

DATE ISSUED: April 12, 2001

REPORT NO. 01-070

ATTENTION: Land Use & Housing Committee
Agenda of April 18, 2001

SUBJECT: Report from the City Manager on the Tree Advisory Board Report and Budget Recommendations to the Committee of January 31, 2001

REFERENCE: Tree Advisory Board, January 31, 2001

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

On January 31, 2001, during the Land Use & Housing Committee (LU&H) meeting, the City's Tree Advisory Board (TAB) presented their budget recommendation for Fiscal Year 2002 (copy attached).

During this meeting, LU&H requested the City Manager do the following and report back to LU&H:

1. Review the TAB's budget recommendation report.
2. Consider the elimination of the TAB's proposed Public Information Officer position.
3. Consider if Park & Recreation staff could assist with performing the services of a Public Information Officer.

The TAB's focus has been on street trees due to their prominence within our communities. The concept of "urban forest" maintenance looks at the trees as one forest unit with short and long term management needs as opposed to single location problems with sidewalks in need of maintenance. However, due to poor species selection in the past, as well as inadvertent planting of the wrong tree in the wrong location, hard scape repairs consume an inordinate amount of tree maintenance funds.

DISCUSSION

1. Review the TAB's budget recommendation report.

Included below is the TAB's Fiscal Year 2002 recommended levels of spending on tree related maintenance as it compares to the current year spending level and Street Division's Fiscal Year 2002 Tree Maintenance Proposed Budget:

	FY 2001 Spending Level	FY 2002 Proposed Budget	TAB's FY 2002 Budget Proposal
Broadleaf Trimming	\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 550,000
New Tree Installation	108,017	108,017	160,000
Root Pruning/Barriers	150,000	150,000	300,000
Palm Trimming	600,000	600,000	700,000
Sidewalk Repair	1,320,000	1,320,000	1,320,000
Tree Removal	369,868	369,868	250,000
Removal of Fallen Limbs	170,790	170,790	175,000
Tree Trimming-City Forces	372,911	372,911	375,000
Emergency Tree Response	85,396	85,396	85,000
1.00 Public Works Supervisor	N/A	67,782	65,000
1.00 Senior Public Information Officer*	N/A	70,079	55,000
Non-Personnel Expense	N/A	35,003	0
TOTAL	\$3,626,982	\$3,799,846	\$4,035,000

* 20% of this position will support tree activities.

2. Consider the elimination of the TAB's proposed Public Information Officer position

The Street Division is moving forward with hiring a Senior Public Information Officer in Fiscal Year 2002. While this position will be utilized by the entire Transportation Department, responsibilities will include community outreach and other duties relating to urban forestry as recommended by the TAB. For this reason, the TAB's proposed Public Information Officer position can be eliminated.

3. Consider if Park & Recreation staff could assist with performing the services of a Public Information Officer.

The Park and Recreation Department was contacted, and while they currently have one Public Information Officer for the department, it was not expected that this position could directly assist with street tree related items. However, for the reasons stated in No. 2 above, these services should not be needed once Street Division hires the proposed Senior Public Information

Officer.

CONCLUSION

The TAB's Fiscal Year 2002 budget proposal is approximately \$235,000 higher than the Street Division's Fiscal Year 2002 proposed budget. Street Division met with the TAB to discuss the proposed budget. The TAB is supportive of the Senior Public Information Officer position, and endorses the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2002 proposed budget. The Street Division will continue to strive for effective management and long term maintenance of the City's urban forest.

Respectfully submitted, D. Cruz Gonzalez Director, Transportation Department		Approved: George I. Loveland
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LOVELAND/MXS

Attachment: Budget Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2001-02
Trees in the Public Street Right-of-Way

January XXXXXX

To: Land Use and Housing Committee
From: City of San Diego Tree Advisory Board
Subject: Budget Recommendations for FY 2001-02
TREES IN THE PUBLIC STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY

Summary

The City of San Diego Tree Advisory Board is pleased to present our recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2001-02 budget for Tree Related Services in the public right-of-way administered by the Streets Division Field Support group. Our recommendations have been formulated by the tree experts of our board – Arborists, Nursery Professionals, and Landscape Architects. We have been aided by City Staff – in particular – Mr. Drew Potocki, City Urban Forester. We would like to express our appreciation for the responsiveness we have gotten from Street Division director Cruz Gonzales regarding the budgeting and tracking of tree related expenditures. Our recommendations also respond to requests we have received from your offices and those of your predecessors.

We are pleased to report that the City Manager has followed up on our request to track tree services in a more specific manner. In the past all tree services were lumped into a single category, which made it difficult to advise you as to whether the spending was achieving the City Council’s goals. This year we have line item tracking for expenditures. Once we receive the fiscal year end accounting for this past year we will provide you with our analysis.

Our recommendations are consistent with those we made for past years. We want to see the City move into the proactive management of the urban forest rather than reactive repair work. We are asking for increased expenditures on maintenance and prevention – and we can substantiate that prevention pays - for example, it costs the people of San Diego (on average) \$1,000 to remedy a tree damage complaint or emergency problem. This damage could have been prevented by a regular pruning or \$100 root barrier. We have identified 3,000 trees that are causing root problems – which represent a probable \$3,000,000.00 cost to the City for repair - that could be virtually eliminated by spending \$300,000.00 on preventive root pruning or barriers.

