



OPEN MEETING

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, August 14, 2019 - 1:30 p.m.
Laguna Woods Village Community Board Room
24351 El Toro Road**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Acknowledgment of Media
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Report for May 15, 2019
5. Chair's Remarks
6. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)
7. Response to Member Comments
8. Department Head Update

Consent:

None

Reports:

9. Discuss and Review the Survey of Aliso Creek
10. Discuss and Review a Request to Donate a Bench

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

11. Update on the Creek

Items for Future Agendas:

- Landscaping of Renovated Gates

Concluding Business:

12. Committee Member Comments
13. Date of Next Meeting – November 13, 2019
14. Adjournment

Bert Moldow, Chair
Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer
Eve Morton, Landscape Operations Coordinator, 949.268.2565



OPEN MEETING

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION
LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019 – 1:30 p.m.
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room
24351 El Toro Road**

REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair - Bert Moldow, Dick Palmer in for Jim Matson, Lynn Jarrett, Manuel Armendariz, Judith Troutman, Maggie Blackwell, Reza Karimi

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Matson

OTHERS PRESENT: Anthony Liberatore, Juanita Skillman, Elsie Addington, John Frankel, Annette Saboul Soule, Joan Milliman

ADVISORS PRESENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton

1. Call to Order

Chair Moldow called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Media

No press was present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Director Jarrett made a motion to approve the agenda. Director Troutman seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

4. Approval of Meeting Report of September 19, 2018

Director Troutman made a motion to approve the Meeting Report. Director Jarrett seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

5. Committee Chair Remarks

None.

6. Member Comments - (Items Not on the Agenda)

Levingston (3131-D) She stated that the Gate 8 landscaping is really shabby. Only dirt by the Gate Ambassador building there. As you turn into Santa Maria, the original wall there needs landscaping.

Morris (581-O) She asked for a current list of the agencies involved with the Creek.

Sania (866-Q) She asked to plant two Japanese pistachio two years ago. They are still waiting for a bench there. Location is at Aliso Creek, close to the 400 year old tree. Also, those Pistachios are not doing well.

Berk (933-B) Too much is being left to residents to take care of. Landscape Staff should be reported what has died or is dying to get it fixed. Also, our equipment is not in the best shape. Hedgecutters used for bushes burn right across and shouldn't be doing that (she has photos). Staff should have blowers. Years of dirt is on top of those rocks at Creek. Tree trimming crews took 14 years to cut her tree tops. They hang over and break off.

Herd (579-B) There is a lot of debris, branches, and sand deposits from the rains by the Creek. Now they have to be careful walking in grass next to the Creek because of this. It turns into mud and pickup trucks track it everywhere. The Paseo de Valencia end of creek with bridge needs water to be directed under the bridge, not around it. It deposits a lot of sand.

7. Response to Member Comments

Director Jarrett thanked everyone for attending this meeting. She stated that the use of blowers should be put in as a request to Resident Services.

Director Blackwell said the bench requested would be a green standard bench. There is a policy regarding benches. Mr. Wiemann stated he will look into it and will get back to the resident.

Chair Moldow said all are responsible for reporting problems in Village to Staff and should call Resident Services.

Mr. Wiemann stated he is aware of landscaping issues with Gate 8 and will be working on it within the next month or so.

Mr. Wiemann agreed that the culture within Landscaping must be changed. In the past, getting the work done was the main goal and now we are taking a more holistic approach.

Mr. Wiemann stated that a new landscaping crew, who will only be dedicated to landscaping tickets, are just waiting for trucks. You will see landscaping improvements over the next few months .

Mr. Wiemann is meeting with a biologist next week to look at the Creek and get some Creek work approved.

8. Department Head Update

None.

Consent:

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by the Committee by one motion. In the event that an item is removed from the Consent Calendar by members of the Committee, such item(s) shall be the subject of further discussion and action by the Committee.

None.

Reports:

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

9. Herbicide Testing Final Report

Director Troutman moved to accept Staff's recommendation to discontinue the use of herbicides containing the chemical glyphosate, where permitted by governing agencies. Director Blackwell seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Director Blackwell made a motion to recommend to the Board an unbudgeted expense of approximately \$3,000 for alternative herbicide products. Director Karimi seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

10. Discuss Creek

Chair Moldow said a video he was given about the Creek is too long to show at this committee and misrepresents some information about the Creek.

Director Blackwell said there is an Aliso Creek booklet that is available at the Copy Center.

Director Armendariz said there is a lot of miscommunication and rumors about the Creek. He went over what the Aliso Creek booklet indicates for mitigation and replacing of the bridge. He spoke about a second agreement and timeframes. He doesn't understand why the cattails are being cut. He would like to see what areas are United's responsibility.

Committee discussion ensued about creek.

Mr. Wiemann read list of agencies that have jurisdiction over the Creek. Any requests, like a bridge, have to go through all the agencies to get approved. A new foot bridge would be an extensive and expensive endeavor.

