TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER
DATE: JULY 7, 2008
CMR: 305:08
SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL RELATED TO EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY WELL SITE DEVELOPMENT AT THE MAIN LIBRARY/COMMUNITY GARDEN

This is an informational report and no Council action is required.

BACKGROUND
On June 23, 2008, the Council approved an agreement with Siegfried Engineering, Inc. for pre-design and design-build procurement services for the Eleanor Pardee Park and the Main Library/Community Gardens Emergency Water Supply wells, as part of the Emergency Water Supply Project. At this meeting, Council included a condition that staff provide information related to the removal of trees located at the Main Library/Community Garden property. The specific tree issues Council requested staff input on were: the removal of two Italian Stone Pines near the Library and the removal of non-native tree species along the fence line between the Community Garden and the residences on Walnut Drive.

DISCUSSION
The Emergency Water Supply and Storage Environmental Impact Report (EIR) included a description of the proposed well site development at the Main Library/Community Gardens on Page 2-9 and Figure 2-3. The EIR anticipated that construction of the new well might require the removal of some of the garden plots. To compensate for the loss of these plots, and in order to create an area for replacement plots, the EIR evaluated removing the invasive non-native species along the fence line and the Stone Pines near the Library. The Stone Pines were considered for removal because the Planning Arborist identified that the two trees exhibit a potentially unsafe condition that will worsen with time, due in large part to a heavy uncorrectable lean and the advanced age of the trees. In the EIR, a small area near the fence was identified as a replacement plot, although the actual well design of the project may require additional tree removal to replace lost garden plots. The full extent of the tree removal cannot be determined until a portion of the design has been completed.

Tree removal will be limited to areas needed to replace lost garden plots due to the construction of the project. Tree removal at the Main Library/Community Gardens site will also be addressed
in the pre-engineering package developed by Siegfried Engineering that will be completed prior to the issuance of a design/build contract. This contract will be submitted to Council for approval in 2009.

**RESOURCE IMPACT**

None.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Council certified the Final EIR for the Emergency Water Supply and Storage Project on March 5, 2007. This informational report does not meet the California Environmental Quality Act’s definition of a project pursuant to Public Resources Code §21065, therefore no environmental review is of this report is required.

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