Title: Eleanor Pardee Park Tree Replacement Plan

Subject: Adoption Of A Budget Amendment Ordinance For the Fiscal Year 2011 In The Amount Of $57,761 To Allocate Funds To Capital Improvement Project PG-09002 For The Replanting Of Trees At Eleanor Pardee Park

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Community Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
On January 10, 2010, staff brought a recommendation before Council to approve a Budget Amendment Ordinance in the amount of $37,348 for the removal of tree stumps and four eucalyptus trees and for the replanting of replacement trees at Eleanor Pardee Park (CMR:112:11). After much consideration and input from the public, Council voted to direct staff to return with a revised site plan (Attachment B) from the landscape architect, timeline, and Budget Amendment Ordinance (Attachment A) to remove and replace all of remaining eucalyptus trees at the park rather than the phased approach originally recommended by staff.

The revised site plan, for which staff now seeks a budget amendment ordinance for project funding, calls for the removal and stump grinding of the ten remaining eucalyptus trees and the planting of sixteen new replacement trees along Center Drive and Channing Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that Council approve a Budget Amendment Ordinance in the amount of $57,761 to allocate funds from the Infrastructure Reserve to Capital Improvement Project PG-09002 (Open Space & Park Emergency Repairs) for the removal of tree stumps and ten eucalyptus trees, and for the replanting of replacement trees, and other park improvements.

BACKGROUND
In January 2010, shortly after a limb fell from a eucalyptus tree at Eleanor Pardee Park near a park visitor, staff began a series of public meetings to discuss the safety of the eucalyptus trees, findings from the City’s Managing Arborist and an independent arborist who evaluated the condition of the sixteen eucalyptus trees, and to review replanting plans.

It was determined that due to disease and the compromised structural integrity of the trees (caused by past tree pruning), that the trees could not be completely rehabilitated and that all of the trees should be removed either in phases or all at once.
DISCUSSION
Based on Council’s direction and Mr. Chau’s revised designs, staff from Public Works have developed the engineer’s cost estimates for the removal of the ten remaining trees, grinding of all sixteen stumps, installation of a new irrigation system to sustain the newly planted trees, pathways, fencing, and other necessary park amenities for the area. The costs for these improvements are estimated at $53,845. An additional $3,916 is requested for design services for the preparation of the final design and specifications.

TIMELINE
Once Council approves the recommended Budget Amendment Ordinance (Attachment A), staff will immediately proceed with the final design of the proposed improvements. While plans are being finalized, Public Works will contract the removal of the ten remaining trees and the grinding of the remaining tree stumps. Park staff will oversee the installation of a new irrigation system to support the new trees. Staff intends to manage all of the components of the replacement project so that the sixteen new trees could be planted by mid-March.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Timeline</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepare press release for imminent removal of ten eucalyptus trees</td>
<td>Jan. 18, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tag remaining trees for removal (14-day notice)</td>
<td>Jan. 18, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepare final designs and bid specifications for the project and seek qualified bids</td>
<td>By Feb. 1, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remove the remaining eucalyptus trees</td>
<td>By Feb. 18, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install irrigation system</td>
<td>By March 15, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant trees and install fixtures at the appropriate time of year, per specifications (while trees are still dormant)</td>
<td>By March 15, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiate the construction phase of the project (pathways, fences, signage)</td>
<td>By June 1, 2011</td>
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RESOURCE IMPACT
This proposed project for the planting of sixteen trees, the removal of ten eucalyptus trees, the stump grinding of sixteen stumps, the installation of new irrigation for the watering of the trees and the addition of new concrete and decomposed granite pathways and other related expenses are estimated to cost $57,761. The details of the expenses are shown on the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planting of sixteen trees, the removal of ten additional eucalyptus trees,</td>
<td>$48,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>the stump grinding of sixteen stumps, the installation of new irrigation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>for the watering of the trees, the addition of new concrete and decomposed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>granite pathways, and the addition of post and chain fencing along two</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>pathways</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Project sign (including graphic design and layout)</td>
<td>$850</td>
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<tr>
<td>10% contingency</td>
<td>$4,895</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final design services for the preparation of plan specifications, and project inspection</td>
<td>$3,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$57,761</td>
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The appropriation of CIP Project PG-09002 (Parks and Open Space Emergency Repairs) did not include the work describe in the table above. A budget amendment ordinance of $57,761 is being requested. There is sufficient balance in the General Fund Infrastructure Reserve to provide the necessary funds.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
Development of strategies to evaluate the care or replacement of trees at Eleanor Pardee Park is consistent with the Governance Section of the Comprehensive Plan, Program G-9: “Where feasible, assist residents with neighborhood improvement, beautification, and planting projects,” and with Natural Environment Section of the Comprehensive Plan, Program N-17: “Develop and implement a plan for maintenance, irrigation, and replacement of trees in parks, parking lots, and City rights-of-way.”

