

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: 05/24/2010		Item Number: <u>A-3</u>	
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: Consideration and Approval of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission's Recommendation to Name the Bottle Tree as the Recommended Street Tree for the 4100 and 4200 Blocks of Baldwin Avenue in Lieu of the Victorian Box which is Currently Recommended in the City's Adopted Street Tree Master Plan			
Contact Person/Dept.: Eric Mirzaian		Phone Number: (310) 253-6410	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Commission Action Required: Yes ☒ No ☐ Date: 04/06/2010 Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission			
Public Notification: (E-mail) Meetings and Agendas – City Council (05/19/10); Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission via email on 5/10/2010; Residents along 4100 & 4200 blocks of Baldwin Avenue via post card (postmarked 5/10/2010)			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson (05/12/10)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (05/19/10)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (05/19/10)		City Manager Approval: P. Lamont Ewell (05/19/10)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council consider and approve the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission's (PRCSC) recommendation to name the Bottle Tree as the recommended street tree for the 4100 and 4200 blocks of Baldwin Avenue in lieu of the Victorian Box which is currently recommended in the City's adopted Street Tree Master Plan (STMP). <u>BACKGROUND:</u> In June of 2009, the Public Works Department evaluated the Victorian Box (<i>Pittosporum Undulatum</i>) and Queensland Pittosporum (<i>Pittosporum Rhombifolium</i>) trees along the 4100 and 4200 blocks of Baldwin Avenue. Of the 38 trees that were analyzed, 13 were identified to be in an advanced state of decline and were subsequently removed to protect public health and safety. The state of decline has been attributed to a weak root system. This leads to branch failures, heightened susceptibility to pest infestation, excessive defoliation, and canopy decline due to a weak immune system. Public Works staff determined the factors that led to the Victorian Box trees' failure to thrive also made them unsuitable as a replacement tree. However, the Culver City Street Tree Master Plan (STMP) indicates that the Victorian Box is the recommended tree species for this area. Therefore, staff initiated the appropriate process to replace the recommended replacement tree species in the area.			

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At the December 2, 2009 PRCSC meeting, Public Works staff recommended the Camphor Tree as a replacement tree species in place of the Victorian Box (as approved by the STMP) along the 4100 and 4200 blocks of Baldwin Avenue. The PRCSC determined to concur with staff and forward a recommendation to the City Council for consideration. This recommendation was presented to the City Council for approval at the January 25, 2010 meeting.

At that meeting, several residents expressed concerns regarding the selection of the Camphor Tree. As a result, staff sought input from residents of Baldwin Avenue as to the type of tree that they would like to have planted in place of those that had previously been removed by the Public Works Department.

DISCUSSION:

On February 10, 2010, a survey was mailed to residents and property owners of Baldwin Avenue. The residents/property owners were given the opportunity to select one of three types of trees to replace the trees that were removed: the Camphor Tree, the Bottle Tree, and the Jacaranda Tree. The survey packet included a picture and characteristic description of each tree species. Participants were provided two weeks to respond to the survey. Of the 129 surveys mailed, 47 surveys were returned resulting in a 36% response rate. The results were as follows:

Bottle Tree.....	18
Jacaranda Tree....	16
Camphor Tree.....	13

Based on the survey results, staff returned to the PRCSC at its April 6, 2010 meeting to recommend that the PRCSC rescind its prior recommendation to plant the Camphor Tree in lieu of the Victorian Box and consider recommending the Bottle Tree as the replacement tree species for this area. The PRCSC unanimously approved this recommendation.

All three tree types recommended on the survey have done quite well on neighboring streets, including Elenda Street, Jasmine Street, La Salle Avenue, Le Bourget Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, Madison Avenue, and Park Avenue. Thus, the Bottle Tree will be a very suitable tree based on the infrastructure and local climate and soil conditions of this area.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The cost to plant Bottle Trees in this area will be paid from the Public Works Department tree maintenance budget (10161600). The trees will be planted by the Public Works Tree Maintenance crew as part of their regular work program in Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Any remaining tree planting needs will be performed by the City's

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tree contractor, West Coast Arborists. Staff will plant the number of trees this current fiscal year's budget will allow and the City's contractor will complete the planting of the remaining trees in Fiscal Year 2010-2011. The approximate cost for a Bottle Tree is \$125.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Survey packet sent to residents/property owners of the 4100 and 4200 blocks of Baldwin Avenue.
2. Excerpt of the approved Minutes of the April 6, 2010 meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission.

MOTION:

That the City Council:

Approve the Parks, Recreation & Community Services Commission's (PRCSC) recommendation to name the Bottle tree as the recommended street tree for the 4100 and 4200 blocks of Baldwin Avenue in lieu of the Victorian Box which is currently recommended in the City's adopted Street Tree Master Plan (STMP).