He stated that he only has 10 men to work on GRF areas, which includes the Creek.

The Village is only allowed to take out non-native species at the Creek. We cannot work in the bed creek at all.

Once this mitigation plan has timed out, we can work on a new one.

Robert Berk (933-B) said the reeds could have been put on the other side of the creek so they wouldn't bother people. We need to go to Vector Control. At the other end of the Creek, there is a little house and cement for water to run over, it ponds and the silt level builds up and backs up. Land in front of her house has gotten higher. Need slits in cement to let silt go through. Palm trees there should come down also.

Suellen Zima asked what went so terribly wrong to put us on this terrible Creek path?

Ms. Sunderhaus (580-O) said the cat tails removal was approved and she has copies of those Minutes. She thanked Director Armendariz for his help with the Creek. There is a lot of photo information to reconstruct what the Creek looked liked at different points in time, if it is ever needed. Bridge railings never went back up. What is the game plan?

Mr. Herd (579-B) stated that when John Parker was Chair, he planted a lot of trees. They are native but are now are out of control. Can they be removed? Mr. Wiemann said he will look into it.

Ms. Morris (581-O) stated there is a place at the foot of bridge where you can fall in because there is no barrier and it is a serious problem.

Much discussion regarding how Willows that were planted by the Creek have taken over. Mr. Wiemann will find out if they can be removed.

Mr. Wiemann stated that he will look at all the issues brought up today and will bring back a plan to a future committee meeting.

Director Troutman moved that the bridge request be denied and there be status quo. Director Karmimi seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

11. Discuss the Possibility of Disbanding the GRF Landscape Committee

Director Armendariz made motion to continue this committee but recommend to the Board that it be changed to a quarterly schedule. Director Blackwell seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

Director Milliman stated that the committee may only make a recommendation to Board and a Staff Report will need to make the case for moving it to a quarterly schedule.

President Skillman said this committee is needed. Landscaping at gates is always a concern and landscaping at the clubhouses. We need a place to present these topics.

Director Addington agreed with President Skillman. The Creek business alone validates this committee.

Items for Future Agendas:

- Status of Creek
- A Plan for Problems with the Creek

Concluding Business:

12. Committee Member Comments

Director Karimi said there are a lot of things we can't do today that we used to be able to do because of regulations that were put into place.

Director Jarrett said this has been a good meeting. She said volunteer growth can get out of hand.

Director Troutman said the Aliso Creek booklet must go onto the website.


Director Blackwell said we will count the days until Creek agreement has expired.

Director Armendariz said that he is thankful to the committee members and hear the residents. He has confidence in Mr. Wiemann that he will do all he can do to remedy the Creek problems.

Chair Moldow thanked everyone.

13. Date of next meeting – August 21 (If new quarterly schedule is approved by the Board)

14. Adjourned at 3:15 p.m.



Bert Moldow, Chair

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 14, 2019
FOR: Landscape Committee
SUBJECT: Survey of Aliso Creek Boundaries

RECOMMENDATION

Approve an unbudgeted expense of \$5,800 for professional services.

BACKGROUND

The Aliso Creek area is the responsibility of the Golden Rain Foundation. It is bounded by United Laguna Woods Mutual on all sides. The legal boundaries were established with the original tract maps and recorded with the Orange County Surveyor's Office. The actual physical boundaries have never been determined or delineated in the field.

DISCUSSION

In the Landscape Maintenance Department, the cost for the maintenance of the area for the two separate Mutuels was historically divided based upon allocations. These allocations were originally based upon the square feet as determined by the irrigation charts. As the Mutuels transition to a direct hours recording system, the physical boundaries of the two Mutuels is far more important than it has been in the past.

Although the boundary maps exist, due to the physical limitations present in the field, including trees, shrubs and topography, it is nearly impossible for the laymen to determine the actual boundaries (Attachment 1). Staff recommends engaging the services of a professional surveyor to map and mark the boundary limits. The boundaries will be marked by driving a steel rod into the ground at angle points and sight lines, and covering the exposed steel rod with white PVC pipe for visibility. Steel rods are used in case the marker gets covered by either vegetation or soil so a metal detector can be used to reestablish the marker.

Once the boundaries are marked, staff will be able to develop accurate budgets and accounting methods for the area. As this work will take some time to complete, Staff recommends any changes to budgets and accounting be made effective for the 2021 Budget.

Based upon the preliminary data, there are approximately 254 trees and 91,580 square feet of slope that has been potentially mislabeled, accounting for approximately \$15,570 in annual staff costs that may need to be reallocated.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The proposal for surveying services is for \$11,600, Staff recommends the cost be split between GRF and United. An unbudgeted expense of \$5,800 would be charged to the Operating Fund.

