



**CITY OF GLENDALE CALIFORNIA
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

August 21, 2007

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Request for Appropriation and Direction Pertaining to Tree Trimming and Removal, One-time and On-going Maintenance, Installation of a Temporary Recycled Watering System at the Grand View Cemetery.

- 1) Motion providing direction to staff.
- 2) Resolution of appropriation, for additional funds for tree trimming and removal and to fund a temporary above ground recycled watering system at the Grand View Cemetery.
- 3) Resolution of appropriation to fund one-time and on-going maintenance at the Grand View Cemetery.

COUNCIL ACTION

Public Hearing <input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Calendar <input type="checkbox"/>	Action Item <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Report Only <input type="checkbox"/>
Approved for August 21, 2007 calendar				

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Submitted

James E. Starbird, City Manager

[Signature]
Signature

Prepared

Zizette Ayad, Community Relations Coordinator

[Signature]

Approved

James E. Starbird, City Manager

Reviewed

Robert McFall, Assistant City Manager

Scott Howard, City Attorney

Ron Ahlers, Acting Finance Director

[Signature]
for City Manager

RECOMMENDATION

It is requested that the City Council provide direction regarding one-time and on-going maintenance and installing a temporary recycled watering system at the Grand View Cemetery. It is also requested that the City Council consider the appropriation of additional funds for tree trimming and removal at the Grand View Cemetery.

SUMMARY

On June 26, 2007, Council approved an appropriation of \$187,600, for various costs associated with opening the Grand View Cemetery, of which \$69,000 was for tree trimming and removal. Council also directed staff to obtain a second opinion regarding West Coast Arborist's recommendation of the number of trees that required immediate trimming and removal. Based on Council's direction, staff conducted a secondary assessment of the tree condition and on-going maintenance concerns, with recommendations as follow:

- Reduce the number of trees to be trimmed and removed from 356 to 224, at an approximate cost of \$154,500. This is approximately \$36,000 lower than the original cost estimate by West Coast Arborist.
- Install a temporary above ground recycled watering system, at an approximate cost of \$20,000, to address the declining condition of the trees. Without supplemental watering, the condition of the trees will continue to deteriorate and future trees will need to be removed. Using this system to water the trees will hopefully reduce further tree decline and stress.
- Conduct a one-time clean up of the entire park, at an approximate cost of \$7,500.
- After activation of the watering system, all of the trees must receive deep irrigation. The labor cost for this is estimated at \$38,000, to provide an initial 30 day deep watering program and periodic supplemental irrigation for one year. This estimate does not include the cost of water.
- As a result of watering the trees, periodic maintenance will be necessary to the turf and vegetation that will begin growing. This maintenance cost is estimated at \$17,000 annually.

Depending upon Council's approval of the recommended options, the fiscal impact will be up to \$184,800, including a 10% contingency. These funds are available from the General Fund, unappropriated fund balance.

BACKGROUND

On June 26, 2007, Council approved an appropriation of \$187,600 for various costs associated with opening the Grand View Cemetery, of which \$69,000 was for tree trimming and removal. Council also directed staff to obtain a second opinion regarding West Coast Arborist's recommendation of the number of trees that required immediate trimming and removal at the cemetery. Based on Council's direction, staff conducted a secondary assessment and the results were as follows:

West Coast Arborist initially recommended the trimming and removal of 356 trees at an estimated cost of \$192,185. However, based on Council's direction, staff conducted a secondary tree assessment that reduced the number of affected trees from 356 to 224, at a revised cost of approximately \$154,500 (Exhibit 1). This is approximately \$36,000 lower than originally estimated. As a result, staff is requesting an additional appropriation of \$85,500 in order to proceed with the current tree trimming and removal recommendations.

The staff assessment also indicated the need for one-time maintenance to clear the dry vegetation as well as a watering system to irrigate the remaining trees. According to the City's Urban Forester, irrigation of the trees is immediately necessary to reduce further tree decline and stress. However, even with the supplemental irrigation, it is possible that additional trees may need trimming or removal due to the severely deteriorated condition of the trees.

