

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

Date: October 28, 2009
CD # 15

Honorable Board of Public Works
of the City of Los Angeles

Commissioners:

900 THROUGH 1500 SOUTH DODSON AVENUE– REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO REMOVE SIXTEEN CALIFORNIA PEPPER (SCHINUS MOLLE) TREES BY CITY FORCES IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY. TREE REPLACEMENTS ARE REQUIRED.

RECOMMENDATION:

That your Board review and approve this request to tree remove sixteen California Pepper (Schinus molle) trees by City forces in the interest of public safety. Tree replacements are required.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Copy of fax sheet sent to Council office.
2. Urban Forestry Division Tree Inspection Form.
3. Dodson Avenue Rotational Management Plan.
4. Field Investigation, Summary of Data.
5. Tree Hazard Evaluation Form (24 pages).
6. Photographs of the trees to be removed.
7. Property Owner's Authorization for Tree Removal.

CONDITION:

City forces shall plant all 16 tree removal sites with California Pepper trees.

ALTERNATIVE METHODS AND OPTIONS EXPLORED:

The size, species, health, and location of the trees negate tree retention or relocation.

RECITAL:

In February 2006, Bureau Arborists inspected all 108 California Pepper (Schinus molle) trees growing on the 800 block of South Dodson Avenue through the 1600 block of South Dodson Avenue in San Pedro. The inspections became necessary when several of the

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

Page 2

Date: October 28, 2009

mature trees failed.

During the course of inspection, the Bureau Arborists observed severe defects on twenty-three mature California Pepper (*Schinus molle*) trees. The defects included cavities with decay throughout the root crowns, trunks and scaffold limbs, fruiting bodies, wood borers, and previous limb failures. The health and structural stability of the trees was compromised by the extent of the defects. It was the opinion of the Bureau that these trees posed a high failure potential and a significant safety risk to the public. The Board of Public Works approved the twenty-three tree removals in June 2006.

At that time the Bureau also opined that all of the remaining trees are quickly approaching senescence (over-maturity). Therefore, the Bureau created a three phase tree removal plan. Phase one was approved June 2006. The following tree removals are those contained in phase two and the final tree removal phase will occur in June 2012.

The subject tree removals are located in front of 1603 West 9th Street on the Dodson Avenue side (S1), 914 (F2), 1001 (F3), 1006 (F2), 1107 (F2), 1402 (F2,F3), 1408 (F1), 1418 (F2), 1421 (F1), 1504 (F1), 1512 (F1), 1519 (F2) South Dodson Avenue; 1555 (S5) West 16th Street on South Dodson Avenue; 1560 (S3) West Averill Park Drive on South Dodson Avenue; and 1603 (S1) West 14th Street on South Dodson Avenue. The trees, growing in six-foot parkways, measure twelve to forty inches in diameter by twenty-five to forty-five feet in height. The Bureau has obtained tree removal authorization forms from eight of the involved property owners.

The trees are aesthetically pleasing to the residents; however, the potential for partial or whole tree failure exceeds the benefits provided by the trees. To ensure public safety of the residents and sustainability of the Urban Forest, it is recommended that your Board approve the tree removals by City forces.

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."

The trees were posted on March 24, 2006.

The Bureau shall plant all sixteen of the tree removal sites with twenty-four inch box size California Pepper trees.

Cyndy Fowler, Community Advocate, Fifteenth Council District Office, were notified of the tree removals on July 30, 2009. The Council office will monitor any concerns expressed

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

Page 3

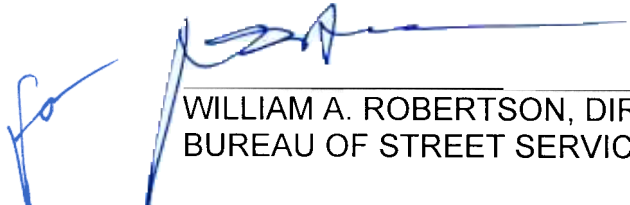
Date: October 28, 2009

during the posting period.

The applicant has been advised of the recommendations contained in this report.

(RL----- GG----- NS)

Respectfully submitted,



WILLIAM A. ROBERTSON, DIRECTOR
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES

Prepared by:

Urban Forestry Division
Ext. 7-3077

GG/RL:rl
S:\ Dodson Ave Phase II