



OPEN MEETING

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

**Wednesday, August 12, 2020 – 1:30 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING
Laguna Woods Village Community Center
24351 El Toro Road**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Acknowledgment of Media
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Report for February 12, 2020
5. Chair's Remarks
6. Department Head Update

Consent:

None

Reports:

None

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

7. Request for Tree Removal – 3024-A (Bissiri) and 3024-B (Hollie) --Three California Pepper Trees located between the rear of building 3024 and the Tennis Courts at Clubhouse 7
8. Discuss Upgrading of Landscaping at the Gates
9. Update on the Creek
10. Update on Manure Disposal at Equestrian Center

Items for Future Agendas:

Concluding Business:

11. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)

The Community Center is closed and this will be a virtual meeting which Members may view on the Village website under Residents>Governance>Board Meeting Videos. Member comments will be read during the meeting and the committee will respond. Members can request to speak via email to meeting@vmsinc.org any time before the meeting is scheduled to begin or during the meeting. Please use the name of the committee meeting in the subject line of the email or call 949-268-2020 beginning one half hour before the meeting begins



and throughout the remainder of the meeting. You must provide your name and unit number.

- 12. Response to Member Comments
- 13. Committee Member Comments
- 14. Date of Next Meeting – TBD
- 15. Adjournment

Yvonne Horton, 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, February 12, 2020 – 1:30 P.M.
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room
24351 El Toro Road**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair - Bert Moldow, Jim Matson, Lynn Jarrett, Manuel Armendariz, Yvonne Horton, Andre Torng, Ralph Engdahl for Reza Karimi

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Reza Karimi

OTHERS PRESENT: Bunny Carpenter, Annette Sabol Soule

ADVISORS PRESENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton

REPORT

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

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

4. Approval of Meeting Report of December 4, 2019

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

5. Committee Chair Remarks

Chair Moldow stated that he went down to the creek and is enjoying the view and the birds.

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

Margaret Fox (2335-B) The landscaping is up against the houses in her area. When will that be worked on? I am always told they are in the process of trimming but it never gets done. Also, a stump has been there for years.

Elizabeth Morris (581-O) "Will you have regularly scheduled meeting? Is there a proper list of who is on the committees? Is there a diagram of the land survey? She would like the contracts closed with Chambers Group and Doodad."

Sharon O'Neil (581-P) "Thank you for clearing the willows. There are logs that are still down there in the creek. One is twelve feet long. Also, some stumps from palm trees are in there."

Diane Ryan (640-A) "Slope at the top of the creek. Many people on staff have made promises and don't follow up on them. Trees aren't trimmed there and there are dead limbs. I was told an outside contractor would clean it up but they haven't. I can't see the creek from my house through the forest there."

Roberta Berk (933-B) "United is having a lot of work done on dryrot. She lives at end of United towards Moulton. There is an empty property at side of building. There are bushes there. They have only been topped once in twenty years. Bucket trucks don't fit in that area. All are leaning towards the building. They should be cut 15-20 feet.

Water company created an ugly thing on the other side of the creek from me. A lot of stones were put in. Please replace stones with bushes.

There is an liquidamber tree and there are so many of the seed pods that fall off of them. It is difficult to walk. People have gotten hurt walking downhill towards her building. They used to trim the limbs on the walkway side.

Have all staff use blowers, not rakes."

Walt Herd (579-B) "Thanks for all that has been done in the creek. I would also ask that the logs be removed. The willow trees bow down in rains and pick up debris and that is all still in the trees. Some of the trees look absolutely dead.

When railings are taken off the bridge, the brackets that are left are very sharp. Maybe railing needs to be put back on or something is needed to cover the brackets."

7. Response to Member Comments

Chair Armendariz stated the he insisted on the land survey. United has changed to a species-based tree trimming cycle. Mr. Wiemann needs more time to get caught up on all that hasn't been done in the past. He agreed with many of the issues that were brought up today. He has been short-staffed but now Mr. Wiemann has contracted out a lot of work to be fully staffed. At the creek, only native plants or trees are allowed to be planted there. Mr. Wiemann is looking for permission to remove more of the cat tails. He has asked Mr. Wiemann to put together costs for having all mowers with catchers for the 2021 budget."

Mr. Wiemann's responses:

He will send Elizabeth Morris the land survey map. Ms. Morton will also send her list of the committee members for all committees.

