

MEETING DATE: March 1, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: Presentation of the Conceptual Plans for the Culver City Tree Planting Partnership Project, Cosponsored by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).

ATTACHMENT

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The City of Culver City and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) are cosponsoring this project to enhance Culver City Park by adding trees to specified areas where there currently are none. The trees will have low biogenic volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions and are native species to California. Three such trees are the (top to bottom), California Sycamore (*Platanus Racemosa*), Monterey Pine (*Pinus Radiata*) and Engelmann Oak (*Quercus Engelmanii*).

AQMD established the Tree Planting Partnership in order to help cities and counties build healthy urban forests across the Southland, which will assist in reducing air pollution and help remove greenhouse gases. Other benefits of tree plantings include:

Trees Produce Oxygen – A mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen in a season as 10 people inhale in a year.

Trees Control Noise Pollution – Trees muffle urban noise almost as effectively as stone walls.

Trees Slow Storm Water Runoff – Flash flooding can be dramatically reduced by a forest or by planting trees. Underground water-holding aquifers are recharged with this slowing down of water runoff.



Trees Shade and Cool – Studies have shown that parts of cities without cooling shade from trees can literally be "heat islands" with temperatures as much as 12 degrees Fahrenheit higher than surrounding areas.

Trees Clean the Soil – By absorbing dangerous chemicals and other pollutants that have entered the soil, trees can either store harmful pollutants or actually change the pollutant into less harmful forms.

Trees Act as Windbreaks – A reduction in wind can reduce the drying effect on soil and vegetation behind the windbreak and help keep precious topsoil in place.