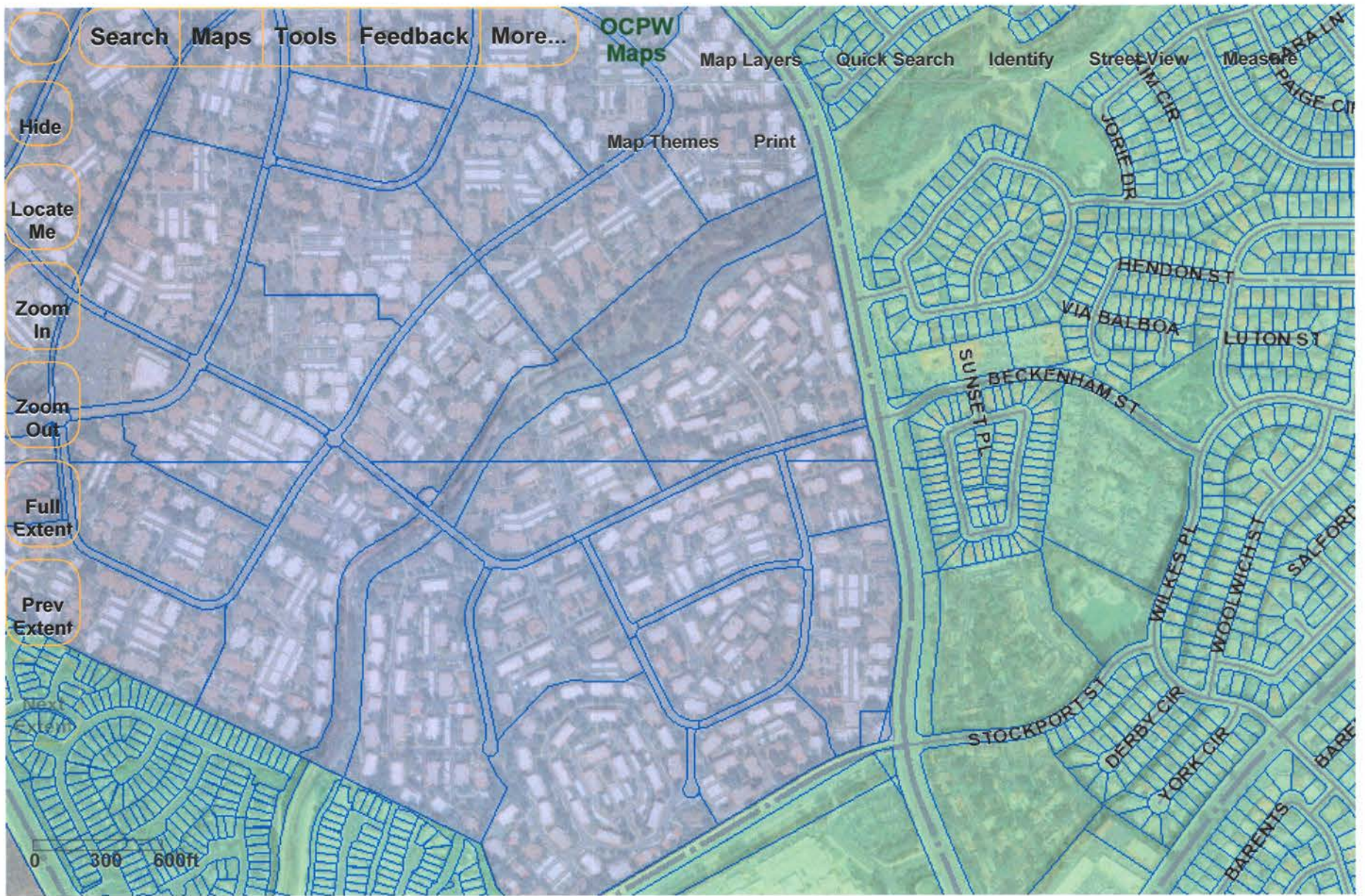
Golden Rain Foundation
Survey of Aliso Creek Boundaries
August 14, 2019