The Chambers contract is up at end of the year. They have biologists on their staff which are needed from time to time. They help staff determine which weeds are native and non-native.

The creek will be cleaned up again next week. Also, another person has been added to GRF landscape crew.

He will take care of the request from Member at 640-A regarding the slope.

We will have staff plant shrubbery to hide the SCWD facility Ms. Berk spoke about. It will be done in the next few weeks.

8. Department Head Update

We will be fully staffed as of March 1. We are putting together a new planting crew that will have an irrigator on board and their only job will be to re-plant where needed. It will be a four-man crew and they will work there way through the Village a re-plant as needed. We are working with our nursery staff on plants that are being used. A new person is in charge there. By the end of this year, you should see big improvements.

We will start making clubhouse landscaping look its best prior to an event at any of the clubhouses.

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:

None

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

9. Update on the Creek

Fish and Wildlife finally replied to Mr. Wiemann's email on Monday. He stated there has been a lot of turnover at that agency. He is moving forward on working towards getting rid of more of cat tails. We may be able to do this by creating pond turtle habitats. The creek is a habitat they want us to preserve but they may let us clear sections of it. There are several agencies involved so it moves slowly.

We will have a clean up crew there next week.

It would be extremely costly to purchase credits which would allow us to clear the entire creek.

Mr. Wiemann reported that in 2018, we approached Fish and Wildlife and we were turned down to move the willows away from the bridge. He feels next year we will be out of mitigation. However, we still have to maintain the creek for perpetuity.

Discussion ensued regarding different agreements with different agencies that are in place regarding the creek.

10. Discuss Cost of Upgrading Landscaping at the Renovated Gates

Mr. Wiemann reviewed some proposed landscaping plans for some of the gates. He asked the committee to review them and to re-visit this in a future meeting. Any of this gate landscaping would need to be budgeted for 2021 and he would need to have some idea of what the committee would like by May to budget for this.

Director Jarrett stated that when the gates were updated, the landscaping was not discussed. We have thousands of people going through gates every day and landscaping is important. At Gate 14, plants are small because they are new. She is happy Mr. Wiemann took time for first steps of improving landscape at the gates.

Mr. Wiemann suggested a design that would fit all the gates. A design which keeps irrigation needs down so price stays lower.

Items for Future Agendas:

Concluding Business:

11. Committee Member Comments

Chair Armendariz is happy when Members attend this meeting . The first step for any landscaping need is to put in a request through Resident Services. Then, if the request is not satisfied in a reasonable amount of time, please bring your request to these meetings.

Director Torng thanked Mr. Wiemann for doing a good job. We Directors hear the complaints from residents and need to pass them on to him.

Director Jarrett requested that Members not ask landscape staff working at their home to do specific things. They need to put in a request at Resident Services and then the Supervisor will review the request and direct his staff.

Chair Moldow stated that the people doing the slope work are doing a great job.

12. Date of Next Meeting – May 13, 2020

13. Adjournment at 2:42 p.m.



Bert Moldow, Chair

STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 12, 2020
FOR: Board of Directors
SUBJECT: Request for Tree Removal – 3024-A (Bissiri) and 3024-B (Hollie) -Three California Pepper Trees

RECOMMENDATION

Approve, at the residents' expense, the removal of three California Pepper trees located between the rear of Building 3024 and the tennis courts at Clubhouse 7.

BACKGROUND

Ms. Bissiri purchased her manor in April 1999 and Ms. Hollie purchased her manor in October 1999. They are requesting the removal of three California Pepper tree, *Schinus, molle*. The reason cited for the removals is view obstruction. The residents are willing to pay for the three removals. There are no additional signatures on the Mutual request Form (Attachment 2).

The trees were last trimmed in December 2018. Future trimming is tentatively scheduled for fiscal year 2021. The height of the trees averages approximately ten feet with an average trunk diameter of twelve inches. The trees are growing on the slope approximately 25-30 feet from the manor and 20-25 feet from the tennis court.

DISCUSSION

At the time of inspection, two of the three trees were in fair condition and one of them was in decline. All three trees have been topped in the past which does cause weak attachments of new growth. There were no visible pests or trunk damage and minimal decay. The resident(s) over the years have paid five times to have the trees trimmed at an average cost of \$350 for all three trees. Due to the location of two of these trees, there is a litter issue with the berries and sheading of leaves which requires cleaning of the tennis court's service.

