

**MEETING DATE:** 1/26/09

**AGENDA ITEM:** Proposed Options Regarding Changes in Ficus Tree Pruning Standards in Accordance with Best Management Practices Established by the International Standards of Arboriculture (ISA).

### ATTACHMENTS

|   |                                                             | <u>Pages</u> |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | May 1, 2008 letter from WCA to the City of Culver City      | 1-2          |
| 2 | Photographs depicting both the current and proposed methods | 3            |



May 1, 2008

City of Culver City  
Department of Public Works  
ATTN: Charles Herbertson, Director  
9770 Culver Blvd.  
Culver City, CA 90232

**RE: FICUS TREE PRUNING**

Dear Mr. Herbertson,

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to meet with you, Mr. Heustace Lewis, Steve Orozco and Eric Mirzaian earlier this week to discuss the pruning of the City's ficus trees. As we discussed, all other wood tree species are pruned by crown cleaning, raising and structural pruning in accordance with the Best Management Practices (BMP) established by the International Society of Arboriculture ISA. Of course, ultimately the success of this contract depends on both parties agreeing to work together. We understand the City's commitment to provide the citizens of Culver City with the best service and workmanship, however, in terms of business, we must address this concern in order to continue offering high quality service that you have come to expect from us. As a follow up to our meeting, I would like to suggest a couple of options for pruning City-owned ficus trees.

**OPTION NO. 1**

Under the current unit rates for tree pruning, we will perform a basic prune to the ficus species which includes crown cleaning and selective removal of dead, diseased, detached, and/or broken branches. Minimal thinning will also be performed to the interior of the tree with no more than 10-15% of foliage removed. Tree raising for vehicular and pedestrian clearance will also be performed. The pruning operation will be performed in accordance with the (BMP) established by the ISA with no more than 25% of total foliage removed. Trees will not be excessively shaped or thinned and no crown reduction will be performed. (We agree to perform a sample of this type of pruning to the existing ficus trees along Kinston Avenue in the City of Culver City between Flaxton Street and Stever Street.)



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**OPTION NO. 2**

Under the current unit rates for tree pruning plus 1.50 hours of Crew Rental, we will provide a full "crown reduction" and crown cleaning to the ficus trees. Selective removal of dead, diseased, detached, and/or broken branches will be performed including tree raising for vehicular and pedestrian clearance. The pruning operation will be performed in accordance with the BMP established by the ISA with no more than 25% of total foliage removed.

**OPTION NO. 3**

Special pruning requirements such as drop crotch pruning or full crown reduction will be performed under the hourly Crew Rental rate.

Once the sample pruning is done on Kinston Avenue, we can review the trees and decide together on the future approach to the City's ficus trees.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. We look forward to working with the City of Culver City on this issue. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

David Cooper  
Area Manager  
Certified Arborist #WE-0497



**CURRENT METHOD**



**PROPOSED METHOD**