

Date: May 5, 2016

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Martin Pastucha, Director of Public Works  
Karen Ginsberg, Director of Community and Cultural Services

Subject: Palisades Park Landscape Project - Project Update

## Introduction

On September 14, 2015, the City entered into an agreement with SWA Group, Inc. to provide landscape design services for the Palisades Park Landscape Project. The Project would convert 6,600 square feet of grass area closest to the pier bridge to drought-tolerant landscape. SWA's design concept and landscape plan was presented to the Recreation and Parks and Landmarks Commissions, who supported and approved the Project, respectively. Staff executed a contract with Terra Form Inc. to provide landscape construction services. Full project completion is expected by July 1, 2016.



## **Background**

Palisades Park is a 26.4 acre park which runs parallel to Ocean Avenue and extends northwest from Colorado Avenue to Adelaide Drive. The park occupies a narrow strip of land which sits atop coastal sandstone bluffs. The southern end of the park, near the junction of Ocean Avenue and Colorado Avenue, is adjacent to the main point of access between Downtown Santa Monica and the Santa Monica Pier and is in close proximity to the iconic Santa Monica Pier sign. The area is heavily used by pedestrians, highly visible and often photographed. This section of the park is also directly adjacent to the City's Esplanade Project constructed along Colorado Avenue. The Esplanade will provide a pedestrian-focused connection from the EXPO light rail terminus at 4th Street to the Pier.

The heavy use of this popular entrance to Palisades Park has made it very difficult to adequately maintain the turf. The turf areas are continuously trampled by large crowds and pedestrian traffic causing the turf to turn to mud and dirt.

Considering the substantial use of this portion of the park, and anticipated increase in use with the opening of the EXPO light rail, a decision was made to convert the turf areas closest to Colorado Avenue into a drought-tolerant landscape that is protected from pedestrian overuse.

## **Discussion**

### Design Concept

On September 14, 2015, the City entered into an agreement with SWA Group, Inc. to provide landscape design services for the Palisades Park Landscape Project. The scope of work would convert three areas in Palisades Park from grass to drought-tolerant landscape. The plants selected by the landscape architect consist entirely of species which are, or are related to those, currently existing throughout the park. The project also includes a new drip irrigation system and a plant protection feature which is comprised of 24" high painted steel posts connected by a single ½" diameter stainless steel cable.

# Proposed Plant Protection Feature (reversible)



## Proposed Planting Materials

Type # 1



*Agave attenuata*

Type # 2



*Aloe maculata*

Type # 3



*Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'*

Type # 4



*Senecio mandraliscae*



*Dracaena draco*



*Agave parryi 'Truncata'*



*Arctostaphylos 'Pacific Mist'*



*Sedum spurium 'Coccineum'*



*Yucca rostrata*



*Aloe spinosissima*

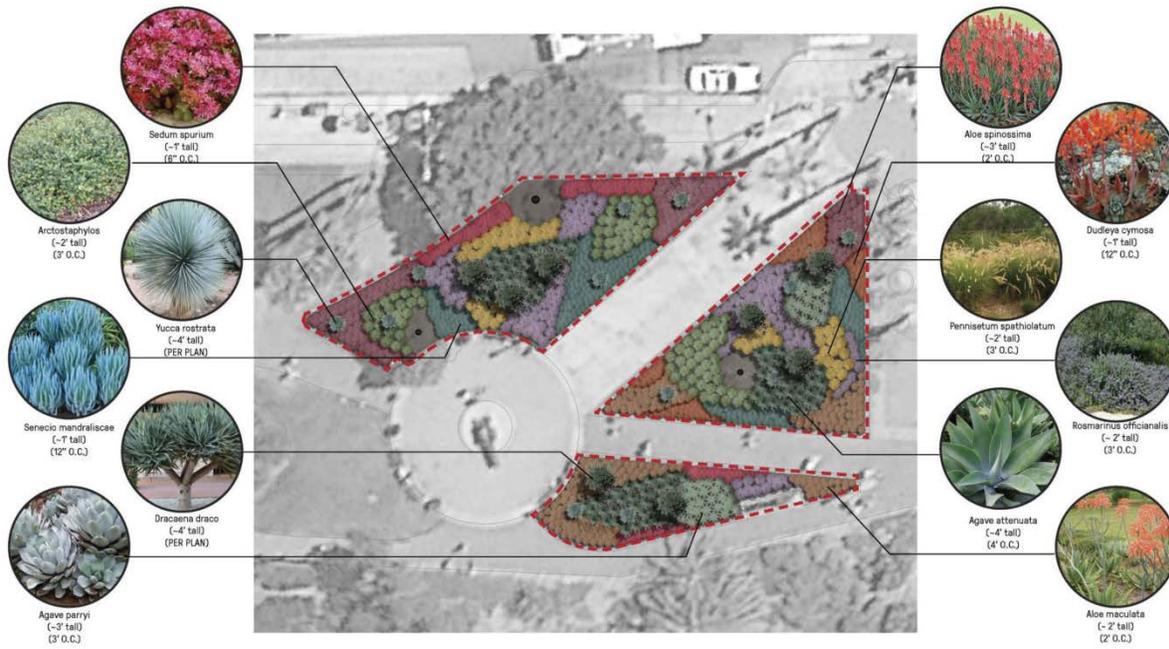


*Pennisetum spatholatum*



*Dudleya cymosa*

# Proposed Planting Plan



# Proposed Perspective



### Commission Action

On November 19, 2015, staff presented SWA's design concept to the Recreation and Parks Commission. The Commission expressed its support for the project and provided feedback on the proposed design. At the direction of staff, SWA addressed all comments put forward by the Recreation and Parks Commission.

On January 11, 2016, staff presented SWA's design concept to the Landmarks Commission. The project design proposed at this meeting incorporated the changes made in response to comments received from the Recreation and Parks Commission, and the design concept was approved by the Landmarks Commission without additional conditions.

### Construction

On March 3, 2016, staff issued a Request for Bids to convert approximately 6,600 square feet of grass area in Palisades Park to a new drought-tolerant landscape. Four bids were received and after careful review by the project committee Terra Form, Inc. was selected as the best and lowest bidder.

### Bid Results

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Terra Form, Inc.:                | \$169,450 |
| United Construction & Landscape: | \$180,000 |
| Valley Crest:                    | \$195,105 |
| KASA Construction:               | \$264,000 |

The City executed a contract with Terra Form, Inc. in an amount of \$169,450, below Council threshold, to provide landscape construction services. Construction is expected to begin on or around May 2, 2016 with anticipated completion by July 1, 2016.

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