Staff is recommending the removal of the one tree in decline, whether or not the Board elects to allow the residents to pay for the removal of all three trees.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The cost to remove all three trees is estimated at \$1,764 (\$588 per tree). The cost to trim all three trees is estimated at \$300 and the estimated combined value of the trees is \$5,000.

Prepared By: Bob Merget, Senior Landscape Supervisor

Reviewed By: Eve Morton, Landscape Operations Coordinator

ATTACHMENT(S)

ATTACHMENT 1: Photos
ATTACHMENT 2: Landscape Request Form

ATTACHMENT 1







BY: JA**MUTUAL LANDSCAPE REQUEST FORM****PLEASE NOTE: THIS FORM IS NOT INTENDED FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE REQUESTS**

For all non-routine requests, please fill out this form. Per the policy of your Mutual, if your request falls outside the scope of the managing agent's authority, it will be forwarded to the Mutual's Landscape Committee for review. If you are unsure whether your request falls into this category, first contact Resident Services at 597-4600 in order to make that determination.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED REQUEST FORM TO RESIDENT SERVICES.**Resident/Owner Information**

You must be an owner to request non-routine Landscape requests.

3024 unit A
3024 unit B

Address

Bineke Bissiri

Paula Hollie

Resident's Name

1-29-2020

Today's Date

91939-0119 home 949454-0119

91472-3554

Telephone Number

Non-Routine Request

Please checkmark the item that best describes your request. If none apply, please checkmark "Other" and explain.

☒ Tree Removal☐ New Landscape☐ Off-Schedule Trimming☒ Other (explain): ~~overgrown~~ see attached**Reason for Request**

Please checkmark the item(s) that best explain the reason for your request.

☐ Structural Damage ☐ Sewer Damage ☒ Overgrown ☐ Poor Condition☐ Litter/Debris ☒ Personal Preference☒ Other (explain): obstruction of view**GUIDELINES:**

- Structural/Sewer Damage: Damage to buildings, sidewalks, sewer pipes, or other facilities may justify removal if corrective measures are not practical.
- Overgrown/Crowded: Trees or plants that have outgrown the available space may justify removal.
- Damaged/Declining Health: Trees or plants that are declining in health will be evaluated for corrective action before removal/replacement is considered.
- Litter and Debris: Because all trees shed litter seasonally, generally this is not an adequate reason to justify removal. However, if granted, removal/replacement may be at the resident's expense.
- Personal Preference: Because one does not like the appearance or other characteristics of the tree or plant generally does not justify its removal. However, if granted, removal/replacement is usually at the resident's expense.

Description & Location of Request

Please briefly describe the situation and the exact location of the subject of the request (e.g., "roots of pine tree in front of manor XYZ are lifting the sidewalk"). Attach pictures as necessary.

please see attached

Signatures of All Neighbors Affected By This Request

Because your request may affect one or more of your neighbors, it is imperative that you obtain their signatures, manor numbers, and whether they are for, undecided, or against this request.

Signature	Manor #	For	Undecided	Against
<i>none</i>				

(Please attach a separate sheet if more signatures are necessary.)

Acknowledgement - Owner

By signing, you are acknowledging this request.

Binele Bissiri
Paula Bissiri

Owner's Signature

Owner's Name

OFFICE USE ONLY

MOVE-IN DATE: _____

DATE: _____ INITIALS: _____

530 _____ 540 _____

570 _____ LAST PRUNED: _____

RELANDSCAPED: _____ NEXT TIME: _____

TREE SPECIES: _____

COMMENTS: _____

TREE VALUE: _____ TREE REMOVAL COST: _____

We purchased our condos in the early '90s because of the beautiful view of Saddleback Mountain. Around 2001-2002 California Pepper Trees were planted in front of our windows. Within 3 years they became overgrown...no view. We are the ONLY condos in the area that directly overlook Clubhouse 7, the tennis courts out to Saddleback Mountain. We would like to have the 3 California Peppers in front of our windows removed or cut all the way to the bottom of the trunk. Since this does not involve anyone else in our area – just the two of us – we were advised that no other signatures were needed. We are more than willing to pay for the services as we have been paying for them to be trimmed down for many years.

