



# Information Item

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**Date: June 17, 2014**

To: Mayor and City Council  
From: Martin Pastucha, Director of Public Works  
Subject: Tongva Park Observation Hill Sidewalk and Planter Repairs

## **Introduction**

This information item provides an update of repair activities completed in the Observation Hill area of Tongva Park. These actions were initiated at short notice due to a clogged drainage pipe.

## **Background**

Tongva Park was opened to the general public on September 10, 2013. As with any complex construction project, issues that arise are generally covered under the warranty period. Staff has worked closely with the design-build contractor, W.E.O'Neil (WEO) to monitor the park and ensure all features are operating properly.

## **Discussion**

On April 10, 2014, staff notified WEO that there appeared to be settlement of the Observation Hill planter retaining wall behind the Ocean Avenue Water Feature and requested further investigation. On April 22, 2014, WEO closed the area and removed several panels of sidewalk to determine the source of the settling. WEO conducted a number of tests to identify the cause. Additionally, staff contracted with a third party soils engineer to provide independent analysis.

Test results indicated the storm drain line was clogged just below the location that accepts subsurface (irrigation) waters. Water backed up in the storm drain line and saturated the soil, resulting in the differential settlement of the planter wall and sidewalk and separation of the sidewalk panels.

Project engineers from the design-build team submitted a report on site conditions along with recommendations for cost effective repairs to restore the area back to its original condition.

Repairs began on May 28th and were completed on June 13th. Repair work included: storm drain and catch basin scoping, jetting to clear debris, repair to the underground storm water system, wall repair and sidewalk replacement. An inspection well was installed to provide a way to monitor the storm water system in this critical area at the base of Observation Hill and prevent future clogs. Additionally the plants and irrigation in the affected area were removed and re-installed. A third party soils consultant monitored this work to ensure the sub soils were re-compacted to meet City standards.

Staff is working with WEO to review and video the other drain lines and area drains in Tongva Park and Ken Genser Square in order to reduce the likelihood of another clog forming.

### **Financial Impacts**

Because the project is still under warranty, financial impacts from this work are likely to be minimal and limited to the cost of the third party soils consultant of \$5,600. All repairs will be undertaken by WEO.

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