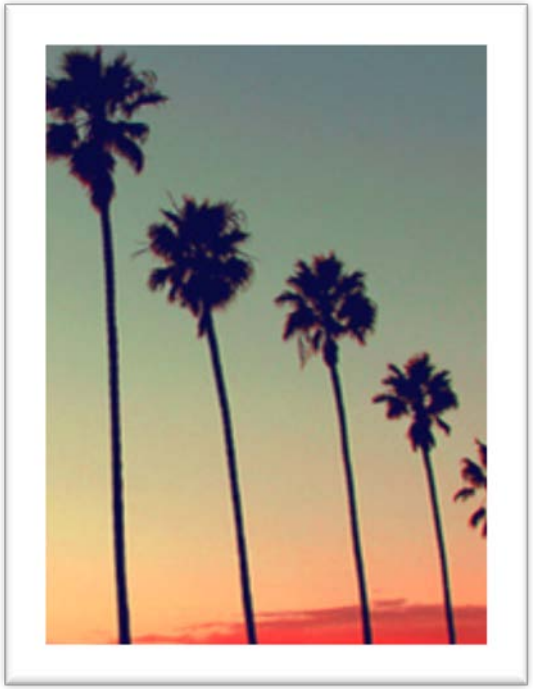
Tree Subcommittee

Staff Report

May 13, 2014

Guiding Documents

- Municipal Tree Ordinance
  - EMC 15.02, Ordinance 2011-04
- Urban Forest Management Program
  - Council Policy C027
- Urban Forest Management Program Administrative Procedures Manual



Urban Forest

- What is it?
- Why do you have one?
- What do you do with it?
- Who does it?

What is an Urban Forest?

"The ecosystem composed of all trees and plants, both intentionally planted or occurring naturally and the soils they grow in" -Council Policy C027

Why do we have an Urban Forest?

- Beauty
- Shade
- Air quality
- Oxygen
- Protects our soil
- Enhances our property values
- Provides habitat for animals

QUALITY OF LIFE!

Who does all of this?

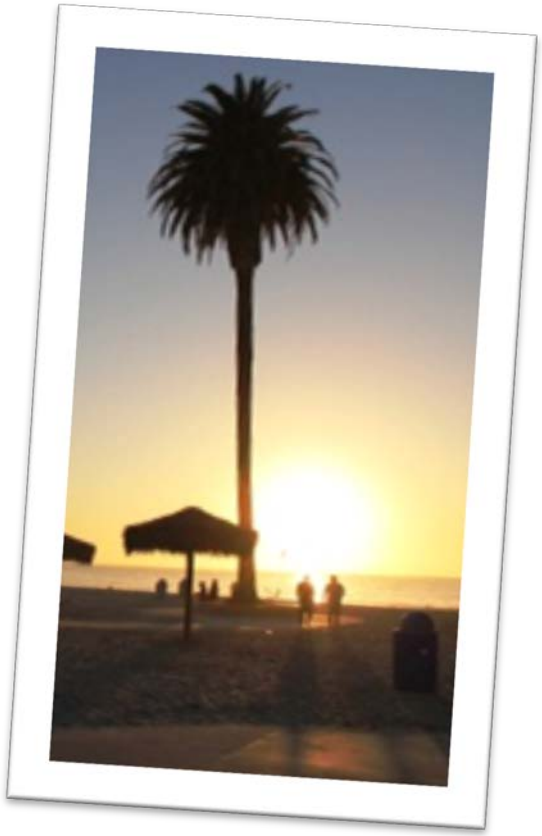
- Parks and Recreation – City parks and medians
- Public Works – Trees in the public rights of way
- Engineering – land development, inspection, CIP
- Planning and Building – land development
- Fire Department

Background

- 1988 – Street Tree Management Plan
- 2003 – Street Tree Plan
- 2007 – Inventory
- 2013 – Street Tree Master Plan

Current Program

- ~9,600 street trees
- Pruning – goal is 2000 trees annually
- Planting – pro-active, replacements
- Removal – life cycle, dead, diseased