Thank you,

Bineke Bissiri and Paula Hollie

Bineke Bissiri
Paula Hollie



Location Map

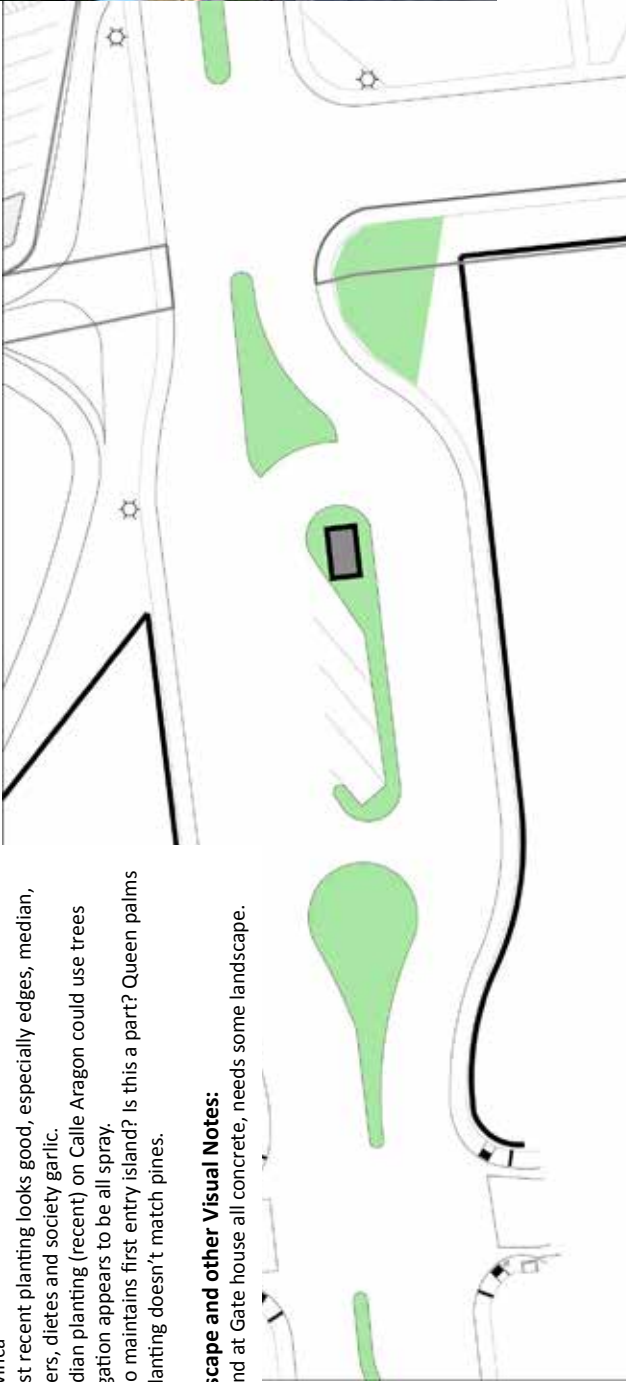
Gate 3

Planting Notes:

- 1. Strong Plant concept – Mature pines. (3)
- 2. Immediate gate area needs attention - Outdated ground covers – ivy, vinca
- 3. Most recent planting looks good, especially edges, median, boulders, dietes and society garlic.
- 4. Median planting (recent) on Calle Aragon could use trees
- 5. Irrigation appears to be all spray.
- 6. Who maintains first entry island? Is this a part? Queen palms and planting doesn't match pines.

Hardscape and other Visual Notes:

- 1. Island at Gate house all concrete, needs some landscape.



Gate 1

Planting Notes:

- 1. No clear planting concept
- 2. Variety of plant styles, deer grasses, roses, variegated euonymus, dymondia and chalk sticks.
- 3. Multiple plant species with varying water and light requirements in small spaces difficult to maintain
- 4. Coverage good for some species, poor for others.
- 5. Irrigation appears to be converted to drip.
- 6. Suggest adding one new tree (Magnolia)

