



MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 31, 2009

TO: Design Review Board, Street Tree Sub-Committee

FROM: Bill Millar, Parks and Open Space Manager

SUBJECT: Revisit Planting Specifications and Root Barrier Requirements

The experience gained from the use of planting requirements which includes the use of root barriers and plant sizing has resulted in the following requests for change. The relationship of the City and traditional tree planting organizations has been impacted by the two sections cited above. The Community Services Department would like to make these changes.

Root barriers will stay as they are written now except for the distance between hardscape and the tree planting site. The Community Services Department would like that distance to be set at 7 feet instead of the current 7.5 feet. We feel that the 7.5 distance left the medians with a cost increasing requirement because most of the medians are 14 feet wide and all trees would require the barriers at the current distance. Using 7 feet would save the City 68 dollars per tree in center medians where there is ample room for root growth.

We have also found that non-profit groups prefer to plant 15 gallon size trees instead of the 24" box trees cited in the planting requirements. They are not capable of providing the 24" boxes. The Community Services Department recognizes the contribution these organizations make to the community and wishes to encourage rather than discourage their participation.

Street Tree Subcommittee Discussion Items Outline 3/20/2007

RECOMMENDED STREET TREES LIST

Original list revised to remove problem trees and to add trees more suitable for Goleta's predominantly narrow street parkways and center dividers.

RECOMMENDED TREE PLANTING GUIDELINES

Root barriers to be installed when planting a street tree in any parkway or center divider less than 15 ft. wide or within 7.5 feet of hardscape.

Sidewalk side – 12" high x 8 ft. long barrier centered on tree trunk.

Curb side – 18" high x 8 ft. long barrier centered on tree trunk.

Tree well – 12" to 18" high barrier, sized to fit perimeter of well, as specified by the City Arborist. (Well to be designed to accept standard sizes and lengths of root barriers so no special joints are required.)

Container sizes

New developments – 24" box minimum.

Replacement trees – 15 gal. container or 24" box, as directed by the City Arborist.

Planting details

Hole dimensions to be specified and confirmed by the City Arborist.

Backfill material to be specified by the City Arborist and to include organic source soil fertilizer containing worm castings.

Double stakes and rubber ties to be installed for support.

Dirt berm to be constructed around perimeter of planting hole to form a watering basin.

After backfilling, staking and initial watering, mulch layer to be placed around planting for water retention.

Tree Planting Location Requirements

Planting holes should be centered within the parkway or center divider.

Planting holes should be a distance of 10 ft. minimum away from water meter boxes, underground utility lines, etc.

Trees should be selected and located such that upon reaching maturity, foliage will not block street lighting or grow into overhead power lines.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TREE CONTRACTORS

Contract Requirements

Standard Contract for Public Works Construction ("Green Book")

Special Provisions to be added at the discretion of the City Arborist.

Performance bond to be provided, with bond period as specified by the City Arborist.

License and Bonding

All tree contractors must be licensed and bonded to do business in, and to be awarded contracts by, the City of Goleta.

Insurance Requirements

Contractor must be licensed, bonded and insured.

City of Goleta to be named as additional insured on Contractor's liability insurance policy.

Limits of liability to be \$1,000,000 general liability, \$1,000,000 auto and an aggregate limit of \$3,000,000.

At the discretion of the City Arborist, limits of liability may be adjusted downward for smaller contracts.

For larger contracts, the City Arborist may specify limits of liability to be \$2,000,000 general liability, \$2,000,000 auto and an aggregate limit of \$5,000,000.

Contractor must also carry workers compensation insurance.

Traffic Control Requirements

Tree planting in the public right-of-way must have signage alerting the public approaching the work zone.

Lane closures require Contractor to submit a traffic control plan to the City Arborist for approval prior to start of work.

Traffic control plans should conform to the Caltrans traffic control handbook or APWA Work Area Traffic Control Handbook (WATCH).



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SUBJECT: Outreach for Public Comments on the Approved Street Tree List

The Approved Street Tree List for the City of Goleta has never sought public comment. The agendas which contained new additions or even deletions for this sub-committee have always been the best way to comment on what trees have been included and what has been left off the list. The task now will be to solicit public input and incorporate their ideas into the approved list.

Staff believes the Urban Forestry Management plan meetings will be one such opportunity and we must continue to look for other opportunities to invite public comment on what are we recommending for our street trees.