Prepared By: Kurt Wiemann, Senior Field Services Manager

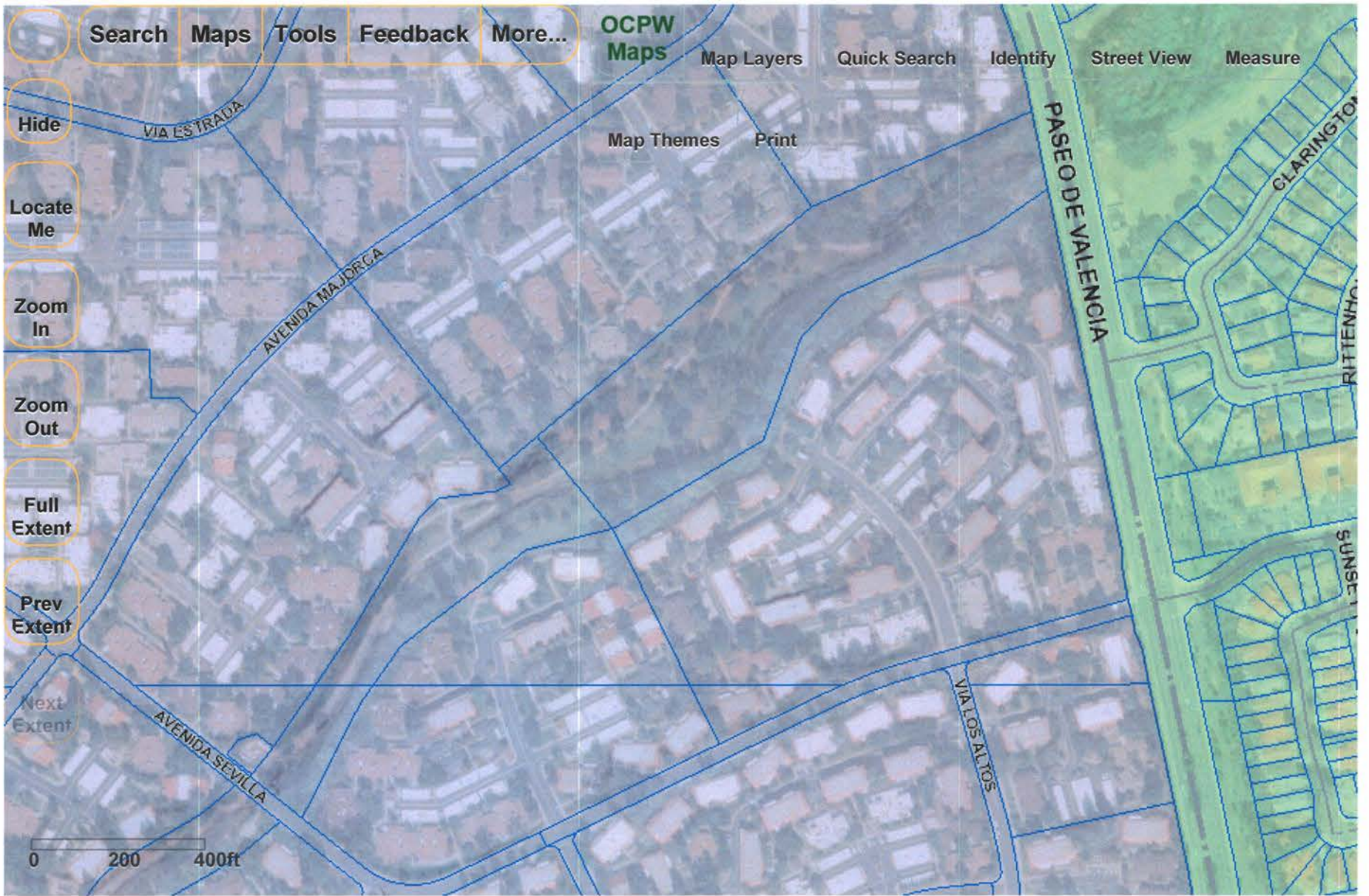
Reviewed By: Eve Morton, Landscape Coordinator

ATTACHMENT(S)