Staff evaluated several options to adequately irrigate the trees at minimal costs. Based on a number of factors, staff determined the most cost effective option is to install a temporary-above ground watering system utilizing recycled water. The system will essentially be a series of hose bibs connecting to hoses and large area sprinklers that will be manually placed around the facility. Recognizing the large amount of water needed to water the trees at the cemetery, this system will adequately irrigate the trees at the least expense to the city and use readily available reclaimed water in lieu of potable water. This system can be connected to an existing recycled water supply currently serving the cemetery. The estimated cost to install the above ground watering system, including labor, is approximately \$20,000.

At this time, staff is unable to determine the exact amount of water that will be used to adequately water the trees and therefore, a water cost cannot be determined at this time. Staff will monitor the cost of supplying recycled water and, if necessary, will return to Council with a request for appropriation. To address the one-time maintenance concerns, the Parks and Recreation staff has contacted the California Conservation Corp (CCC) to assist in cleaning and clearing the vegetation at the cemetery. The CCC will provide the City with 10 workers at no cost for one week. However, staff estimates that it will take the CCC workers two full weeks to complete the job given the fact that the cemetery's maintenance needs are so great. As such, the additional week will cost the City approximately \$7,500.

According to the City's Urban Forester and Parks Maintenance staff, all trees in the cemetery must receive deep irrigation everyday for the first thirty days. Staff will be able to reevaluate how many times the trees need to be watered after the initial 30 days of watering, depending on weather conditions. The estimated cost for labor to perform the watering is approximately \$38,000 for this next year, \$17,000 of which provides for the initial 30 days of intensive watering.

The side effect of watering the trees on a daily basis is the promotion of turf and vegetation growth, which will require some on-going maintenance in order to provide safe conditions for visitors. Staff will attempt to minimize overspray as much as possible to limit this undesired growth. In order to prevent over growth of vegetation and excessive maintenance costs, staff is recommending applying vegetation control materials, on a quarterly basis. The vegetation control materials will not cause permanent harm to the vegetation but will retard its growth. The cost for the vegetation control material, including labor, is approximately \$17,000 for the next year.

Staff will consistently monitor the labor and material needs necessary to perform only the most basic functions necessary to keep the facility in a safe condition for visitors. As has been our practice, all costs will be recorded for future reimbursement purposes. Additionally, staff will meet with the attorneys for the principal parties in the Grand View Cemetery lawsuits to take over the on-going maintenance functions. Concerning the status of the reimbursement by the plaintiffs' attorneys to the City for the cost of tree trimming and removal (\$154,500), the attorneys have not yet made an offer to the City. However, one of the plaintiffs' attorneys may appear at the Council meeting to discuss this matter.

FISCAL IMPACT

Depending upon Council's approval of the recommended options, the fiscal impact will be up to \$184,800, including a 10% contingency. These funds are available from the General Fund, unappropriated fund balance.

EXHIBITS

1. Public Works Memo
2. Parks and Recreation Irrigation and Labor Cost
3. Total Cost Sheet

MOTION

Moved by Council Member _____, seconded by
Council Member _____, that the Council hereby directs staff
regarding the watering and subsequent maintenance of Grand View Cemetery, as follows:

_____ , and

subject to continuing approval of the Cemetery's owners and operators, and in compliance with any
orders of a court of competent jurisdiction or state agency having jurisdiction.

Vote as follows:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

APPROVED AS TO FORM



Senior Assistant City Attorney

Date: 8-16-07

Grandview Memorial Park
 Estimated Cost For First Year Removals and Pruning

	Price	Amount	Total
Palm Cleaning			
	100	19	1900
	250	10	2500
	500	2	1000
	750	11	8250
	1500	28	42000
Crown Reduction			
	100	1	100
	250	80	20000
	500	21	10500
	750	13	9750
Removal			
	250	4	1000
	500	5	2500
	1000	8	8000
	1500	7	10500
	2000	8	16000
	2500	1	2500
	3000	6	18000
Grand Totals		224	154500

**CITY OF GLENDALE
INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION**

DATE: July 5, 2007

TO: Stephen M. Zurn, Director
Albert Lee, Maintenance Services Administrator

FROM: Teresa Prosciewicz, Urban Forester

SUBJECT: Grandview Trees Report

Inspection of the Grandview Cemetery trees was completed and the May 2007 "Tree Evaluation" file submitted by Tony Uno, Consulting Arborist of West Coast Arborists was reviewed.

The purpose of the subsequent assessment was to provide a secondary opinion regarding the urgency of specific tree services, as well as explore other possibilities to improve maintenance of the existing trees.

