

DATE ISSUED: April 16, 2003 REPORT NO. 03-065

ATTENTION: Rules Committee
Agenda of April 23, 2003

SUBJECT: Quarterly Status Report on Community Forest Initiative

REFERENCE: Manager's Report No. 03-014, issued January 23, 2003
Manager's Report No. 02-232, issued October 9, 2002

SUMMARY

Issues – Shall Rules Committee:

1. Accept this status report on various aspects of the Community Forest Initiative?
2. Direct the City Manager to implement a City of San Diego / City Resident Tree Watering Agreement to replace the Nonprofit / City Resident Tree Watering Agreements?

Manager's Recommendations –

1. Accept the status report.
2. Do not direct the City Manager to implement a City of San Diego / City Resident Tree Watering Agreement. Instead, direct the City Manager to work with the Community Forest Advisory Board to implement its recommendations for improved Nonprofit / City Resident Tree Watering Agreements.

Other Recommendations – On March 12, 2003, on the subject of Tree Watering Agreements, the Community Forest Advisory Board recommended developing a standard Nonprofit / City Resident Tree Watering Agreement, using it for a year and, if necessary after that review, considering other options, including the possibility of a City of San Diego / City Resident agreement.

Fiscal Impact – None with this action.

BACKGROUND

Tree Tally

One aspect of building a community forest is tree planting. A Community Forest Initiative objective which was announced by Mayor Murphy in January 2002, is to plant 5,000 trees on public property each year for 20 years, for a total of 100,000 trees for San Diego. Allowing time for Initiative start up, the target is to plant the first 5,000 trees by the end of Fiscal Year 2003 (by June 30, 2003), and to plant 5,000 trees each fiscal year after that. *Attachment 1* is an updated version of the Tree Tally showing that the goal is expected to be met with 5,175 trees planted by June 30, 2003.

Not included in the tally are 2,794 trees planted by Caltrans on public property in Calendar Year 2002. These trees do not overlap those reported by Street Division, but are excluded from the tally because they were required by project environmental documents. Still, their large number makes them of note. The trees were planted as follows: on Route 15 between Ocean View Blvd. and Route 94, and on Route 94 west of Route 15 (366 trees); on 40th St./Terrace Dr. between Landis St. and I-15 north of Route 805 to I-8 (644 trees including 257 palms); on 39th & 40th Streets between Monroe Ave. and Adams Ave. (218 trees including 19 palms); on Route 52 between I-5 and 805 adjacent to Marian Bear Park (170 trees); on Route 805 from Market St. to National City (81 trees including 33 palms); and various locations in San Diego on Routes 94/805 (1,315 trees).

Community Forest Budget Plans

The FY 2003 Community Forest Budget Plan is updated in *Attachment 2* from the version attached to Manager's Report No. 02-232 issued October 9, 2002.

For FY 2004, a budget plan is currently being developed to identify the resources that may be available to help meet the goal of planting 5,000 trees on public property in the upcoming fiscal year.

Tree Watering Agreements

Currently, recipients of free street trees sign a Tree Watering Agreement with one of the City's nonprofit service providers, agreeing to water the tree for at least the first three years after it is planted, the tree's "establishment period." These are the Nonprofit/Resident Tree Watering Agreements. On January 29, 2003, Rules Committee requested the City Attorney's Office to return with a draft Tree Watering Agreement that would be between the City of San Diego and City residents, for Committee consideration. *Attachment 3* is that draft agreement.

On March 12, 2003, the Community Forest Advisory Board recommended that the objectives of building a community forest in San Diego would be better met by: 1) improving the current Nonprofit / Resident agreements, 2) using the modified agreement

for one year, 3) evaluating its effectiveness, and 4) if necessary after that review, considering other options for tree watering agreements, including the possibility of an agreement executed between the City of San Diego and City residents. *Attachment 4* is the Board's complete recommendation.

Street Tree Planting Impact on Curbside Disabled Access

On January 29, 2003, Rules Committee requested the City Manager to address concerns expressed in public testimony on this subject. *Attachment 5* describes the actions taken.

City Organizational Structure and Budgetary Elements for Trees

On the issues previously raised by the Rules Committee about the appropriate City department to be in charge of trees, and future budget plans for tree replacement planting, watering, pruning and tracking, the City Manager will be considering these during preparation of the Proposed FY 2004 Budget.

Tree and Community Forest Ordinance

An amended draft Tree and Community Forest Ordinance is expected to be presented to the Community Forest Advisory Board during Spring 2003, and to Rules Committee in Fall 2003 where, if approved in concept, it will be sent to the Community Planners Committee and individual Community Planning Groups for a 45-day review/comment period before being docketed at City Council in Fall 2003.

ALTERNATIVE

Direct the City Manager to implement the City of San Diego / City Resident Tree Watering Agreement attached to this report.

Respectfully submitted,

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- Attachments:
1. Tree Tally for January 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003
 2. FY 2003 Community Forest Budget Plan
 3. Draft City of San Diego / City Resident Street Tree Watering Agreement
 4. Community Forest Advisory Board Recommendations on Tree Watering Agreements
 5. Street Tree Planting Impact on Curbside Disabled Access