



EL CAMINO REAL (ECR) TASK FORCE

Thursday, September 21, 2017

MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting began with a reminder to community members of the ECR Task Force of the two objectives of the project:

- Retain the character and health of trees along El Camino Real, and
- Improve the safety and roadway infrastructure and sidewalks.

The Technical Group provided the following updates to the Task Force:

- Caltrans held an internal meeting with District 4 headquarter executives on August 10, 2017. The following was discussed:
 - The meeting was a briefing to executive members of Caltrans on the Task Force's objectives and purpose; the history of the eucalyptus grove; and project process and schedule of the project.
 - The 25-foot tree spacing and 25-foot from corners scheme, developed by the Task Force, was received positively by Caltrans executives.
 - Caltrans agrees with the need for improvements. The first step in developing a tree replacement plan between the City and Caltrans it to perform a tree assessment for the pilot area.
- Burlingame Parks Department tested the use of root imaging with the use of ground penetrating radar technology to assess the health of subsurface section of the tree. The City Arborist presented the following conclusion:
 - Root imaging is unable to provide helpful distinction between roots and non-roots beneath the tree.
 - It cannot distinguish between roots of trees within close proximity to each other, such as a grove.
 - It is unable to provide data on the health of the roots.
 - The better method for assessing the health of trees is through visual and excavation.
- Public Works Director and Assistant Director met with PG&E to discuss utility

undergrounding. PG&E will prepare cost estimate for undergrounding PG&E utility along El Camino Real corridor. Preliminary assessment is that the cost will be significantly higher than average due site conditions and traffic along the corridor.

Key Comments and Concerns

- Tree spacing policy and recommendations resulting from this project should be considered when updating the City's General Plan.
- Consider the species of trees when determining spacing.

The second part of the meeting was on the Decision Process. An overview of the Decision Process was presented, which includes the following:

Trees

- Understanding tree health and stability requires an arborist's health assessment.

Sidewalk

- Designing an ADA-compliant sidewalk requires decisions about tree placement.

Roadway

- Resurfacing the roadway and improving crosswalks requires upgrading sidewalks to ADA requirements.

Drainage

- Resolving flooding requires first improving the roadway.

Trees

Criteria:

- Continuous canopy of "Howard- Ralston Eucalyptus Tree Rows"
 - 2012 Historic Register baseline: 557 trees, 356 historic trees (70% eucalyptus, 30% elms) and 201 non-historic trees
- Preserve and maintain healthy trees
- Phase replanting over time
- 25-foot spacing where possible
- Include a mix of species on each block

Constraints:

- Visibility at intersections and driveways; utility lines above ground and overhead; potential encroachment onto private property for meander of sidewalks.

Consideration:

- Health and stability of the existing trees.

Recommendations:

- Meander sidewalk where feasible by the City negotiating with individual private property owners.
- Provide owners of property that has a potential for a meander with a clear process, detailed glossary of terms, and FAQ.
- Request that the City continue to discuss potential undergrounding with PG&E.

The next Task Force Community Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2017. The Task Force will continue the discussion on the Decision Process for sidewalk and roadway.