

**TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

Your

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

reports as follows:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT relative to allowable parkway landscaping on City streets.

Recommendation for Council action:

NOTE and File the January 29, 2009 Joint Bureau of Street Services (BOSS)/Bureau of Engineering (BOE) report in response to Motion (Rosendahl - Garcetti) relative to the utilization of drought-resistant landscapes for parkway landscaping.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer or the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement Submitted: No

SUMMARY

On February 4, 2009, the Public Works Committee considered a Motion (Rosendahl - Garcetti) and January 29, 2009 Joint BOSS/BOE report in response to Motion relative to allowable parkway landscaping on City streets. According to the BOSS/BOE, there are no restrictions on the types of plant materials that can be installed within parkway areas as long as the abutting property owner has obtained a valid permit from the BOE. Parkway areas are typically defined as the space between the back of curb and the property line that is not covered by paving or a sidewalk.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) policies, adopted in the late 1960's and early 1970's, provide guidelines encouraging the use of turf as the "most acceptable parkway groundcover." Plants with thorns and noxious, invasive, poisonous or other dangerous plants were strongly opposed. Other types of ground covers and shrubs or bushes were either discouraged or not permitted because they obstruct free pedestrian passage between the street and sidewalk. The same policies did recognize the need for other types of ground covers to be consistent with existing plants in a particular neighborhood as long as it was kept in a neat and trimmed manner to avoid overgrowth onto the sidewalk or gutter. Lastly, department policies stipulate that permits are required for all parkway installations (including grass parkways).

The BOSS/BOE then stated that these guidelines are still generally followed and that over the years, grass within parkway areas has come to be accepted as a de facto "standard" by City staff and the City has not required property owners to obtain permits for grass installed in parkways. In recent years, Department of Public Works landscape architectural staff imposed additional safety considerations such as, clear line-of-sight for pedestrians and motorists, disabled access and cyclists. Finally, after consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to continue this matter.

Subsequently, on December 2, 2009 the Committee further considered this matter. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to note and file the January 29, 2009 Joint BOSS/BOE report.

This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
HUIZAR:	YES
ALARCÓN:	YES
SMITH:	YES

ARL
12/4/09
#083127

- Not Official Until Council Acts -