



# CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

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June 12, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted by: Meg McWade, Public Works Director

Subject: **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CITYWIDE  
STREET TREE MASTER PLAN AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

Receive a PowerPoint presentation and discuss information from Staff on the proposed Street Tree Master Plan and the current Tree Maintenance Program. Provide guidance as appropriate to staff on components of the Tree Master Plan and Maintenance Program.

## **INTRODUCTION/DISCUSSION**

Trees are a vital component of the City's infrastructure and significantly contribute to the City's quality of life. There are approximately 39,000 trees located in parkways, parks, medians, and assessment districts. These trees help to provide shade, stabilize soil in open space areas, serve as high wind barriers, turn carbon dioxide into oxygen and help reduce noise levels. Adopting a Street Tree Master Plan demonstrates the City's commitment to urban forestry and the benefits and importance of trees.

### Street Tree Master Plan

A Street Tree Master Plan provides a uniform approach to tree management for all trees in the public rights-of-way. The Plan defines a comprehensive purpose and goal for a managed urban forest, and conveys a comprehensive framework to provide tree care and a maintenance program. The recommended tree selections included in the proposed Plan were chosen for adaptability to the confines of the urban setting (i.e., growth characteristics, if the species is fit for the intended planting space, ultimate crown size and heights, rooting characteristics and other considerations such as flowering, fall color, compatibility with other existing street trees).

The City contracted West Coast Arborist to develop this Street Tree Master Plan. Initially, the City of Pomona street tree palette consisted of over 180 different species of trees. This plan recommends a reduction of species to 81 and includes 10 native tree alternatives. This species

reduction is due to several factors, including elimination of trees impacted by pests and disease, species that are inappropriate for parkway planting, and elimination of fruit trees, short lived trees, trees with highly undesirable characteristics, including negative impacts on City infrastructure.

Previously, the Historic Preservation Commission discussed and agreed to receive and file this proposed Street Tree Master Plan. The Parks and Recreation Commission also reviewed the proposed Street Tree Master Plan at a regular meeting and recommended that additional native trees be considered as part of the plant palette. Additional native tree selections were included as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission. On September 12, 2016, City Council requested Staff provide a presentation on the Street Tree Master Plan.

The proposed Street Tree Master Plan is intended to provide updated guidelines for future urban tree canopy development. Notations to denote historical districts have been made by highlighting the streets associated with a particular Historical District (Hacienda Park- pink; Lincoln Park-blue; Wilton Heights-green). The inventory and other aspects of the document will continually require amendment as observations of the urban forest and best practices warrant. Any future amendments to the Street Tree Palette portion of the Plan will be approved by City Council resolution.

#### Tree Maintenance Program

A portion of the presentation will be dedicated to discussing the City's current Tree Maintenance Program. Information will be presented regarding grid/species trimming operation, schedule, contractor, and budget. Other information to be included in the presentation will be the inventory of City street trees, current challenges and suggestions/goals for the future management of Pomona's urban forest.

Prepared by: Christopher Hentzen, Acting Parks & Landscape Manager