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
Based on the findings of the independent arborists report that the ten additional eucalyptus trees need to be removed because of disease and public safety, this project to remove trees has been determined to be statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15269 Emergency Projects in the CEQA Guidelines.

ATTACHMENTS:
• Attachment A - BAO-PG-09002 Trees for Eleanor Pardee Park-revised (DOC)
• Attachment B - Pardee_Final Plan (PDF)
Prepared By: Greg Betts, Director, Community Services
Department Head: Greg Betts, Director, Community Services
City Manager Approval: James Keene, City Manager
Attachment A

ORDINANCE NO.

ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALO ALTO
AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 TO PROVIDE AN
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF $57,761 TO CIP PROJECT PG-
09002, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE EMERGENCY REPAIRS FOR THE
REPLANTING OF TREES AT ELEANOR PARDEE PARK

The Council of the City of Palo Alto does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. The Council of the City of Palo Alto finds
and determines as follows:

A. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 12 of Article III of
the Charter of the City of Palo Alto, the Council on June 28, 2010
did adopt a budget for fiscal year 2011; and

B. During the year staff conducted seven meetings with
the community to discuss the safety of eucalyptus trees at
Eleanor Pardee Park along Channing Avenue and Center Drive
(Park), and more specifically the options for further removal
of the trees and alternatives for the replanting of trees in
the southwest corner of the Park; and

C. Staff considered the comments made by meeting
participants, recommendations from the City’s Managing
Arborist and independent consulting arborist; and have
concluded that the best strategy is to replant the trees in
at least two phases; and

D. The first phase, which is the subject of this budget
amendment ordinance, is for the removal of four eucalyptus trees
along Center Drive and the planting of twelve new replacement
trees along Center Drive and Channing Avenue; and

E. The adopted budget for fiscal year 2011 for CIP Project
PG-09002 (Parks and Open Space Emergency Repairs) did not
incorporate expenses related to actions mentioned in Section D of
this ordinance; and

F. City Council authorization is needed to amend the 2011
budget to make additional appropriations of $57,761 to PG-0002
(Parks and Open Space Emergency Repairs) for the removal and
replanting of trees at Eleanor Pardee Park along Center Drive and
Channing Avenue. The General Fund Infrastructure Reserve will provide the necessary funds.

SECTION 2. The sum of Fifty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty One Dollars ($57,761) is hereby appropriated to CIP Project PG-09002 (Parks and Open Space Emergency Repairs).

SECTION 3. The General Fund Infrastructure Reserve is hereby reduced by Fifty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty One Dollars ($57,761) to One Million Eight Hundred Forty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Nine Dollars ($1,845,909).

SECTION 4. As specified in Section 2.28.080(a) of the Palo Alto Municipal Code, a two-thirds vote of the City Council is required to adopt this ordinance.

SECTION 5. As provided in Section 2.04.330 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code, this ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

SECTION 6. The removal and replanting of trees at Eleanor Pardee Park along Center Drive and Channing Avenue do not meet the definition of a “project,” therefore no California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review is required at this time.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTENTIONS:
ABSENT:
ATTEST:

APPROVED:

City Clerk

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Manager

Senior Asst. City Attorney

Director of Community Services Department
Director of Administrative Services
ELEANOR PARDEE PARK LANDSCAPE PLAN

JAN 12, 2010

EXISTING EUCALPYTUS:
- Remove all Eucalyptus (#1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16)

NEW TREES AT CORNER:
- Large deciduous shade trees - Valley and Hungarian Oaks
- Fall color accent tree - Persian Ironwoods towards the front of oaks

NEW TREES ALONG CENTER DRIVE AND CHANNING AVE:
- Mostly Oaks with native evergreen Live Oaks to form a green structure along edge

NEW TREES AT PATHS TO PLAYGROUND:
- Smaller, colorful native accent trees to highlight entry - Arbutus Marinas and Buckeyes

NEW PATHS:
- Concrete paths to northwest entry of playground and Dance Circle
- Decomposed granite path connects and unifies park elements and creates an edge between lawn and oaks