



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 27, 2008

TO: Park and Recreation Commission

FROM: Transportation Operations, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Proposal for the Landscape Plan for the De la Vina/State Street Reconfiguration Improvements

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

- A. Review and provide approval and or direction for the proposed landscape plan;
- B. Provide direction to staff on the proposed street tree locations; and
- C. Provide direction to staff on the removal and possible replacement of the existing tree in the existing intersection median.

DISCUSSION:

The objective of this review is to provide the Park and Recreation Commission with a review of the proposed landscape improvements that will result from the reconfiguration of the intersection of De la Vina and State Street. The project proposes to eliminate the free right turn movements from eastbound State Street onto De La Vina Street and northbound De La Vina Street onto State Street. In the reconfiguration, both of the existing right turn movements will be controlled by a signal, located approximately at the same place as the current signal. The existing free right turn on the southwest corner of the intersection will be replaced with landscaping and curb area. The right turn travel lane will replace the existing landscaped median which contains one specimen tree that will be removed/relocated. On the southeast corner of the intersection, the existing landscape median and free right turn lane will be removed and replaced by a shared lane and curb extension with directional access ramps. Other access ramps, median construction, and re-striping is also included in this project.

Additional Landscape Area Proposal

The additional landscape area on the southwest corner of the De la Vina/ State Street intersection is approximately 4,800 sq.ft. The proposed landscaping in the new area

provides a variety of low maintenance and drought resistant plants, ground cover, and trees. Please see the preliminary plans, attached. Some irrigation is proposed with this project. A meandering pathway and concrete sidewalk are also included.

Street Tree Advisory Committee Review

In addition to the landscape area, five Shoestring Acacia street trees (four along State Street and one along De la Vina Street) are being proposed.

On November 1, 2007, the Street Tree Committee reviewed the proposed project and recommended the Shoestring Acacia as the area's street tree. In the November 1 submittal a total of six street trees were proposed, four along State Street and two along De la Vina Street in between State Street and Samarkand Drive. At the time of the meeting, Public Works and public concerns about the De la Vina street trees in the submitted concept plan were introduced.

Subsequent to the November meeting, Public Works staff concluded a sight distance analysis for the Samarkand/De la Vina intersection. As a result, Public Works Staff is proposing only one street tree along De la Vina. The sight distance analysis for the Samarkand/De la Vina demonstrates a conflict with the southern-most tree. The southern-most tree on De la Vina needs to be moved north approximately 10-feet in order to eliminate the sight distance conflict for the Samarkand drivers.

Owners of the Quality Inn Motel have demonstrated substantial concern about site visibility for their existing sign. Therefore the final placement of the proposed tree along De la Vina is proposed to be parallel to the existing Motel sign. This location satisfies the sight distance requirement for Samarkand and the Motel sign visibility issue.

As a result of the revised tree location, only one tree along De la Vina will be able to fit in this area. The Street Tree Committee has requested to place the eliminated tree south of Samarkand on De la Vina. However there are already existing street trees located in this area. Therefore, the total number of street trees proposed in this area is five Shoestring Acacias.

Cedar Tree Removal/Relocation

The existing cedar tree located in the intersection's median will have to be removed for the proposed improvements. Staff is requesting direction in either removing the tree altogether or relocating the tree. If it is the Commission's direction that the tree shall be relocated, direction as to placement is also desired.

Commission Discussion and Next Steps

The main issues for the Commission's consideration are: the appropriateness of the landscaping plan, as proposed, in this heavily used area; the Street Tree placement; and the disposition of the existing cedar tree. The Commission's discussion and action will influence the next steps. If the Commission approves the proposed landscape plan, Staff will forward the project to ABR and City Council for further consideration.

ATTACHMENT: Landscape Plan

PREPARED BY: Amanda Flesse, Project Engineer

SUBMITTED BY: Dru van Hengel, Transportation Operations Supervisor

APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director