



EL CAMINO REAL (ECR) TASK FORCE

Community Group Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2017

MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting began with the Task Force objectives which is to retain the character and health of the trees along El Camino Real and improve the safety of the roadway and sidewalks. It is both/and, not either/or. The purpose of this meeting was to identify concerns, discuss the work plan for retaining the character of the grove and historical considerations, and receive presentations regarding tree species and tree inventory.

Retaining the Character of the Grove

There were major six steps identified specifically related to the trees:

- Inventory of trees;
- Third party assessment of the health of the trees (healthy trees need a maintenance plan);
- Replacement species;
- Spacing requirements; and
- Recommendation protocol for assessment, removal, etc.

Tree Inventory and Assessment

- Inventory of historical and non-historical trees.
- First estimate \$1,500 - \$2,500 per tree assessment.
- Third party arborist will review the assessment report from Caltrans.
- Bob Disco, City Arborist handed out a glossary of terms for trees.
- Standard for assessing the health of the trees (rated 1-4):
 - Size;
 - Chance of falling; and
 - Target (what will the tree hit).
- Target will always be rated higher when they are over roads and people.
- Trees are given a hazardous rating from 1 – 12; 12 being the most hazardous.
- Larger trees will have a higher hazard rating but that doesn't mean they should be automatically removed.

Historical Considerations & Tree Species

City Arborist Bob Disco gave a presentation on the history of the Ralston-Howard Grove, including current and potential replacement tree species. A copy of the presentation can be found on the ECR Task Force web page.