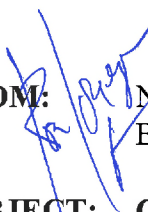


**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

**DATE:** April 5, 2017

**TO:** Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee  
Budget and Finance Committee

Attention: Office of the City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 395

**FROM:**  Nazario Saucedo, Director  
Bureau of Street Services

**SUBJECT:** **CF 14-0163-S3 – CITY COUNCIL INSTRUCTION FOR BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES TO REPORT RELATIVE TO AMENDED RECOMMENDATION #3 OF THE CITYWIDE SIDEWALK REPAIR INCENTIVE AND COST-SHARING REBATE PROGRAM (CF 14-0163-S3)**

**SUMMARY**

This report is responsive to the Public Works and Gang Committee (PWGC) and Budget and Finance Committee (BFC), CF 14-0163-S3, regarding the proposed Citywide Sidewalk Repair Program (CSRP) and Cost-Sharing Rebate Program (Rebate Program). Item #3 was amended by Council Motion requesting the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) report with an accounting of the number of trees that may be impacted by the Rebate Program to determine the amount of off-site tree plantings that may be required due to street tree removals and a funding estimate as to the cost of such tree plantings.

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Los Angeles (City) embarked upon the CSRP and Rebate Program at the beginning of the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Creating the Rebate Program process took several months and the actual program implementation and acceptance of program applications began in December 2016. As of the date of this report, the City has received approximately 800 Rebate Program requests.

Significant portions of sidewalk defect locations are found to be caused by street tree roots. The City makes every effort to retain street trees whenever possible but sidewalk repair often requires street tree removal. As of the end of March 2017, the Rebate Program has approved, or is in the process of approving, approximately 35 street trees. The City street tree removal policy requires the two replacement trees be planted for every one tree removal. Therefore, the current replacement total is approximately 70 street trees.

The Rebate Program applicant is the party that receiving the street tree removal permit and is therefore responsible to fulfill the 2:1 tree replacement. However, the City has agreed to accept the responsibility to plant the second tree while requiring the applicant to plant one tree onsite at their cost.

As there is no existing budget funding for the planting of one tree by the City to fulfill the 2:1 tree replacement, City Council requests the BSS provide an expected cost for performing this requirement.

## **RECITAL**

As indicated, the Rebate Program to this date has impacted approximately 35 street trees to such a degree that requires removal. Therefore, currently the applicant is responsible for planting of 35 trees and the City 35 trees. Assuming the Rebate Program continues to receive requests for inclusion at a rate of approximately 800 applicants every four months, at this rate approximately 2400 applications may be received by fiscal year end. If the relationship between applications and street trees continues at its present rate, it can reasonably be assumed that approximately 140 street trees will require removal with a commensurate need to plant 280 street trees, half of which, 140 trees, will be required to be planted by the City.

City policy requires street tree removal tree replacements to be twenty-four inch box size tree stock and be watered once weekly for a minimum three-year period. City planting can be performed by the BSS Urban Forestry Division or by City Plants non-profit partners. Regardless of which agency plants, the approximate cost of tree planting and maintenance is as follows:

- Acquiring 24" box size tree stock, installing, and necessary ancillary supplies - ~\$750.00
- Once weekly watering for a three year period - ~\$550.00
- Total for tree stock, installation, supplies, and watering for three years - ~\$2,400.00

Therefore, if street tree impacts remain at the current level, the annual cost of installing and maintaining 140 street trees annually could be expected to be ~\$336,000.00. The cost is variable in the first through third year but could be expected to remain consistently at the preceding level after three years and the same rate of tree planting and watering.

The Board of Public Works is currently investigating the appropriateness of a tree replacement planting fee study to more precisely assess costs.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The fiscal impact is undetermined at this time.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Approximately \$336,000.00 be allocated annually for the City's portion of the Rebate Program's street tree replacement requirement throughout the 30-year Willits lawsuit settlement term.