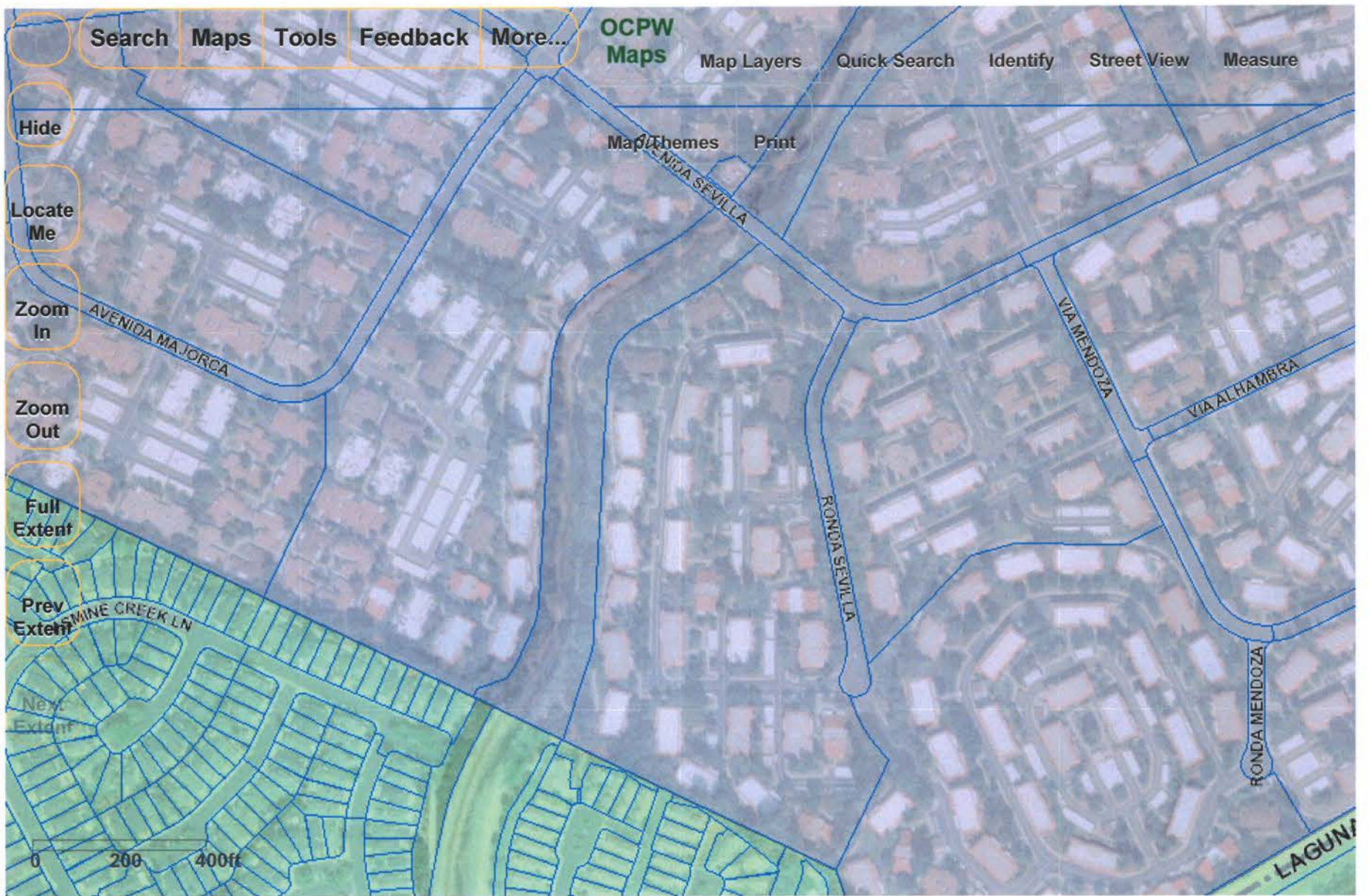
Attachment 1: Aerial Boundary Maps



BOTH PARCELS



NORTH PARCEL



SOUTH PARCEL

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 14, 2019
FOR: Landscape Committee
SUBJECT: Request to Donate a Park Bench

RECOMMENDATION

- Approve the request from the Baha'i Community of Laguna Woods to donate and install a park bench in the Aliso Creek area.
- Approve the request to donate and plant two Plumeria trees at Clubhouse Six.

BACKGROUND

In 2017, the Baha'i Community donated two Pistache trees that were planted in the Aliso Creek area (Attachment 1). The trees were paid for by the Baha'i Community and planted by Staff. There are forty members in the Baha'i Community of Laguna Woods.

DISCUSSION

The Baha'i Community desires to donate a five foot park bench (Attachment 2) adjacent to the trees previously donated and planted in the Aliso Creek area. The bench would be paid for by the Foundation and installed by Staff. The Baha'i Community would like to install a plaque on the bench that states "Trees and Bench Donated by the Baha'i of Laguna Woods."

The Baha'i Community also desires to donate two Plumeria trees at Clubhouse Six. These trees would also be planted by Staff. The Baha'i Community would like to attach plaques to each of the trees; "Make peace with all the world. Love everybody; serve everybody" and "Ye are all waves of one sea and leaves of one tree." The plaques would conform to Resolution 90-06-97, which requires plaques to be 3" x 5" with white lettering on black background.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The cost of the bench will be borne by the Baha'i Community of Laguna Woods. The cost for installation of the bench is estimated to be \$226. The cost to plant the two trees is estimated to be \$150. There are funds available in the 2019 Budget to accomplish these tasks.

Prepared By: Kurt Wiemann, Senior Operations Manager

Reviewed By: Eve Morton, Landscape Coordinator

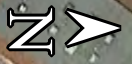
Attachments

Attachment 1: Photos of Pistache Trees in Aliso Creek
Attachment 2: Cut Sheet of Proposed Park Bench
Attachment 3: Proposed Location of Trees at Clubhouse Six

ATTACHMENT 1

Proposed Bench location

300 ft







Palisade Wood Bench | White Oak or Redwood



Model PBSC-5-RD | Surface Mount

Modern Contoured Wood Bench

The Palisade wood bench has an inviting appeal with a contoured seat and back available in white oak or redwood. Featuring evenly positioned wood rails double bolted with decorative flat head rivets. The spaced out wood helps the bench dry off quicker after the rain. The edges are rounded off slightly for safety. Offered in lengths up to 8' to accommodate the needs of various settings. The frame is available in the powder-coated color options shown. Choose portable, in-ground mount or surface mount base.

