

**CITY OF DANA POINT****AGENDA REPORT**

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**DATE:** JANUARY 18, 2017

**TO:** TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

**FROM:** MARK DENNY, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER / DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES  
MATTHEW SINACORI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

**SUBJECT:** REVIEW OF CROWN VALLEY MEDIAN/STREET IMPROVEMENTS

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**BACKGROUND:**

The City Council established a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Project entitled "Crown Valley Parkway Median Drought Conversion Project", and directed staff to proceed with design of the improvements. The Project includes the following elements:

1. Removal of existing grass, irrigation and trees in the medians on Crown Valley.
2. Construction of New Median Curbs to provide increased curb exposure.
3. Construction of New Subsurface Irrigation (Avoids Runoff); Addresses State regulations.
4. Installation of new drought tolerant landscaping; including palm trees to match Pacific Coast Highway medians.
5. Construction of permeable access surfaces for maintenance staff to more safely maintain the median, and provide water quality benefit.
6. Construct gravel median noses at intersection turn pockets with a loose arrangement of plant material.

The City Council established budget for this Project is \$1,170,000 and our current budgetary construction estimate is \$923K. It is important to note that the construction estimate will change as more detailed design work is completed, allowing us to refine that estimate.

The City Council also approved hiring Glen Brouwer with Integration Design Studio (IDS) to provide landscape architecture design services and West Coast Civil to prepare construction drawings and specifications in conjunction with City staff.

City staff and our consultants have been working on the design effort. At this point,

however, approval of the conceptual design is needed. Since this Project involves several safety related elements, it is being brought to the Traffic Improvement Subcommittee before going to the City Council.

City staff notified the surrounding neighborhoods of the planned Project and advised that the Traffic Improvement Subcommittee will be discussing the item. Attached as Supporting Document A is the Public Meeting Notice that was provided, and the notification area.

## **DISCUSSION:**

IDS has met with City staff and prepared the conceptual design for the median improvements. Photographs showing what the existing median looks like are provided in Supporting Document B. The proposed conceptual design plan and the plant palette are provided in Supporting Document C.

Several key traffic safety considerations are being addressed with the proposed concept as follows:

1. Curb Height – The Project includes raising the existing median curb heights to 8-inch minimum. Currently, the median curb heights range from 2-inches to 4-inches as a result of past resurfacing efforts.
2. Permeable Maintenance Access Surfaces – The design concept provides permeable access surfaces for maintenance staff so they can maintain the median without standing in the roadway. The surface is currently planned to be colored, decorative gravel.
3. Median Nose Treatment - The median noses that are currently paved or landscaped will be changed to permeable walking surfaces (again with colored gravel) with a loose arrangement of plant material to allow maintenance staff safe access and to address water quality requirements.
4. New Irrigation to Prevent Overspray – New irrigation will be installed that will prevent overspray, keeping water out of vehicle lanes. This will also allow the City to conserve water and reduce water use.

### Eucalyptus Tree Removal

This median project, as noted above, will involve the construction of new median curbs and full renovation of the median including removal of all landscaping and irrigation and replacement of soil materials (remove and replace approximately two feet of soil). When the construction occurs, the median elevation will be raised because the curbs are increasing in height. Further, significant construction will occur in the vicinity of the existing Eucalyptus trees.

As a result, the City's landscape architect, in consultation with a certified arborist, have raised concerns regarding the remaining Eucalyptus trees on Crown Valley, a total of nine (9). Those concerns are as follows:

1. Existing Eucalyptus trees are causing significant damage to street improvements as roots have extended into the roadway in all cases. The construction activity noted above will require the removal of any roots that are impacting the existing curbs and asphalt. In doing so, the structural stability of the trees will be compromised causing significant safety concerns.
2. The removal of many roots will also cause the Eucalyptus trees to become stressed due to their ability to draw moisture and nutrients through the roots which will be significantly compromised. This is a concern because Eucalyptus trees are known to have limb failures and even more so when subjected to stress, i.e. change in water, wind events, storm events, root damage, etc. create potential safety issues.
3. Eucalyptus, as a species, has the capacity to use large amounts of water from the soil and thus understory plants suffer. Also Eucalyptus drop extensive amounts of leaf litter and the leaves contain high amounts of oils which prevent the leaves from decomposing quickly which eventually will sterilize the soil for most species of understory plants. As such, the City's proposed drought tolerant median design would not thrive if the trees remained.

Therefore, based on these reasons, the City is proposing to remove the remaining Eucalyptus trees on Crown Valley. City staff did also consult our insurance company regarding this issue and they also supported the recommended removal of the existing trees.

In addition to the median improvements, Crown Valley is due for repaving. City staff will be recommending that the City Council fund the resurfacing of Crown Valley in the next budget process. If the City Council funds that work, the repaving work would be accomplished at the same time the median improvements are done. This Project is currently scheduled to be in construction starting in March/April 2018 (over a year from now). It is important to note, however, that there are several other Projects that need to be implemented first and this schedule may be adjusted as we continue to implement our Projects.

#### Summary/Recommendation

It is recommended that the Subcommittee take the following actions:

- 1) Approve the conceptual design, acknowledge safety related elements, and recommend approval of the conceptual design by the City Council. Please note that included in the conceptual design before the Subcommittee is a recommendation to remove the remaining nine (9) Eucalyptus trees.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:****PAGE #**

A. <a href="#">Public Meeting Notice and Notification Area</a> .....	5
B. <a href="#">Existing Median Photos</a> .....	7
C. <a href="#">Conceptual Landscape Design</a> .....	16

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENT A: Public Meeting Notice**

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**CITY OF DANA POINT**

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Traffic Improvement Subcommittee (Subcommittee) of the City of Dana Point will meet on January 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the renovation of the landscaped median on Crown Valley Parkway and the associated traffic related considerations. The meeting will be held at the following date, time and location:

Date: January 18, 2017  
Time: 3:00 PM  
Location: City Council Chambers  
Address: 33282 Golden Lantern  
Dana Point, CA 92629

**BACKGROUND**

As part of the City's approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects, the City will be renovating the median on Crown Valley between Seven Seas Drive and Camino Del Avion to eliminate the grass and provide a more drought tolerant/low water using median. This is in response to State water conservation regulations and the current drought that is impacting the State of California.

