



# Park and Recreation Commission

*City of Arts & Innovation*

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**TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS** **DATE: JULY 16, 2018**

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

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

## **ISSUE:**

Quarterly activity report for the Urban Forestry / Landscape Division of the Public Works Department.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Urban Forestry / Landscape Division of the Public Works Department reports to the Park and Recreation Commission on a quarterly basis due to their connection to City Trees as mentioned in the Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 13.25 Tree and Shrub Supervision.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The following report for the Public Works Department Urban Forestry / Landscape Division details accomplishments, claims against the City related to damages caused by City trees such as fallen limbs and root damages to private property, plan checks related to new developments and property upgrades such as new housing tracts, commercial/industrial buildings and expansion of existing properties that are required to plant new street trees within the public right of ways, tree removals, and tree plantings in the second quarter of 2018 and activities planned for the third quarter of 2018.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

On Saturday, May 12, 2018, the Public Works Department, working with Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful (KRCB), held the Great American Cleanup event in all Wards. Volunteers throughout the community were assigned litter cleanups, graffiti abatement, city waterway cleanups, and mulching sites throughout the City. After the event, volunteers were provided a lunch with an award ceremony that was held in the breezeway in front of City Hall.

On Tuesday, June 19, 2018, the Public Works Department working with KRCB, held a beautification project in Ward 6. Volunteers from throughout the community planted twenty-five (25) five-gallon honeysuckle shrubs on Monticello Avenue between Pembroke and Concord Avenues along a publically maintained canal. The shrubs will grow to help beautify the fence line running alongside of the canal.

On Saturday, June 30, 2018, the Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Community Services Departments, working with Victoria Avenue Forever (VAF), City Officials and members of the community, held a memorial plaque dedication for Charles Montagu Dammers at Washington Park, located on the corner of Victoria Avenue and Mary Street. Charles Montagu Dammers was a former World War I British Sea Capitan with only a grammar school education. Dammers bought a failing citrus grove at this location in 1921 and made it successful. Dammers also became a self-educated expert in insect taxonomy, life cycles, and illustrations. Several butterflies and other insects are named for him. VAF raised funds from private donations to purchase the memorial.

On Thursday, July 19, 2018, the Public Works Department working with KRCB, will hold a beautification project in Ward 3. The meeting location will be at Martha McLean Anza Narrows Park, 5759 Jurupa Avenue, 92504. The project sites are to be determined and will include litter cleanup, graffiti removal, City waterway cleanups and a community greening site.

### TREE PROJECTS

On Tuesday, June 12, 2018, City Council approved the agreement for Municipal Tree Maintenance Services with West Coast Arborists, Inc. of Anaheim, California, in the amount of \$6,679,536 for a three-year term ending June 30, 2021, with an option for three additional one-year extensions or one additional three-year extension. In recent years, the City's grid trimming schedule was on an eight to nine year cycle and the schedule had become increasingly difficult to meet due to budgetary constraints. With the addition of \$1,000,000 in Measure Z funds in 2017, the Public Works Department has been working toward a six year grid trimming cycle within a three year timeframe.

On February 14, 2018, Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 1775 was issued to solicit proposals from qualified tree maintenance contractors to provide tree maintenance services for the City of Riverside's 150,000 street trees, including optional pricing to service Parks, Recreation and Community Services' 35,000 park trees.

On March 19, 2018, the City received three proposals in response to RFP No. 1775. In order to identify the most qualified service provider, a selection committee consisting of representatives from the Public Works Department and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department evaluated all proposals based on the criteria set forth in the RFP which included experience, qualified personnel, ability to meet time frames, safety plans, financial resources, approach and methodology, proposed cost of services, and service enhancements that included a Citywide inventory with global positioning (GPS) coordinate locations for all trees that have been trimmed, removed, planted and worked on by the contractor.

After an extensive evaluation of each proposal based on the criteria listed above, West Coast Arborists, Inc. (WCA) was selected as the most qualified company to perform the requirements of the RFP. WCA is a family owned and operated company that has been in business since 1972 and employs over 850 full-time employees.

While Parks, Recreation and Community Services opted to continue with its current tree trimming contract with WCA, this proposal affords them several options as they near their current contract expiration date of December 31, 2018: 1) follow onto this proposal and enter into a new agreement; 2) amend this agreement; or 3) exercise the final option to extend on their current agreement with WCA for an additional two years – with City Council approval where required.

Public Works Staff negotiated the scope of services with WCA to obtain best and final pricing for a total contract price of \$6,679,536 through June 30, 2021, for its 150,000 street trees. The current proposal is approximately 17% higher than the existing contract, which was bid in 2011 during the Great Recession. Since 2011, labor and operating costs have increased due in part to increasing prevailing wage rates, increased fuel costs, increased dumping fees, and additional air quality mandates.

Based on pricing received in 2016, proposal costs are within anticipated ranges. Contract services include but are not limited to emergency and scheduled tree removals, palm tree skinning, root pruning, young tree care and watering and grid trimming. The following are relevant items for consideration under the proposed contract.

#### Grid Trimming Cycle

In 2017, with implementation of the Measure Z spending priorities, the City established a target grid trimming cycle of approximately 6 years (down from eight to nine years). It is the goal of the City to trim approximately 25,000 trees per year to meet the goal of a six year grid trimming cycle. WCA has provided a realistic and attainable approach to work toward this goal. However, given the increase in proposed contract costs and existing funding levels, staff is currently projecting a trimming cycle of approximately six to seven years (21,000-23,000 trees per year).

#### Resi-Pay Program

The Resi-Pay Program provides additional choices for City residents that prefer to have their City trees trimmed on a more frequent basis. Approximately 200 residents participate in the program each year. Under the new proposal, Resi-Pay costs, which are passed along to residents, would increase from \$95 to \$184 per tree for the first year and an additional \$7 per tree in fiscal years 19/20 and 20/21. The increase is primarily due to the high cost of mobilization to trim a single tree that may not be in close proximity to any other scheduled work. An informal survey conducted by staff revealed that the average rate a resident might pay for standard tree trimming is approximately \$250-\$450 per tree. Under the Program, residents will continue to be allowed to hire their own contractor to trim trees by obtaining a no-fee permit from the City.

#### Service Enhancements

Residents will now have the option through the Resi-Pay Program to have only the seed pods removed from palm trees at a reduced rate per tree of \$75 the first year, \$80 in year two and \$85 in year three. This will help to enhance customer service for residents that prefer to have this service on a routine basis.

The City is also working to establish a Citywide tree inventory and live database with GPS locations (for trees trimmed, removed, planted and worked on by the contractor).

#### TREE MAINTENANCE

The following grids are currently underway:

Grid 63 – Ramona Neighborhood

Grid 64 – Ramona Neighborhood

The following grids are scheduled:

Grid 66 – Arlanza Neighborhood

Grid 18 – Airport Neighborhood

Grid 47 – Arlington Heights Neighborhood

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Kris Martinez, Public Works Director

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

Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

**Attachments:**

1. Tree Removal and Planting List
2. Plan Checks – 2nd Quarter 2018
3. Claims – 2nd Quarter 2018