

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 1/28/08		Item Number: <u>A-4</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: 1) Approval of the Final Plans and Specifications and Authorization to Advertise for Bids for the Carson (Street) Street Improvement Project (Ince Boulevard to Higuera Street); and 2) Authorization to Amend the Street Tree Master Plan Designated Street Tree along Carson Street from Australian Willow to Chinese Pistache.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Lee Torres/PW		Phone Number: 310.253.5623	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Master Notification List via email on January 23 rd All immediately affected residents of project site and CBM Consulting, via First Class Postcard on January 21 st			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson 01/16/2008		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (01/22/08)	
Fiscal Impact Review: Jeff Muir (by N. Kimball)(01/23/08)		City Manager Approval: Jerry B. Fulwood (01/23/2008)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council 1) approve the final plans and specifications and authorize advertising for bids for the Carson (Street) Street Improvement Project, P-860; and 2) amend the Street Tree Master Plan (STMP) to change the designated street tree from Australian Willow to Chinese Pistache along Carson Street from Ince Boulevard and Higuera Street. <u>BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION:</u> The adopted Capital Improvement Program contains the Carson (Street) Street Improvement Project, between Higuera Street and Ince Boulevard. Carson Street from Ince Boulevard to Higuera Street is identified as a high priority for street resurfacing in the Pavement Management Master Plan. The existing asphalt pavement roadway is deteriorated due to age and the existing sidewalks, driveways, curbs, and gutters are uplifted and/or cracked due to the existing street (Ficus) tree roots. The first phase of the Street Improvement was completed in 2004 when new streetlights along Carson Street between Ince Boulevard and Higuera Street were installed to upgrade and convert the existing streetlight system to low voltage. The second phase of the project was completed in August 2007 when the sewer main and sewer laterals were replaced.			

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

The proposed project will consist of reconstructing the sidewalks, driveways, curbs, gutters, and a 2-inch grind and overlay of new asphalt on the street.

Remove and Replace Existing Street (Ficus) Tree

Staff believes that the new improvements will be damaged within several years if the existing Ficus trees remain. Therefore, as part of the street improvement project, staff is proposing to remove all of the existing ficus trees along Carson Street and replace them with Chinese Pistache.

Staff worked closely with the Carson Street residents between Higuera Street and Ince Boulevard through several meetings regarding the replacement of the trees. On July 13, 2007, an Advisory Survey was sent to all homeowners along the Carson Street project limits to obtain opinions on the proposed removal and replacement of the existing Ficus trees in their neighborhood. Of the twenty (27) advisory surveys distributed, fourteen (14) of the homeowners responded that they *opposed* the removal of the existing Ficus trees and planting of the designated street tree, Australian Willow. Several homeowners recommended a community meeting be held to discuss the matter further.

On August 8, 2007, a community meeting with the Carson Street residents was held to discuss the advisory survey results. At the meeting, staff presented the reasons why the Ficus trees should be removed as part of the upcoming street improvement project. It was explained that in 2002, the Carson Street - Street Improvement Project, between Higuera Street and its northerly terminus was constructed and that now damages are occurring on the street pavements, sidewalks, driveways, curb and gutters due to the Ficus trees' roots. The homeowners were encouraged to visit the neighboring street personally and observe the new damages occurring to the street. Staff recommended to the residents that it is not in the best interest of the City to expend City funds for these repairs while keeping the Ficus trees as damages to the new hardscape will appear in several years.

After discussions, it was agreed by the majority of the homeowners at the meeting that the City should provide a list of recommended replacement trees that meet the Street Tree Master Plan (STMP) criteria.

At another community meeting held on October 9, 2007, staff obtained comments regarding the format of the advisory survey and the following five (5) street trees:

1. Chinese Pistache (*Pistachia chinensis*)
2. Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)
3. Jacaranda (*Jacaranda Mimosifolia*)
4. Fern Pine (*Podocarpus gracilior*)

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

5. Camphor Tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*)

On October 25, 2007, twenty-seven (27) advisory surveys were mailed to all the homeowners and included the aforementioned five (5) street trees, along with pertinent information on each tree.

On November 2, 2007, fifteen (15) completed advisory surveys were returned. Ten (10) of the Surveys *supported* the removal and replacement of the Ficus trees. The homeowners who supported the removal and replacement of the street trees were requested as part of the advisory survey to place the five recommended street trees in the order of preference. From the five (5) street trees provided, the Chinese Pistache received the most favorable support from the survey.

On November 16, 2007, the homeowners were notified via letter of the advisory survey results.

On January 3, 2008, as prescribed by the STMP amendment process, staff presented and the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended approving amending the Street Tree Master Plan to change the designated street tree along Carson Street between Higuera Street and Ince Boulevard from the Australian Willow to the Chinese Pistache.

Design

Under Engineering Division staff supervision, CBM Consulting prepared the construction plans and specifications for the street improvement of this project.

Public Notification

All Carson Street residents between Ince Boulevard and Higuera Street were mailed a notification postcard on January 21, 2008. The postcard is attached for your reference.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

There is no fiscal impact associated with approving the final plans and specifications for this project. Advertising for bids in the appropriate adjudicated newspaper will cost approximately \$400. Once bids have been received and reviewed, more information regarding the proposed cost of the project and funds available to complete the project will be provided.

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

ATTACHMENTS:

- Location Map
- Advisory Survey

MOTIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Approve the plans and specifications for Carson (Street) Street Improvement Project, P-860;
2. Authorize advertising for bids for the Carson (Street) Street Improvement Project, P-860; and
3. Amend the Street Tree Master Plan to change the designated street tree from Australian Willow to Chinese Pistache on Carson Street between Ince Boulevard and Higuera Street.