**DISCUSSION**

The Project includes removing the existing Eucalyptus trees and grass, reconstructing the median curbs to regain valuable curb exposure, installing a plant palette to match the medians on PCH, and constructing maintenance access paths to allow for staff to safely maintain the medians going forward.

City staff plans to bring this item to the Traffic Improvement Subcommittee to discuss the planned Project including the suggested tree species and layout, proposed plant palette, proposed maintenance access paths, and other design features. If you would like to attend, the Subcommittee Meeting will be held at the abovementioned date and time.

**For further information or if you have any questions, please contact the Deputy Director/City Engineer by phone, e-mail or in writing by January 12<sup>th</sup> at the following:**

Mr. Matthew Sinacori, P.E.  
Deputy Director Public Works/City Engineer  
Public Works Department  
33282 Golden Lantern, Suite 212  
Dana Point, CA 92629  
Telephone: (949) 248-3574  
E-mail: [msinacori@danapoint.org](mailto:msinacori@danapoint.org)

Thank you.







**SUPPORTING DOCUMENT B: Existing Median Photos**







































## SUPPORTING DOCUMENT C: Conceptual Landscape Design

I N T E G R A T I O N



**DESIGN STUDIO**  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

### TREE LEGEND

SYMBOL	SIZE	QTY.	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	REMARKS	SPECIFICATIONS (Ht. X Width)
	4'-6' B.T.H.		<i>Butia capitata</i>	Pindo Palm	--	4'-6' B.T.H.
	--		<i>Brahea armata</i>	Mexican Blue Palm	--	--
	--		<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	Mediterranean Fan Palm	Multi-Trunk	4', 6', & 8' B.T.H.
	Existing		<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	Mediterranean Fan Palm	Multi-Trunk	4', 6', & 8' B.T.H.
	--		<i>Howea forsterana</i>	Paradise Palm	Multi-Trunk	4', 6', & 8' B.T.H.
	16' B.T.H.		<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i> 'Medjool'	Date Palm	--	13' B.T.H.
	--		<i>Phoenix roebelenii</i>	Pygmy Date Palm	Multi-Trunk	2', 3', & 4' B.T.H.

**NOTES**

- ALL TREES WITHIN 10' OF ANY IMPROVEMENT SUCH AS A WALK, WALL, CURB, ETC. SHALL BE INSTALLED WITH ROOT BARRIERS - SEE SPECIFICATIONS FOR TYPE AND SEE DETAIL C/ SHEET 20. ROOT BARRIERS SHALL RUN ALONG THE CURB AND SIDE WALK FOR A MINIMUM OF 5' IN EITHER DIRECTION FOR A TOTAL OF 10 LINEAR FEET MINIMUM.

CROWN VALLEY PARKWAY  
 City of Dana Point







I N T E G R A T I O N

DESIGN STUDIO  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

## SHRUB LEGEND

SIZE	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
5 Gal. @ 24" O.C.	<i>Cistus</i> 'Sunet'	Rockrose
5 Gal. @ 30" O.C.	<i>Gambelia speciosa</i> 'Fire Cracker'	Bush Snapdragon
5 Gal. @ 36" O.C.	<i>Rosa</i> 'Brilliant Pink Iceberg'	Pink Iceberg Rose
1 Gal. @ 30" O.C.	<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Huntington Carpet'	Huntington Carpet Rosemary
5 Gal. @ 36" O.C.	<i>Tecoma</i> 'Sierra Apricot'	Sierra Apricot Esperanza
1 Gal. @ 24" O.C.	<i>Trachelospermum asiaticum</i>	Asian Star Jasmine

CROWN VALLEY PARKWAY  
City of Dana Point



I N T E G R A T I O N


 DESIGN STUDIO  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

### CACTUS + SUCCULENTS LEGEND

SIZE	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
15 Gal. @ 42" O.C.	<i>Agave attenuata</i>	Fox Tail Agave
15 Gal. @ 42" O.C.	<i>Agave desmetiana</i>	Smooth Agave
5 Gal. @ 24" O.C.	<i>Aloe vera</i>	Medicinal Aloe
1 Gal. @ 18" O.C.	<i>Bulbine frutescens</i> 'Tiny Tangerine'	Tangerine Stalked Bulbine
5 Gal. @ 30" O.C.	<i>Crassula arborescens</i>	Silver Dollar Plant
5 Gal. @ 30" O.C.	<i>Crassula</i> 'Crosby's Compact'	Compact Jade Plant
10" Bowls @ 42" O.C.	<i>Cotyledon</i> 'Long Fingers'	Finger Aloe
Flats @ 12" O.C.	<i>Senecio mandraliscae</i> 'Blue Chalk Sticks'	Blue Chalk Sticks
1 Gal. @ 24" O.C.	<i>Senecio vitalis</i>	Bush Blue Pickles

 CROWN VALLEY PARKWAY  
 City of Dana Point





INTEGRATION  
  
DESIGN STUDIO  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

ORNAMENTAL GRASS IMAGES



CROWN VALLEY PARKWAY  
City of Dana Point