Slat Options



white oak

redwood

Frame Color Options



red

blue

dark green

evergreen green

bronze

brown

tan

white

black

Matching Products



White Oak Township Trash Can



Boulevard Wood Bench Backless

▼ Item Specific Details Available on Linked Model Numbers Below



Tweet

Palisade Wood Bench | **White Oak** Qty

PBSC-4-W	48" Length	Frame Style	Frame Color	(118 lbs)	\$624.00	
PBSC-5-W	60" Length	In-Ground Mount	Bronze	(128 lbs)	\$674.00	2
PBSC-6-W	72" Length	Frame Style	Frame Color	(138 lbs)	\$767.00	
PBSC-8-W	96" Length	Frame Style	Frame Color	(186 lbs)	\$1,043.00	

Palisade Wood Bench | **Redwood** Qty

PBSC-4-RD	48" Length	Frame Style	Frame Color	(118 lbs)	\$584.00	
PBSC-5-RD	60" Length	Frame Style	Frame Color	(128 lbs)	\$628.00	
PBSC-6-RD	72" Length	Frame Style	Frame Color	(138 lbs)	\$719.00	
PBSC-8-RD	96" Length	Frame Style	Frame Color	(186 lbs)	\$957.00	

Optional Accessories Qty

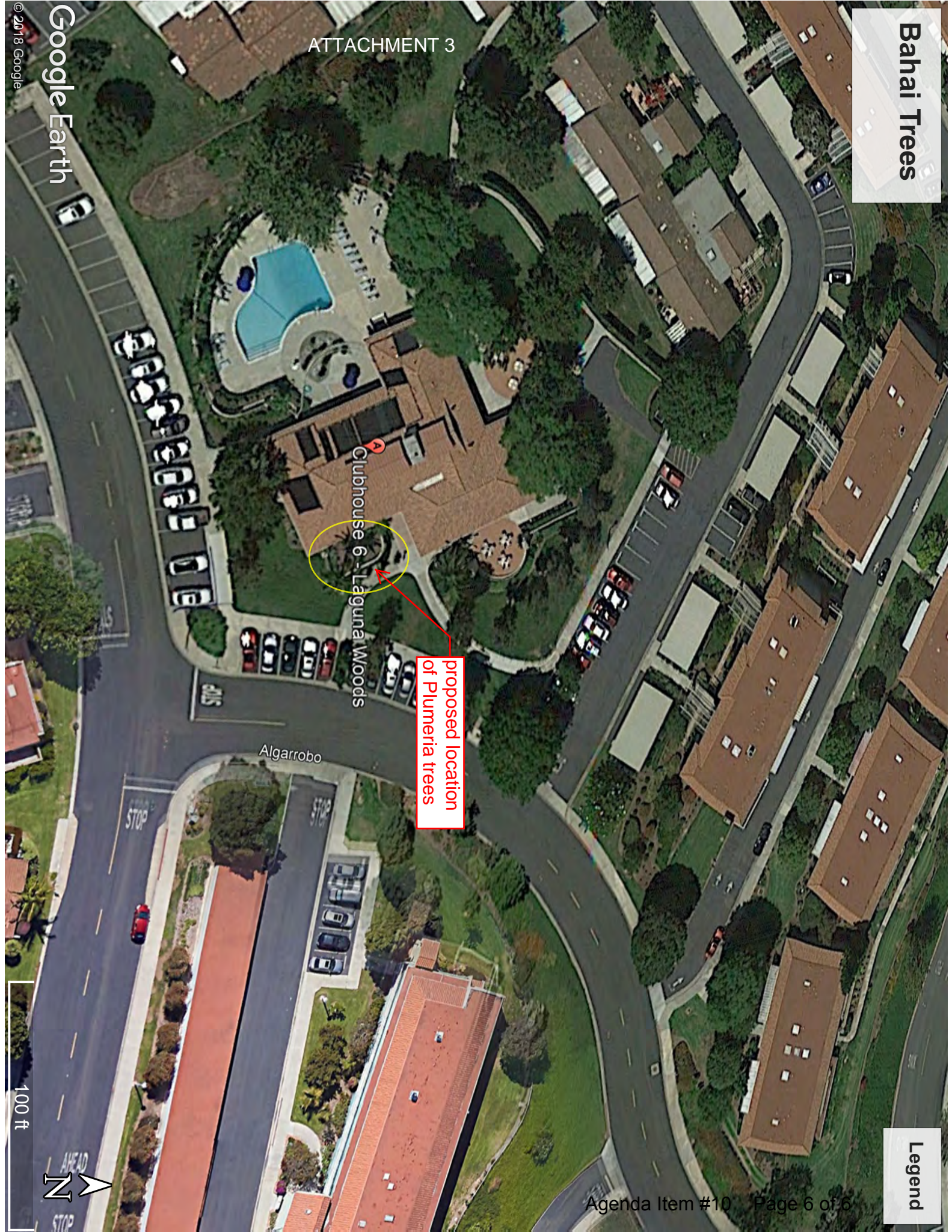
PBSC-ABM	Palisade Bench Armrest	Armrest Color	(5 lbs)	\$50.00	
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Clubhouse 6 - Laguna Woods

proposed location
of Plumeria trees

Algarrobo

100 ft



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 14, 2019
FOR: Landscape Committee
SUBJECT: Aliso Creek Update

RECOMMENDATION

- Receive and file this report.
- Direct Staff to pursue alternatives to future streambed maintenance.

