

**Date: September 22, 2011**

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Barbara Stinchfield, Director of Community and Cultural Services  
Martin Pastucha, Director of Public Works

Subject: Update on Civic Center Park Site Preparation and Tree Relocation Work

## **Introduction**

This report provides a brief update of site preparation and tree relocation activity on the future Civic Center park sites and gives City Council members advance notice of the relocation of 17 *Washingtonia robusta* palm trees from the site to Woodlawn Cemetery.

## **Background**

On [June 14, 2011](#), the City Council authorized the City Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with American Landscape, Inc., for tree relocation, removal, and site demolition services. Site preparation work is necessary to ready the park site for the importation of soil from the Village Housing Development project.

## **Discussion**

Since American Landscape, Inc., began working on the future 6-acre park site in late July, much has been accomplished. Large trees, including the extremely large *Ficus rubiginosa* “Three Amigos” trees, have been pruned and boxed for relocation to the park site. Seven of the boxed trees were carefully transported across the street for planting on the sloped site adjacent to City Hall. Parking lot surface material has been scraped and piled and is being hauled off.



Overgrown ivy and debris on the sloped site between City Hall and the Interstate-10 Freeway have been cleared and a row of boxed trees placed at the top edge of the slope. Once the site was cleared, old stone wall terraces were revealed. A native meadow seed mix ground cover with slope stabilizer will be planted in this area.



The 17 non-native *Washingtonia robusta* palm trees currently located at the future park site will be relocated to City of Santa Monica Woodlawn Cemetery, Mortuary, and Mausoleum starting on Monday, September 26, 2011. Four to five palms will be planted per day until the work is complete. All other palm trees will remain on-site and will not be moved.

The future park is located within the Coastal Zone and is therefore subject to California Coastal Commission oversight. Park plans prepared by James Corner Field Operations were approved by the Coastal Commission at its meeting in July; however, the Commission specifically noted that non-native invasive palms at the site could not be relocated at the site or within the coastal zone. Woodlawn Cemetery is well outside of the coastal zone. The *Washingtonias* will be scattered at various locations inside the cemetery grounds including along Maple Avenue and 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

Construction progress updates can be found on the project web site at [www.smciviccenterparks.com](http://www.smciviccenterparks.com) (see Construction Updates).

**Prepared By:** Julie Silliman, Senior Administrative Analyst