



City of Santa Barbara
Airport Department

Memorandum

DATE: December 17, 2014
TO: Airport Commission
FROM: Hazel Johns, Airport Director
SUBJECT: Drought Tolerant Landscape Project

RECOMMENDATION

That Airport Commission receive a presentation on the L3 Communication landscape project.

BACKGROUND

During the drought in the early 1990's, the City instituted a program encouraging Departments to implement water conservation measures, including the use of drought-tolerant landscaping, low-flow toilets, and automatically shut-off faucets. As part of this program, the Airport upgraded plumbing fixtures, replaced high water demanding turf with drought tolerant plants in existing landscaping, and required low water consuming plants in new landscape designs.

The Airport receives its water through a Joint Powers Overlap Agreement between the City and County of Santa Barbara, allowing the Airport to be served by the Goleta Water District. Water usage is sub-metered and billed monthly to individual tenants, based on the number of units used, and the size of the meter.

During recent lease renewal discussions, L-3 MariPro, Inc. requested that the high water demanding turf at two of their buildings be replaced by low water consuming landscape. MariPro is a long term tenant in good standing, who occupies three Airport buildings and a portion of a fourth. Since MariPro is a valued tenant and the request is consistent with the Airport's intention of replacing turf based landscaping, the Airport agreed to replace the existing landscaping with drought tolerant plants in two locations.

Installation of drought tolerant landscaping and drip irrigation will result in significant water savings and will reduce maintenance and water usage costs associated with turf for the tenant.

PROJECT

David R. Black and Associates was retained to design the landscape and provide support during development of bid documents and construction.

The landscape plan consists of:

- Removal of existing:
 - turf,
 - shrubbery,
 - select trees (Loquats, King Palm, California Pepper) and
 - overhead irrigation,
- Adding amends to the soil,
- Grading,
- Installing drip irrigation,
- Installing drought tolerant plants
- Installing mulch

Three firms responded to a request for bids for the project, and the contract was awarded to the low bidder, Paysage, Inc. in the amount of \$75,151.

To discourage turf grasses from reestablishing after completion of the project, the Airport received an exemption from the City's IPM advisory committee to apply herbicide (Roundup ProMax) to kill the turf. Roundup ProMax is not generally approved for application in this area, so an exemption was required. Airport staff applied herbicide three times using a grow/kill strategy to get maximum efficacy.

The project is currently under construction and should be completed by December 19, 2014, weather permitting. Following completion and acceptance of the project Paysage, Inc. will provide maintenance for 90 days to assure that the plant material becomes well established.