BACKGROUND

The area adjacent to the newly constructed foot bridge, on the downstream side, falls under the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. This plan is designed to restore the riparian vegetation that was damaged during construction of the foot bridge and calls for up to five years of monitoring by a biologist to ensure full establishment.

The Landscape Department performs maintenance work within the Aliso Creek channel annually. The work involves cutting down the cattails, removing non-native plants, trimming trees, and removing sediment from the creek bed.

DISCUSSION

Annual Creek Maintenance

According to the Streambed Alteration Agreement of 2015 with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), maintenance activities within the Aliso Creek channel can take place September 1 through January 31 annually. Work is restricted during the remainder of the year in order to protect nesting birds. All non-woody native vegetation, including the cattails, is scheduled to be pruned in September of this year. Prior to any maintenance activities, a Southwest Pond Survey is being performed to inspect for any native turtles within the creek. Assuming no turtles are found, a letter will be sent to CDFW stating planned maintenance activities and time frames. Maintenance activities will begin upon CDFW's confirmation of receiving our letter.

Extra Maintenance and Repairs

The winter rain storms of early 2019 led to higher than anticipated maintenance and repairs along the GRF property adjacent to the Aliso creek. Multiple mature trees on the slope adjacent to Buildings 638-642, toppled due to high soil saturation. Large amounts of sediment and debris washed up onto the walkways, making the upper Aliso foot bridge inaccessible. A large portion of soil adjacent to the lower Aliso foot bridge eroded away due to rising of the creek, exposing pipes. This resulted in staff devoting multiple hours into off-schedule maintenance and repairs this past spring.

Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan

Due to soil erosion and damage caused during the winter rains, it has been very difficult to complete the establishment of the riparian plantings required to mitigate the damage caused during construction of the new bridge. The temperate weather that followed the winter rains

resulted in high weed seed germination. Staff was successful in combatting weeds, resulting in our lowest percentage of weed coverage in any year. Staff will continue to monitor and maintain the site, and comply with the consulting biologist recommendations. The Habitat Mitigation Plan, once the initial monitoring is complete, must be maintained in perpetuity per the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (CRWQB).

FUTURE MAINTENANCE

Due to requirements by the CDFW and CRWQB, other than annual maintenance mentioned above, the creek must be maintained in its current condition. The Mutual is permitted to clear cattails to 12" above root level and clear a five foot channel in the creek; the remainder must be maintained in a natural riparian state.

The only option to restore the area to the cleared condition of past years is to purchase offset credits from a registered mitigation bank. The credits, which are expected to cost between \$248,138 and \$1,122,138, are a one-time expense, with an annual fee of \$1,638. The large range in the costs is due to several factors; the actual costs will be determined once an application is complete and submitted. Over and above these costs are the costs to remove all of the existing cattails and other plant material thriving in the stream bed. Staff has received a proposal of \$52,165 to remove all plant material from the creek bed and banks.

If directed to proceed with the application for credits, there are minor costs involved in the application process.

The current costs for streambed maintenance, including consultant costs, are; \$53,307 for 2019 and \$62,407 for 2020.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Ongoing maintenance is part of the approved 2019 and proposed 2020 budget.

Prepared By: Mike Swingholm, Landscape Supervisor

Reviewed By: Kurt Wiemann, Senior Operations Manager



Laguna Woods Village

Aliso Creek Update

For GRF Landscape Committee

August 14, 2019



Foot Bridge Soil Erosion

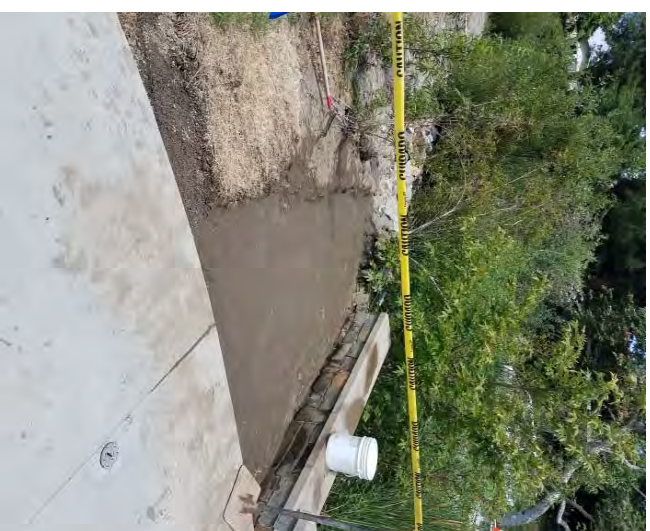
- Extensive soil erosion from 2019 storms
- Large amounts of rock and soil was displaced
- Irrigation pipes and sprinklers damaged