The City is spending \$1.3 million dollars on sidewalk repair due to trees. In many cases this work removes trees without replacement – but in all cases it is only addressing problems after the fact. We are asking you to increase spending on preventive tree maintenance so that you can stop spending the \$1 million dollars a year on repair. Our analysis is that over time most of the \$1.2 million dollar expense can be eliminated. If you stay the course on our budget recommendations over a five year period we believe that most of the costs for sidewalk repair due to tree damage would be eliminated. This is illustrated in the Budget Goal 2006-7 page of our report.

Our budget includes regular trimming and inventory of all trees in the public right-of-way, the completion of a computerized database of those trees, planting a substantial number of new trees and the psychological lift of spending money to nurture and enhance our urban forest – instead of attending to complaint slips for repairs. It also includes funding for personnel to assist Mr. Potocki’s efforts to identify problem areas and oversee the preventive maintenance work.

Attached is the itemized budget recommendation. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Poirier, Chair
Tree Advisory Board Technical Committee

TREE ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)
BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR FIELD SUPPORT / STREET DIVISION
TREE RELATED WORK IN PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

	FY 2000-01	Tree Work Backlog	FY 2001-02	Explanation for Change	
Ranked in order of priority by TAB 1 = Highest Priority	City Manager's Proposal as provided by Street Division to TAB	Calculated by City and TAB	TAB Proposal		
WORK PERFORMED BY OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS					
1	EMERGENCY				
	Emergency Response	85,396	N/A	85,000	
	Removal of fallen tree limbs	170,790	N/A	175,000	
2	Broadleaf trimming	450,000	4,000,000	550,000	TAB/Arborist calculation to trim on prudent 5 year cycle
	Root pruning and root barriers	150,000	2,700,000	300,000	3,000 trees - saves \$3M in long term repair
	Palm trimming	600,000	0	700,000	Fully funded - palms major cause of power line damage
3	Sidewalk repair due to trees	1,320,000	7,500,000	1,320,000	
4	New tree installation	108,017	20,000,000	160,000	Provides +/- 200/council district, installed w/minor demo
	Tree removal	369,868	750,000	250,000	2000-01 exceeded TAB recommendation
SPECIAL PROJECTS (Related to grant funding)					
	Beach street s/w and tree well repairs	50,000	N/A	N/A	Unknown funding sources for 2001-02
	Citywide tree pruning/trimming	250,000	N/A	N/A	Unknown funding sources for 2001-02
	Sub total	\$3,554,071	\$34,950,000	\$3,540,000	
WORK FORCE PERFORMED BY CITY FORCES					
1	NEW PERSONNEL/STAFFING				
	One (1) Public Works Supervisor	N/A	N/A	65,000	Assist in tree project identification & supervision
	One (1) Public Information Officer	N/A	N/A	55,000	Provide community outreach and TAB clerical support
2	BROADLEAF TRIMMING FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS				
	Tree trimming by City forces	372,911	N/A	375,000	Trimming outside annual cycle-prep for road work
	Sub total	\$372,911	\$0	\$495,000	

TOTAL	\$3,926,982	\$34,950,000	\$4,035,000	
	FY 2000-01	Backlog	FY 2001-02	

Revised January 24, 2001

CITY OF SAN DIEGO GOAL BUDGET FY 2006-07

	FY 2001-02	FY 2006-07	Explanation for Change	
WORK PERFORMED BY OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS				
1	EMERGENCY			
	Emergency Response	85,000	75,000	Reduced due to preventive trimming
	Removal of fallen tree limbs	175,000	100,000	Reduced due to preventive trimming
3	SCHEDULED TRIMMING/ROOT BARRIERS			
	Broadleaf trimming	550,000	750,000	Covers newly planted trees
	Root pruning and root barriers	300,000	50,000	On-going prevention/root barriers included at installation
	Palm trimming	700,000	800,000	Covers newly planted trees
4	SIDEWALK REPAIRS			
	Sidewalk repair due to trees	1,320,000	300,000	Proper installation reduces problems
5	TREE INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL			
	New tree installation	160,000	240,000	Increased due to community requests
	Tree removals	250,000	100,000	Normal attrition and disease
	Sub total	\$3,540,000	\$2,415,000	Reduction based on preventive maintenance
WORK FORCE PERFORMED BY CITY FORCES				
1	NEW PERSONNEL/STAFFING			
	One (1) Public Works Supervisor	65,000	260,000	Additional staff to manage growing Urban Forest
	One (1) Public Information Officer	55,000		Provide community outreach and TAB clerical support
2	BROADLEAF TRIMMING FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS			
	Tree trimming by City forces	375,000	250,000	Reduce in response to annual broadleaf trimming above
	Sub total	\$495,000	\$510,000	
	TOTAL	\$4,035,000	\$2,925,000	Reduction based on preventive maintenance