

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES
REPORT NO. #2

Date: December 18, 2013
CD # 13

Honorable Board of Public Work
of the City of Los Angeles

Commissioners:

1300 THROUGH 2100 BLOCK OF WEST SUNSET BOULEVARD – REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE REMOVAL BY CITY FORCES OF THIRTY-FIVE STREET TREES (VARIOUS SPECIES) FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PUBLIC SIDEWALK AND FOR THE ECHO PARK/SUNSET BOULEVARD STREETScape IMPROVEMENT PROJECT W.O.# M0014287. TREE REPLACEMENTS ARE REQUIRED.

RECOMMENDATION:

That your Board review and approve the tree removal by City forces of thirty-five street trees (various species) for the reconstruction of off-grade sidewalks and for the Echo Park / Sunset Boulevard Streetscape Improvement Project. Tree replacements are required.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Copy of fax sheet sent to Council office.
2. Thirty-six pages of photographs of the proposed tree removals.
3. Plot Plan.

CONDITION:

City forces shall plant thirty-eight 24-inch box size Chinese Pistache (*Pisatchia chinensis*) and seventy-five Australian Willow (*Geijera parviflora*) trees at all potential planting sites within the project limits to replace the removed trees.

ALTERNATIVE METHODS AND OPTIONS EXPLORED:

The trees size, species, and location negate the possibility of tree preservation or relocation.

RECITAL:

The Bureau of Street Services (BSS) proposes reconstruction of the offgrade sidewalk

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conditions and other related streetscape improvements along the 1300 through 2100 block West Sunset Boulevard between Everett Street and Rosemont Avenue. The project purpose is to improve pedestrian access and safety on streets and enhance the Sunset Boulevard corridor in the Echo Park community.

Total cost of the project is estimated to be \$ 750,000.00. The project is collaboratively funded through the Transportation Community System Preservation (TCSP), Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Proposition A, and Proposition C.

A BSS arborist performed a site inspection and identified thirty-five street trees at various locations identified for removal. Ten Indian Laurel Fig (*Ficus microcarpa* 'Nitida') trees have contributed to the defective conditions of the sidewalks. Eighteen Chitalpa (*Chitalpa X tashkentensis*) trees possess poor branch structure, leaning, and are in overall poor condition. The remaining seven various species trees were either planted without authorization from BSS or have grown voluntarily in locations inconsistent with current BSS policies and practices.

The trees identified for removal measure approximately two to twenty-four inches diameter by five to thirty feet in height and are in fair to poor condition planted in four feet square tree wells. The removed trees will be replaced with a species that is appropriate for the planting sites, enhance the area, and create a more pedestrian friendly and amicable environment for the Echo Park Community.

This project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to City CEQA Guidelines exemption Class 1, Category 8 for "maintenance of existing landscaping with no expansion of use." Therefore to allow for reconstruction of the sidewalk and enhance the community, it is recommended that your Board approve the request for tree removal by City forces.

The trees were posted on August 11, 2013 to allow for public comment related to the proposed tree removals. Marisol Saguro, District Director, Thirteenth Council District Office, was informed of the tree removal request on October 17, 2013 and will notify the Bureau of any tree removal objections they receive.

City forces shall plant thirty-eight 24-inch box size Chinese Pistache (*Pisatchia chinensis*) and seventy-five Australian Willow (*Geijera parviflora*) trees at all potential planting sites

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within the project limits to replace the removed trees.

(RL---- GG----JC)

Respectfully submitted,



for NAZARIO SAUCEDA, DIRECTOR
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES

Prepared by:
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JC/GG/RL/HB:hb

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