

## LEUCADIA STREETSCAPE PROJECT FALL 2021 TREE REMOVAL

### 1) What is the primary purpose of this project?

The Leucadia Streetscape project includes a number of coastal improvements aimed at preserving and revitalizing 2.5 miles of N. Coast Highway 101 and provides improved accessibility to the area, whether in a car, on a bike or on foot.

### 2) Where is the project located?

The Leucadia Streetscape project area is located on North Coast Highway 101, adjacent to the rail corridor between A Street and La Costa Avenue.

The current Phase 1 construction improvements are occurring between Marcheta Street and Basil Street.

### 3) What types of trees are being planted in the project area?

As part of the current Phase 1 construction improvements, 101 total trees are being planted between Marcheta Street and Basil Street.

The trees selected for the initial phase of work are a mix of California Native plants combined with familiar and hardy non-native plants. Approximately 45% of the plants in Phase I are native, which is part of the final Landscaping Plan that was reviewed and approved by the California Coastal Commission (CCC).

#### **California Native Trees:**

- (3) *Pinus torreyana*, Torrey Pine
- (17) *Cercis occidentalis*, Western Redbud

#### **Non Native Trees:**

- (5) *Arbutus 'Marina'*, Strawberry Tree
- (14) *Bauhinia purpurea*, Orchid Tree
- (9) *Brachychiton acerifolius*, Flame Tree
- (4) *Cassia leptophylla*, Gold Medallion Tree
- (1) *Darcaena draco*, Dragon Tree
- (4) *Eriobotrya deflexa*, Bronze Loquat
- (7) *Hakea laurina*, Sea Urchin Tree
- (2) *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, Jacaranda
- (1) *Koelreuteria bipinnata*, Chinese Flame Tree
- (14) *Melaleuca nesophila*, Pink Melaleuca

- (10) Pinus canariensis, Canary Island Pine
- (4) Spathodea campanulata, African Tulip Tree
- (6) Stenocarpis sinuatus, Firewheel Tree

#### **4) Why were non-native trees selected to be planted?**

The City decided upon using a mixed palette of 15 different tree species, including non-native trees, because a mixed palette in an urban forest environment can help to reduce destruction from common pests. These include bark beetles, tree borers and diseases that can devastate mono-culture species designs.

A mixed palette tree canopy also provides a diversity of tree colors, shapes, sizes, and seasonal change that help create year-round variety in the landscape. The trees selected were also chosen based upon the location of the project, constraints imposed by the improvements, and the developed nature of the North Highway 101 corridor. Many of the spaces we have for trees are close to buildings and/or traffic lanes and need to fit the available space.

The tree selection was also influenced by other projects in the City of Encinitas that use a mixed species of trees in urban forest projects. These projects include Leucadia Boulevard, El Camino Real, and Encinitas Community Park.

#### **5) How many trees are being removed along North Coast Highway 101?**

The Leucadia Streetscape project is removing 13 trees the week of Oct. 18 in the project area. The following trees are scheduled to be removed between Marcheta Street and North Court:

- 2 Eucalyptus
- 1 Ficus
- 1 Pepper
- 9 Palm trees

We understand the community's concern about losing mature trees, given their history in the corridor, role in sustainability and protecting the environment. However, each tree that is slated for removal was closely scrutinized to determine how their presence impacts the ability of the City to construct fully accessible pathways and/or install the required infrastructure.

The trees that need to be removed were presented to the City's Urban Forest Advisory Committee in a public meeting in February 2021.

**6) Why do the trees need to be removed?**

Revitalizing and restoring the tree canopy along Highway 101 is a major goal for the Leucadia Streetscape project. The City has made every effort to preserve trees that are healthy and followed the City's ordinance for tree removal. The project team worked with the city arborist to identify which trees were to be removed due to either: long-term health of the tree, public safety, or conflicts with future Leucadia Streetscape project improvements, like wider sidewalks, ramps and medians needed to make the corridor more accessible to all individuals, including the mobility impaired.

**7) Could the City move the trees somewhere else along the North Coast Highway 101?**

Unfortunately, given the maturity, size and species of the trees identified for removal, the City and the arborist concluded it was not a viable option to replant the trees in another location. Typically, trees that are replanted have a low survival rate.

For this reason, each of the removed trees will be replaced with a native or drought tolerant tree, planted within the North Coast Highway 101 corridor. The City will be planting 101 total trees in the Phase 1 project area to restore the beautiful, historic tree canopy.

**8) Is there any way to preserve or repurpose the removed trees?**

The removed trees will be repurposed and reused to the extent possible through sidewalk furniture and potential artwork in the project area so that they can continue to be enjoyed by the Leucadia community for years to come.

**9) What about birds that are nesting in the trees?**

The project team is ensuring that all of the City's tree ordinance and environmental protection requirements are being followed. We are currently outside of the nesting season for migratory birds, and an Environmental Impact Report did not locate any sensitive biological or bird species within the project limits.

**10) How can I get information about the projects during construction?**

Information is available on the [City website, encinitasca.gov/streetscape](http://City website. encinitasca.gov/streetscape).

You may also reach our project team through the following:

Email: [Streetscape@encinitasca.gov](mailto:Streetscape@encinitasca.gov)

Phone: [\(760\) 512-3800](tel:(760)512-3800)