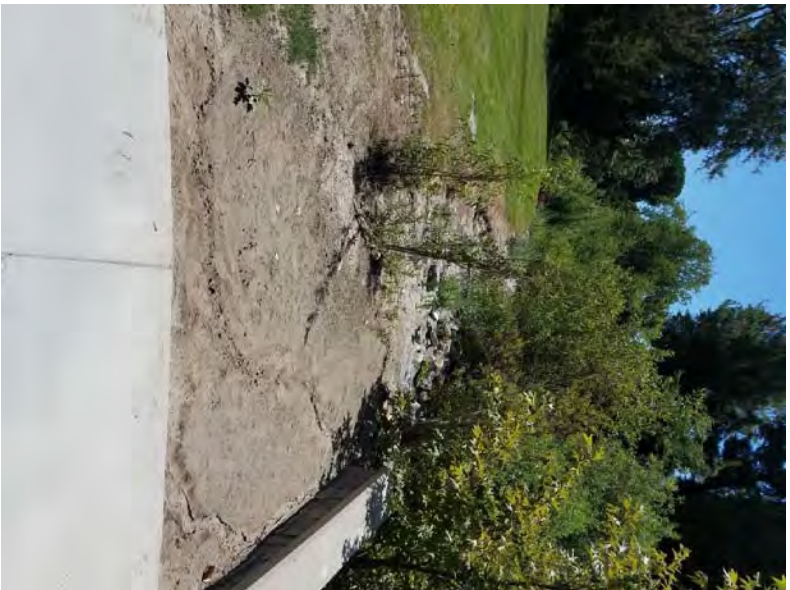
Laguna Woods Village

Soil Erosion Repair Project

- The GRF Landscape crew added cement soil
- 10:1 ratio of soil to Portland cement
- Better soil stabilization during storms
- Irrigation system repaired



Finished Project



- Photo from July 2019
- Erosion will be reduced
- Integrity of bridge preserved

Tree Loss



- Approximately 10 large trees
- Slope above creek
- Removed by tree crew May 2019

Turtle Survey in Creek

- Inspection for Southwest Pond Turtle began July 2019
- Lasts for 2 weeks
- Performed by Endemic Environmental
- Expect results by August 30, 2019



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Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring



Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring



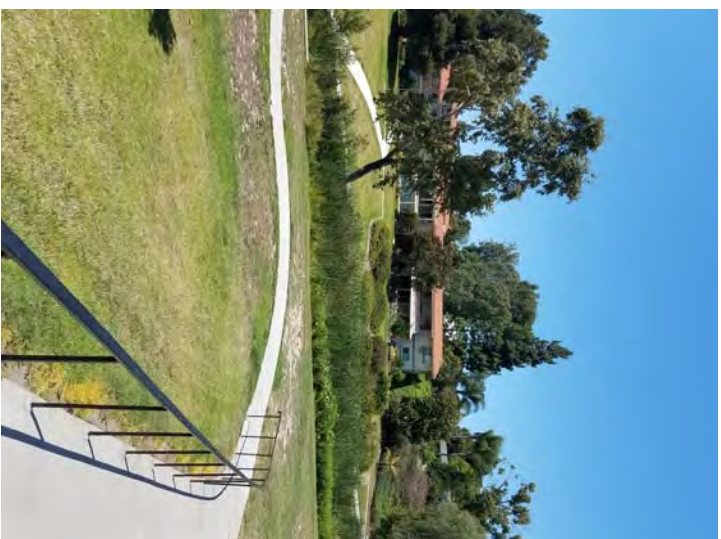
Vegetative Cover Summary

Year	Native Species (%)		Non-Native Species (%)		Bare Ground (%)	
	Standard	Measured	Standard	Measured	Standard	Measured
One 2015	35	Not measured	<5	Not measured	65	Not measured
Two 2016	50	45*	<5	75*	50	Not measured
Three 2017	70	83.6	<5	9.2	30	24.8
Four 2018	75	74.4	<5	48.0	25	16.4
Five 2019	80	117.6	<5	7.6	20	10.0

* Qualitative estimate, due to site conditions. Other values represent quantitative measurements: TBD -- To Be Determined, data not yet collected.

Creek Plant Clearing

- Scheduled to begin first week of September
- Pending Turtle Survey results
- Will last approximately 3-4 weeks
- Will improve the flow of water



Creek Plant Clearing

- Herbaceous plants cut to height on 12 inches above roots
- Cattails included
- Willows skirted up to 1/3 of overall height
- Weeds and debris will be removed

