**FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT URBAN  
FORESTRY/LANDSCAPE DIVISION**

**ITEM NO:**

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT URBAN FORESTRY/LANDSCAPE DIVISION  
QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT**

## **ISSUE:**

The issue for Park and Recreation Commission consideration is the quarterly activity report for the Urban Forestry/Landscape Division of the Public Works Department.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive the quarterly activity report for the Urban Forestry/Landscape Division of the Public Works Department.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The following details accomplishments, claims, plan checks, tree removals and tree plantings in the second quarter of 2015 and activities planned for the third quarter of 2015.

### ***Public Outreach***

1. On Saturday, April 25, 2015, the Public Works Department working with Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful (KRCB) held a beautification “green-wall” planting project along a publically maintained right of way on Jackson Street from Albion Drive to Colorado Avenue in Ward 5. Volunteers from the Mormon Helping Hands planted 50 Ficus repen vines. The “green wall” technique involves planting vegetation that will grow to beautify and protect the wall against graffiti.
2. On Saturday, May 30, 2015, personnel from the Public Works Department and board members of Victoria Avenue Forever (VAF) conducted a tour of Victoria Avenue from Myrtle Avenue to La Sierra Avenue to view and discuss the City maintained Eucalyptus trees located within the parkways of the Avenue. Members were able to view the trees and learn about the different environmental challenges they experience on a daily basis such as aging, insects, diseases, vandalism, drought conditions, compacted soils, root disturbance, and climate changes. VAF members are highly interested in maintaining the existing and establishing new Eucalyptus trees to maintain the historic appearance of Victoria Avenue. Follow up meetings will occur with a subcommittee of VAF to plan the future of the Eucalyptus trees.
3. On Friday, July 31, 2015, the Public Works Department, working with KRCB, will hold a

beautification project in Ward 3. The project areas, to be determined, will include litter cleanup, graffiti removal, and a planting site.

### ***Drought Actions***

Due to the on-going drought, the Governor and the State Water Resources Control Board recently implemented new statewide restrictions and policies on water use. These restrictions have also resulted in local water agencies implementing restrictions on watering in order to achieve water reduction, or face stiff penalties of \$10,000 per day from the State. Among other things, watering is now restricted to only occur three days a week from April through October and only two days per week from November through March. Additionally, watering turf with potable water is prohibited within street medians.

These restrictions have the potential to impact the health of all City street trees as residents and the City are required to cut back on watering. Additionally, it will be necessary to replace the existing irrigation within our turf medians with a new drip irrigation system. The City is currently soliciting bids for drip irrigation to be installed to help ensure the livelihood of our trees within the impacted medians. In the interim, the City will be providing temporary water to the trees.

### ***Tree Plantings and Removals***

The removal and planting activity is detailed on the attached report. During the period from March 6, 2015 to June 9, 2015, 165 trees were removed and 54 trees were planted. The fiscal year total to date is 707 removals and 541 plantings. During the coming quarter, Staff plans to postpone plantings until the fall when weather will be cooler and the new trees will be more likely to survive given the current drought conditions and water restrictions that were recently imposed due to the drought.

### ***Tree Maintenance***

1. The following grids have been completed:
  - Grid 31 – Canyon Crest Neighborhood
  - Grid 32 – Canyon Crest Neighborhood
  - Grid 40 – Alessandro Heights Neighborhood
  - Grid 49 – Arlington South Neighborhood
2. The following grids are currently underway:
  - Grid 50 – La Sierra South Neighborhood
3. The following grids are scheduled:
  - Grid 52 – La Sierra Neighborhood
  - Grid 55 – La Sierra Neighborhood

### ***Tree Projects***

1. Streeter Avenue Underpass at Union Pacific Railroad—the project is completed. The contractor will be maintaining the landscaping for the duration of the maintenance period.
2. Riverside Avenue Grade Separation—project remains on schedule.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Thomas J. Boyd P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer

Approved by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director

Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager

Attachments: Tree Removal and Planting List  
Plan Checks – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2015  
Claims – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2015