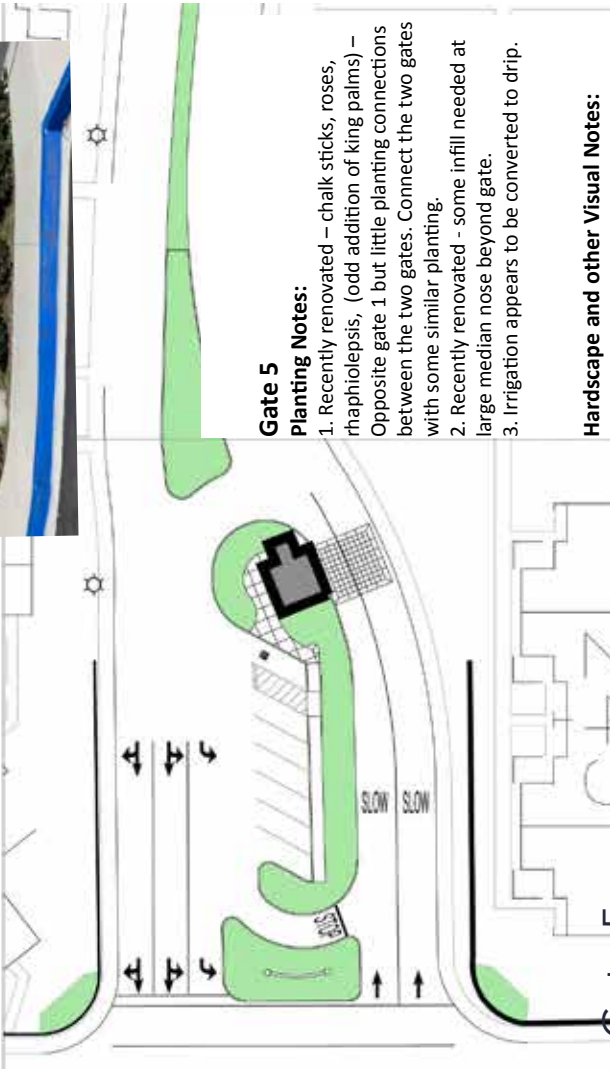
Hardscape and other Visual Notes:

- 1. New updated stucco walls.
- 2. Hardscape recently renovated.



Gate 1

Gate 3



Gate 5

Gate 5

Planting Notes:

- 1. Recently renovated – chalk sticks, roses, rhaphiolepis, (odd addition of king palms) – Opposite gate 1 but little planting connections between the two gates. Connect the two gates with some similar planting.
- 2. Recently renovated - some infill needed at large median nose beyond gate.
- 3. Irrigation appears to be converted to drip.

Hardscape and other Visual Notes:

- 1. Hardscape renovated.
- 2. Bus stop at entry – all concrete no planting.

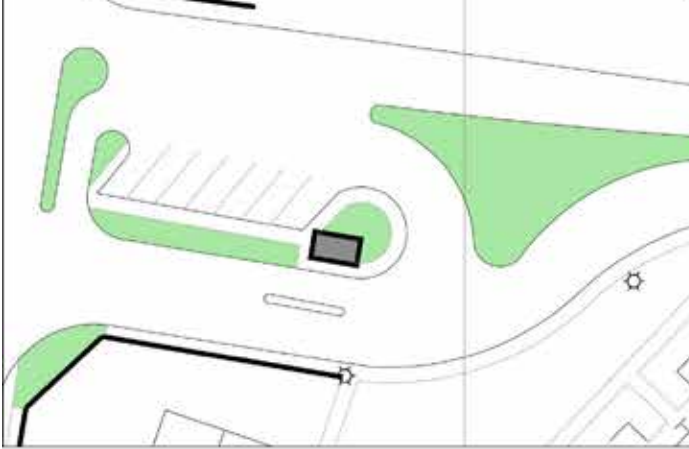
Gate 2

Planting Notes:

