



**Date:** February 17, 2017  
**To:** Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.M.L.*  
**From:** *C.A.B.* Craig A. Beck, Director of Public Works  
**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**Subject:** **Street Tree Canopy Assessment**

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The City Council requested that staff conduct a street tree canopy assessment, prioritization, and financing study to inform the development of a street tree lifecycle management plan. This memorandum provides an update on this request.

### **Background**

The City manages a street tree population of approximately 93,921 trees. These trees are located in parkways, medians, and other right-of-ways. The last citywide street tree inventory was conducted in 2010. The results of this inventory are listed below:

- 126,144 suitable tree sites were identified
- \$369,189,890 valuation of the street tree population
- 93 percent of City trees are in good to fair condition
- 7 percent of City trees are in poor to failing condition

The tree inventory is integral to understanding the condition and needs of the existing Urban Forest and projecting future tree care management. The Public Works Department (PW) uses this information to prioritize tree care services for the City's tree population.

As work happens across the City, efforts are made to continuously update data provided in the 2010 street tree inventory. However, it is not comprehensive. An updated inventory will allow City staff to understand the street tree population and determine appropriate prioritization of work, life cycles, and funding needed to enhance the appearance and health of the City's Urban Forest. This information will also help the City understand how the recent drought has affected the street tree population and what potential action is necessary.

Staff has initiated an update to the tree inventory through the PW's tree care contractor, West Coast Arborist. The inventory will contain identifying features, such as: tree location, species name, size, condition, and recommended maintenance, and will take approximately six to nine months to complete. Staff continues to pursue funding opportunities to maintain and enhance the City's urban forest.

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call the Art Cox, Public Service Bureau Manager, at (562) 570-2780.

PW: ATC;TR  
PS ADMIN/MEMO/Street Tree Canopy Assessment

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY  
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CITY CLERK (REF. ITEM # 16-0625)