

Update: Pilot Reforestation Project

November 1, 2006

The City has heard from several residents about their dismay over the proposed removal of selected street trees in your neighborhood. We also are aware that some misinformation is circulating in the neighborhood. This letter is to clarify the City's intentions and procedures related to the Pilot Reforestation Project. Both the Environmental Quality Commission and City Council have reviewed and endorsed the project at public meetings over the last year.

The City is proposing to remove less than 10% of the street trees in your neighborhood **now**, so that young trees can be planted to fill in as older, declining ones have to be removed over the next decade. If we wait too long to start the removals, large numbers of dying trees would may have to be removed at the same time, leaving a very bare landscape. Even more importantly, a tree in poor condition is more likely to drop limbs and injure someone or cause damage to property. The street trees proposed for removal are in poor health and or have structural problems, and thus pose a greater risk of failure. They are the worst in terms of condition in the Pilot Reforestation area.

We encourage you to read the consulting arborist's report and his survey/evaluation of the street trees in your neighborhood. You can find the website link under "Items of Interest" on the home page of www.menlopark.org. The six-page report explains the reasons for removing the trees and the choices for replacement trees. In the survey, you can look up the arborist's rating on the condition of any street tree by address or by the number on the tag on the tree. If you need paper copies of these documents mailed to you, please contact City staff noted below.

Enclosed is the updated list of trees proposed for removal in your neighborhood in late November and December. Some trees were taken off the original list at the request of property owners (if any of these trees are subsequently found to be in hazardous condition, the City reserves the right to remove them.) If you want to object to the removal of a tree adjacent to your property, please email or call City staff noted below by November 9th. If you want to specify your preference for the replacement choice (on attached list), please email or call City staff noted below by November 9th. If you want to request a larger sized replacement tree, please **mail** or deliver to City staff noted below your request with a check by November 9th. A larger sized replacement (24 inch box) will cost \$226. Small flags have been placed in the locations for the replacement trees. If you do not agree with the location proposed, please call or email City staff noted below by November 9th.

No heritage tree permit appeal process or fee is required if the objection is from the adjacent property owner. If any resident wants to object to the removal of a tree that is NOT adjacent to his/her property, the heritage tree permit appeal process and fee applies. Written appeal requests and a fee of \$25 must be received by City staff noted below by 5:30 p.m. on November 6, 2006.

Hopefully you can attend the Tree Walk with the consulting arborist and City staff this Saturday, November 4th at 9 a.m., starting at the corner of Cotton and Hillview. By attending you will learn more about the City's plans for reforestation and the problems with the trees in your neighborhood.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact:

Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator

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Address: Public Works Department - 701 Laurel Street - Menlo Park, CA 94025