



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

February 25, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted by: Rene Guerrero, Interim Public Works Director

Subject: **ADOPT A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY 2018-19 SOUTH GAREY ASSESSMENT DISTRICT OPERATING BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING \$3,680 FROM AVAILABLE RESERVES FOR REPLANTING SOUTH GAREY AVENUE MEDIANS**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council take the following actions:

1. Adopt a Resolution (Attachment 1) amending the FY 2018-19 Adopted Special Revenue Operating Budget by appropriating \$3,680 to the South Garey Assessment District Fund from its available reserves, and
2. Authorize work (replanting the South Garey Avenue Medians) to be performed by MCE Corporation, the current contractor for median landscaping.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The recommended action will appropriate funding in the amount of \$3,680 to the FY 2018-19 South Garey Assessment District Operating Budget from available reserves for the labor, equipment, and materials for planting 32 15-gallon *Cercidium* “Desert Museum” Palo Verde trees in the medians covered under the assessment. The renovations will be performed by the City’s current median contractor, MCE Corporation, on South Garey Avenue medians from 9th Street to County Road.

FISCAL IMPACT – The adoption of the Resolution will appropriate \$3,680 from the South Garey Assessment District Fund’s available reserves to the FY 2018-19 South Garey Assessment District Operating Budget (253-4075-52932-00000) to perform the median renovations.

PREVIOUS RELATED ACTION - On February 4, 2014, the City Council awarded a three-year contract, with two, one-year extension options to MCE Corporation for landscaping maintenance for parks and medians. On October 15, 2018, the City Council adopted a resolution amending the FY 2018-19 operating budget by appropriating \$39,546 from available reserves for replanting and irrigation system upgrades to South Garey Avenue medians.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: None

DISCUSSION: In response to a severe drought throughout the State of California, Governor Brown previously approved an emergency order making it illegal to water turf in medians. The City stopped irrigating median turf in response to this water restriction resulting in medians Citywide that require renovation. Staff is working to phase-in median renovations to replace turf with more sustainable plantings. The area that is being renovated through this Council action includes the medians along South Garey Avenue from 9th Street to County Road. These medians were formerly landscaped with society garlic (*Tulbaghia violacea*) and daylilies (*Hemerocallis sp.*) on the endcaps, with ornamental turf in between.

Staff previously replaced the society garlic, daylilies, and former turf area with lower maintenance and more drought tolerant shrubs/groundcover, and is now seeking to plant *Cercidium* “Desert Museum” Palo Verde (see image below) to further beautify the medians at this location beyond the initial ground cover and shrub plantings. Palo Verde was selected based on its low maintenance needs and drought tolerance, as well as its aesthetic appeal.



Cercidium Palo Verde

In order to continue renovating these medians with drought tolerant plantings, an appropriation is required from the South Garey Assessment District reserves. The South Garey Assessment District (which includes medians from 9th Street to SR-71) has available reserves which can be utilized for this work. The cost for the plant replacement is anticipated to be \$3,680. With City Council approval, the work will be performed under the existing landscape maintenance contract with MCE Corporation.

Upon approval of the Resolution, Staff will work with the contractor to begin the renovation expeditiously.

ALTERNATIVE: None

Prepared by:

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ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment No. 1– Resolution No. 2019-XX

Attachment No. 2– South Garey Avenue –Median Renovation 2018: Description of Work