My findings concur with the general recommendation of the report, which addressed the need for periodical but consistent maintenance of the cemetery trees that include watering as well as pruning. I also concluded there are some individual trees that may not need to be immediately removed, though they are in advance declination, selective pruning would suffice in reducing any existing hazards. However, all trees are in need and must receive irrigation and be placed on a monitoring schedule. Any removals should be at the discretion /determination of an arborist.

I am also recommending that all pruning specified in West Coast Arborist's recommendations be "Crown Restoration" and not "Full Pruning" due to the fact that all trees under stress will react to any pruning as additional wounding, and numerous full pruning cuts may put further stress on these trees and advance their declination much more rapid than would their normal course. It is important to note that this pruning method will require a commitment to restorative pruning on an annual basis for at least the next three years. Supplemental watering should commence as soon as possible, especially since this past year brought very little rain and the cemetery's irrigation lines have been turned off for many months.

The 355 tree spreadsheet provided by West Coast Arborists was used for my reflected adjustments below:

Crown Restoration pruning – 190 trees
Removal – 36 trees

Although this additional tree evaluation is in attempt to identify and mitigate any Grandview Cemetery tree hazards, the recommendations do not guarantee that treatments will make any trees healthy or safe under all circumstances. As the subject trees are becoming a concern, this evaluation is a second opinion based on a limited knowledge of tree history, unknown subsurface condition and no aerial investigation.

cc.: Daniel Hardgrove, Assistant Maintenance Services Administrator

**GRAND VIEW CEMETERY
ABOVE GROUND IRRIGATION INSTALLATION COSTS**

IRRIGATION INSTALLATION COSTS	
Parts For Installation	\$13,347.00
Labor For Installation	\$6,400.00
TOTAL IRRIGATION COSTS	\$19,747.00

PARTS FOR INSTALLATION			
Pipes			\$3,950.00
Special Fittings			\$566.00
Accessories			\$2,711.00
Hose Bibs			\$1,785.00
Equipment/Supplies For Daily Use			\$4,335.00
Total Parts			\$13,347.00

Pipes			
Linear Feet	Pipe Size (In.)	Cost/Unit	Total
1250	3	\$1.50	\$1,875.00
1250	2	\$1.00	\$1,250.00
1100	1	\$0.75	\$825.00
Total Pipes			\$3,950.00

Special Fittings			
Quantity	Specific Fittings	Cost/Unit	Total
41	3**3**1" Tee (SST)	\$7.00	\$287.00
41	2**2**1" Tee (SST)	\$5.00	\$205.00
37	1**1**1" Tee (SST)	\$2.00	\$74.00
Total Special Fittings			\$566.00

Assorted Fittings and Accessories			
Glue, Fittings, Couplings			\$2,711.00
Total Accessories			\$2,711.00

Hose Bibs			
Quantity	Size (In.)	Cost/Unit	Total
53	1"	\$15.00	\$1,785.00
Total Hose Bibs			\$1,785.00

Equipment/Supplies for Daily Use				
Needed	Quantity	Unit	Cost/Unit	Total Cost
4200' Hoses	84	50' length	\$40.00	\$3,360.00
Sprinklers	8	Falcon 640	\$40.00	\$320.00
Base Assembly	8		\$15.00	\$120.00
Assembly Labor	5	Hours	\$32.00	\$160.00
Deep Watering	5	Per	\$75.00	\$375.00
Total Equipment/Supplies for Daily Use				\$4,335.00

LABOR					
Staff	# of staff	# of Hours	Total Hrs	Hrly Rate	Total
Building Repairer	5	40	200	\$32.00	\$6,400.00
Total Labor					\$6,400.00

DAILY COST OF WATERING THE TREES

WATERING TREES			
Daily Labor Costs			\$576.00
DAILY LABOR COSTS			
# of Staff	# of Hours	Hourly Rate	Total
4	8	\$18.00	\$576.00
Total Daily Labor Costs			\$576.00

Grand View Cost Sheet

• Tree Trimming and Removal	\$85,500
• Installing a Temp. Watering System	\$20,000
• One-time maintenance	\$ 7,500
• Vegetation Control Material and Labor	\$17,000
• Annual Labor Cost for Irrigation	\$38,000

Total	\$168,000
10% Contingency	\$ 16,800
Total	\$184,800