



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
OPEN SPACE DIVISION  
TIERRASANTA MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT  
OCTOBER 1, 2014  
STAFF REPORT**

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## **Ornamental Landscape Projects**

### **Proposed Projects-**

- Pocket park on Viacha (Bandjo Park) - Propose to reduce areas of turf to create planting beds. Upgrade irrigation. Add new drought tolerant plant material to existing and new planter areas. A significant amount of turf would remain in the area for the local residents to still have a place to walk their animals, etc.

### **Ongoing Projects-**

- Smart controller upgrades. **UPDATE-** I've contacted the local distributor for ET Water Web based Smart Controllers. The idea is to have an on-site meeting to view proposed locations for new controllers; ensuring sites chosen will best utilize features of the smart controllers. The rebate program for smart controller upgrades in municipal applications has been upped to \$55 per station and in some cases you receive the money upfront.
- Turf Reduction Project- **UPDATE-** *This project has been started on lower Tierrasanta Blvd. We have sprayed the turf areas that are being removed and are now removing said sprayed areas. Treebeard will begin irrigation upgrades starting this week.*
- Nothing new to report- The application for this was submitted and we are awaiting any information regarding approval or denial.  
There is a program called the WaterSmart Landscape Efficiency Program that provides money for materials and labor in upgrading the irrigation systems on large, commercial and municipal landscapes. I have sent in applications for system upgrades for Villa Norte Park and for the right of way on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. No guarantees they accept these areas, but I will keep everyone updated as information comes my way. I've attached a flier that explains the program.
- **UPDATE-** *This project has been started and I'm hoping completion by the end of this week.* Landscape enhancement at the south end of La Cuenta with some more California friendly plant material.
- **UPDATE-** *This project will possibly begin this week and I'm hoping completion within a week or so.* Small planting project at Roadrunner Park, around the new sign.

## Parks

- Nothing new to report.

## Joint Use Fields

- The soccer associations have been emailing me regarding turf height at our joint use fields. The emails are requesting a lower cut and different mow days as well as additional mowing. I have explained that Treebeard mows the turf at an appropriate height, and that we are limited during the weekdays on when we can access the fields for maintenance. We are doing what we can to work these groups.

## Open Space

- **Grant Proposal- UPDATE-** I don't have all the specifics, but it sounds like the city attorney's office has put the brakes on approving the new ROE for Canyonlands. They are requiring some additional information from Canyonlands. Canyonlands has found new funding to allow the expansion of the restoration areas in Shepherd Canyon. We are currently working with Eric Bowlby on a new Right of Entry permit that will include all phases, current and new. San Diego Canyonlands has applied for a grant that would allow for expansion (phases 4-7) of restoration work in Shepherd Canyon. Eric Bowlby and I have discussed additional MAD funds that would go towards some tree removals as well as planting and watering of native plants throughout these areas, provided the grant is awarded.
- **Vector Control Projects Grant-** Nothing new to report- I met with staff from Westin Solutions and we identified two new possible vector control sites for the county's remediation program. Westin Solutions has begun moving forward with obtaining the necessary permits to start construction on a few projects in Tierrasanta. The County Vector Control has approved three sites for their remediation program. There are two sites in the open space west of Santo Rd. and the other site is located in the open space just off Calle De Vida, North Rueda Canyon. We are likely still a year or so out before any construction is started.
- **Dishwasher Pond & East Shepherd Canyon trail maintenance-** Nothing new to report- A community member has raised some concerns with the condition of the trail in east shepherd canyon. I have looked into the possibility of doing any maintenance to the utility road/trail in east shepherd canyon with open space staff and we are limited. We can do some repairs to areas along the trail that will have no environmental impact, but other areas near the stream crossings would require extensive environmental research and study.

This is the similar situation with the reeds in dishwasher pond. I'm working with our biologist with the open space division on possible action plans to spray and cut the reeds back. The reeds are a native plant and therefore we are limited to a small amount of square footage for removal on an annual basis. A larger more extensive project to remove a large section of the reeds may require environmental study and possible mitigation.

- **East Shepherd Canyon Water Main Break-** As you may or may not know, there was a water main break in shepherd canyon. I've included text from the environmental planner for PUD explaining the situation and subsequent environmental factors:

Hello, here is an update on the break that occurred yesterday morning that I notified both of you about yesterday. The USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW have all been notified by telephone of this emergency because it may be in their jurisdiction. A biologist from Helix Env. Planning will make the jurisdictional determination this afternoon. If in their jurisdiction we will provide the appropriate reporting to them per their emergency regs.

The break was to a 16" main in East Sheperd Canyon just south of Antigua Blvd and about 100 yards from its intersection with Santo Rd in the community of Tierrasanta. Yesterday the crews shut down the water to the main and excavated the soil to perform the repair. No work is scheduled for today. The crews will finish the work on Monday by finishing the backfilling of the excavation pit and cleaning up the area. They left a soil pile next to the excavation area, but we did not feel BMP protection was necessary as no rain is forecast over the weekend.

Helix will finish quantifying any impacts to native habitat on Monday and this information will be incorporated into a draft CEQA exemption for reporting purposes. Helix will prepare a post impact report that will also include any restoration recommendations if necessary.

- **Brush Management-** Nothing new to report- City brush management staff is putting plans together to come back into Tierrasanta for brush management. It looks like this will be happening sometime early next year.
- **Tierrasanta Trails Project-** Nothing new to report- Helix has started working on the realignment of the Tierrasanta Trails. The last update from Helix stated that they were about to perform the records research and also get started on some biology fieldwork.

## **Tree Trimming**

- Using our new online inventory of Tierrasanta MAD trees, I've scheduled tree trimming to begin in the next couple of weeks. I've identified high priority areas and have requested that those be completed first. I am meeting with WCA to inspect and schedule trimming for open space trees that are encroaching onto private property and that may be a liability to the MAD.

## **Neighborhood Code Compliance Issues**

- Nothing new to report.

## **Landscape Contract**

- Treebeard continues to provide services within budget.

**Budget**

- We are now working within our FY15 budget, with no issues to date.

**Miscellaneous**

After 5 years with the City of San Diego I will be leaving the City and the Open Space department. I have taken a new position with the City of Encinitas starting October 13, 2014. I would just like to say thank you to the Open Space committee for all your support over this last year. It has been an honor to work for the residents of Tierrasanta.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Foley  
Grounds Maintenance Manager  
(619) 685-1354  
[dfoley@sandiego.gov](mailto:dfoley@sandiego.gov)