

DATE ISSUED: October 9, 2002

REPORT NO. 02-232

ATTENTION: Rules Committee
Agenda of October 16, 2002

SUBJECT: Quarterly Status Report on Tree Planting and Related Issues

SUMMARY

Issue - Shall Rules Committee accept this status report on tree planting and related issues?

Manager=s Recommendation - Accept this status report.

Other Recommendation - None.

Fiscal Impact - None with this action.

BACKGROUND

Tree Planting Event on November 16, 2002

Plans are progressing well for a tree planting event on Saturday morning, November 16, 2002. On that day, trees will be planted in each of the eight City Council Districts. A total of approximately 300 trees will be planted. All of the tree planting locations for this event are located in street right-of-way. Selected communities for this one-day event are: City Heights, Clairemont, Nestor, Pacific Beach, Rancho Penasquitos, Rolando, Scripps Ranch and Valencia Park. See Attachment 1 for a summary of planting location information.

The event will serve as a kick-off for the Community Roots Initiative which was developed by the City=s Tree Advisory Board to accomplish the Mayor=s goal of planting 5,000 trees each year for the next 20 years. The event will demonstrate the value of community-based tree planting, in terms of the many benefits of trees and the importance of community involvement in accomplishing this tree planting goal.

Tree Tally

The intent is to track all tree planting on public property, in two time periods: calender year and

fiscal year. A standardized monthly reporting form has been developed to facilitate this data collection (see Attachment 2). This reporting form will be used beginning in October 2002. The currently available data cannot be accurately separated into trees planted before the start of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002, and trees planted after. Of the 1,223 trees listed in the tally, 441 overlap the Fiscal Year 2003 Community Forest Budget Plan (Attachment 3). The areas of overlap are annotated on the Budget Plan. All other items in the Budget Plan are in addition to this tree tally.

Calender Year 2002 Tree Tally
For the period 1/1/02 - 8/31/02

<u>Trees Planted</u>	<u>Reporting Entity</u>	<u>Comments</u>
699	Street Division	Net of 801 tree planting permits and 102 tree removal permits issued by Street Division for street right-of-way.
187	Centre City Development Corporation	Trees planted in street right-of-way as part of development projects downtown San Diego. These trees do not overlap those reported by Street Div.
169	Park & Recreation Department	Trees planted in Balboa Park (119), Tierrasanta MAD (26) Maddox Park (10), Standley Park (8), and Dennis V. Allen Park (6).
15	Urban Corps of San Diego	Net trees planted in locations not requiring a Street Division permit: Cesar Chavez Elem. (5), Memorial Middle School (4), and 4800 block of Market Street (6).
12	People for Trees	Net trees planted in locations not requiring a Street Division permit: Washington Elem. (6) and Twain Sr. High (6).
Est. 83	Park Planning Division	Out of the 500 trees programmed as part of FY 2003 park Capital Improvement Projects, an estimated proration of 83 trees have been planted 7/1-8/31/02.
Est. 58	Transportation & Drainage Design Division	Out of the 542 trees programmed as part of FY 2003 right-of-way Capital Improvement Projects, an estimated 65% (352 trees) are above what is required. An estimated proration of 58 trees have been planted 7/1-8/31/02.
1,223	Est. Total	

Fiscal Year 2003 Community Forest Budget Plan

See Attachment 3 for a status update.

Urban Ecosystem Analysis

Most of the Urban Ecosystem Analysis depends on satellite imagery. The City defined an imagery collection window of July 1, 2002 (the date funding for the Urban Ecosystem Analysis was identified by the City Manager) through September 30, 2002 (the end of the period when trees in San Diego are considered to be in full-leaf, which is necessary to obtain maximum information from the imagery). All requests for satellite imagery are put in a queue based on the date the request is submitted. However, the Federal government can bump any request in the queue. They did this for the purpose of obtaining Homeland Security satellite imagery. As a result, the City's request for satellite imagery could not be accommodated by the September 30, 2002 deadline. The City's request will be re-submitted for a collection window beginning May 15, 2003.

However, one piece of information from the overall Urban Ecosystem Analysis will be available in early 2003. The City will receive a detailed calculation of the percentage change in San Diego's tree cover since 1982 based on analysis of blocks 100 feet on a side in existing Landsat satellite data by the non-profit organization, American Forests.

Tree Ordinance

On September 11, 2002, the Tree Advisory Board approved a revised version of its Draft Tree Ordinance solely for the purpose of obtaining review by City departments and agencies. The Board's review and comment on the revised draft will occur at its October 2002 meeting. If approved at that time, the plan is to return to the Tree Advisory Board's November 2002 meeting with amendments suggested by City departments and agencies, plus any additional perspective gained by discussing the ordinance with the City of Los Angeles, which has experience with a similar tree ordinance. The City's Tree Ordinance could then be scheduled at the December 2002 meeting of the Rules Committee where, if approved in concept, it would then be sent to the Community Planning Groups for a 45-day review before being docketed at City Council in early 2003.

City Organizational Structure and Community Forest Program Budget

Recommendations on these subjects are not included in this report. However, the Manager will submit recommendations to the Rules Committee in time for consideration by City Council before the Fiscal Year 2004 budget is prepared. There is still a lot of uncertainty about the impacts to the City resulting from the State of California's adopted budget. More information is needed about these impacts before recommendations are made on: a) which City department will be in charge of community forestry; and b) a plan to include funds in future proposed budgets to replace, water, prune and track trees.

ALTERNATIVE

Do not accept this status report.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Williams
Assistant to Senior Deputy City Manager

Approved: P. Lamont Ewell
Assistant City Manager

Attachments: [1. Community Roots/Green Streets November 16, 2002 Tree Planting Events Status Report](#)
[2. Tree Planting and Removal Log / Standard Reporting Form](#)
[3. FY 2003 Community Forest Budget Plan Update as of October 4, 2002](#)