

CITY OF DANA POINT
AGENDA REPORT

Reviewed By:	
DH	X
CM	X
CA	

DATE: OCTOBER 2, 2007

TO: CITY MANAGER/CITY COUNCIL

FROM KEVIN EVANS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS
BRIAN E. MCCLURE, PARKS MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE TRANSFER OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM RESERVE FUNDS FOR GOLDEN LANTERN MEDIAN
LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the City Council approve the transfer of \$200,000 from the Capital Improvement Program Reserve funds into the General Funds account 55-245 to enhance the Golden Lantern medians.

ISSUES:

The medians on Golden Lantern were installed in the early 1990's. The original groundcover for the medians was crabapple. Since that time, the groundcover has struggled to survive in this climate and staff has been fighting in ongoing battle to maintain the medians at a level representative of the high standards of Dana Point. Staff has developed a plan to improve the groundcover landscaping in the medians by replacing the crabapple with a drought tolerant fescue grass similar to the one that was installed on Golden Lantern south of Del Prado. Staff recommends that Council approve the transfer of funds from the City's reserve to complete the project.

BACKGROUND:

Last year, City staff began receiving a number of complaints regarding the overall condition and appearance of the Golden Lantern medians. Residents were upset that one of the major thoroughfares into the City looked barren and incomplete. In response, staff removed most of the dying crabapple and replaced it with bark mulch to give the medians a maintained look while staff investigated alternative solutions to the groundcover problem.

This past June, staff removed the bark mulch from the Golden Lantern median adjacent to Jeremiah and replaced it with drought tolerant fescue. Almost immediately the calls

came in from the residents thanking us for the improvements and wondering when the rest of the medians would be enhanced.

DISCUSSION:

Staff is suggesting removing all of the crabtree groundcover and replacing it with the drought tolerant fescue grass. The drought tolerant grass has proven to be very successful in this environment by absorbing the moisture from the coastal fog and heavy morning dew. Additionally, staff intends to finish the installation of a CalSense water management system. This system uses computer software in conjunction with other water saving accessories to monitor the real time environmental conditions of the medians. For example, there would be sensors located throughout the medians that would indicate whether the landscaping needed to be watered or not. If there was a heavy fog or early morning drizzle, the sensors would shut down the irrigation system, thus conserving water and preventing any unnecessary usage. The CalSense system has proven to dramatically reduce water usage in other municipalities.

Last year, staff added two extra irrigation technicians to the landscape maintenance contract to ensure that our irrigation system was tested weekly and repaired as needed to minimize the impacts of urban runoff.

The project would be completed in two phases. The first phase would consist of the northern section of Golden Lantern from Stonehill to Camino Del Avion. The second phase would involve the southern section of Golden Lantern from Del Prado to Stonehill.

NOTIFICATION/FOLLOW-UP:

None.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

In compliance with the Strategic Plan Initiative to maintain, modernize and beautify the City's infrastructure and neighborhoods, this project implements the tactical element of improving two medians on Golden Lantern.

FISCAL IMPACT:

In order to complete the project, Council would need to transfer \$200,000 from the Capital Improvement Program Reserve funds into the General Funds account #55-245.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS:

1. Do not approve the expenditure and provide direction to staff.

ACTION DOCUMENTS:

PAGE

None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

A.	Current condition of medians on Golden Lantern	4
B.	Improved median at Golden Lantern and Jeremiah	5

Supporting Document A



Supporting Document B