Funding

General Fund

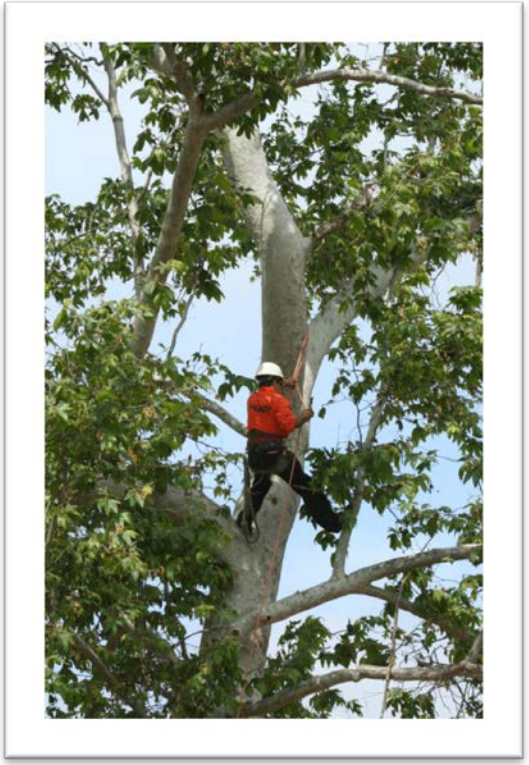
- $108,000 – pruning
- $20,000 – emergencies, reports
- $11,800 – planting
- $10,200 – removals

Total- $150,000

Contracting

Maintenance Services

- West Coast Arborists, Inc.
  3 year contract (2015)
- Emergencies – Misc. contractors
- Reports – Misc. contractors



What's Working, What's Not

What's Working

- Routine maintenance
- Coordination
- GIS & Cityworks

Areas for Improvement

- Procedures manual
- Certified Arborist

Opportunities

- Plan for removals
- Realign responsibilities
- Program coordination

Parks and Recreation Department

Parks Make Life Better!

Tree Maintenance for Parks, Beaches, Streetscapes and Trails

- Landscape Contractors
  (Trees up to 15 feet)
- Tree Trimming Companies
  (Trees over 15 feet)
- Streetscape Trees

Tree Trimming and Removal

- Tree Inspection by certified arborists
- Data entered into City Works
- Trimming perform on an 'as-needed-basis'
- Tree Remove Procedures

Selection of Tree Species

- Landscape Plan
- Replacement trees are chosen by "Right Tree in the Right Place"

Department Funding

- General Fund: $75,000
- Lighting and Landscape Districts: $113,402

What's Working

- 3 Certified Arborist on PRD staff
- Ability to select Multiple Tree Companies
- City Works Software

Areas for Improvement

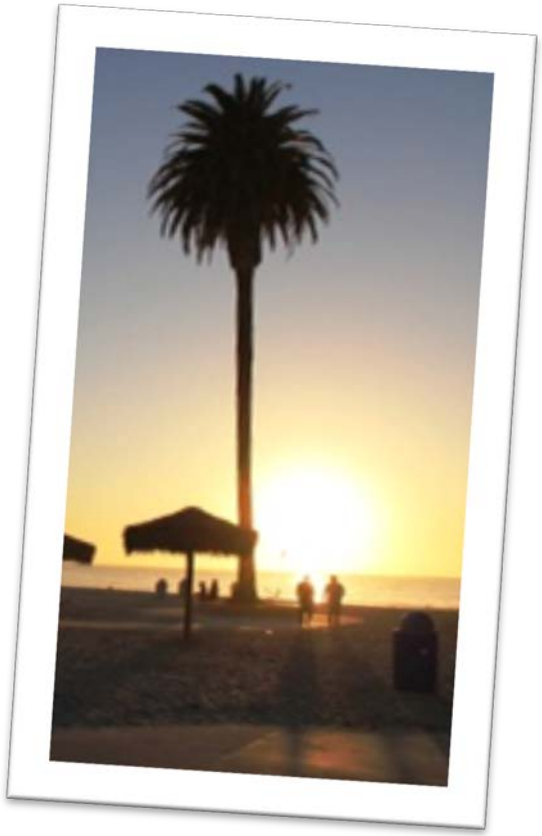
- Streetscape Tree Maintenance
- Vacant PBS position
- Limited budget

Questions?

Parks Make Life Better!

Project Review

- Planning Department lead
  - Engineering input/assistance
  - Arborist input as needed
- Trees on/adjacent to site identified
- Alternatives to removal explored
- Work to preserve trees
- Conditions of approval
  - Protection during construction
  - Ongoing maintenance



Heritage Trees

- Planning Department
- Nominations for trees on public or private property
- Environmental Commission recommendation
- Planning Commission designation
  - Oldest and largest of species in Encinitas
  - Unique form or species
  - Historic significance
  - Defining landmark or significant outstanding feature

Tree Removals

- Engineering Department
- Work with homeowners/developers to limit removals
- Temporary Encroachment Permit
  - Arborist report required
  - Reviewed by Public Works and Parks
  - Addresses removal and required replacement tree (1:1)
  - Monitored by Engineering Field Inspection

Questions?