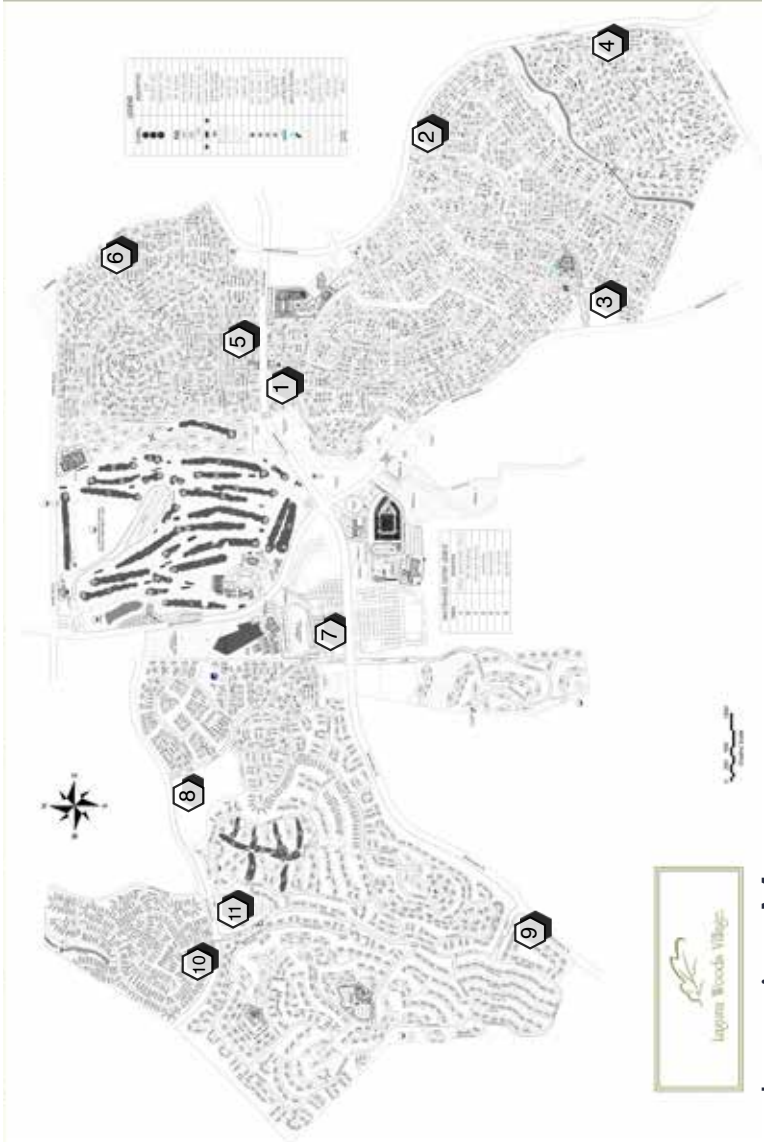
- 1. Strong Plant concept - Mediterranean concept with boulders.
- 2. Recently renovated – 70% looks very good – some infill needed
- 3. Suggest tree near gate house.
- 4. Irrigation appears to be converted to drip.
- 5. Maybe add Boulder and more Senecio replacing Daylillies

Hardscape and other Visual Notes:

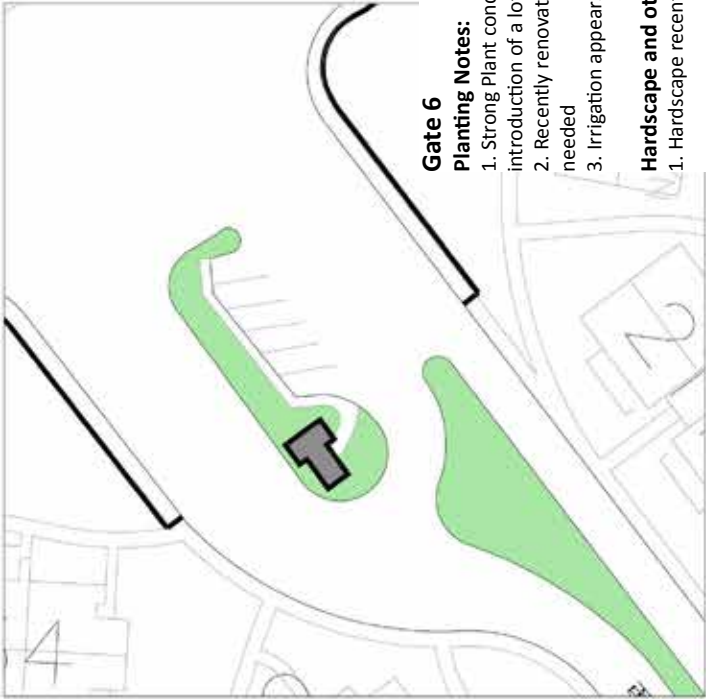
- 1. Hardscape appears renovated.



Gate 2



Location Map



Gate 6

Planting Notes:

- 1. Strong Plant concept - Mediterranean concept with boulders and introduction of a lot of decomposed granite.
- 2. Recently renovated – 80% looks very good – some infill and removal needed
- 3. Irrigation appears to be converted to drip.

Hardscape and other Visual Notes:

- 1. Hardscape recently renovated.

Gate 6



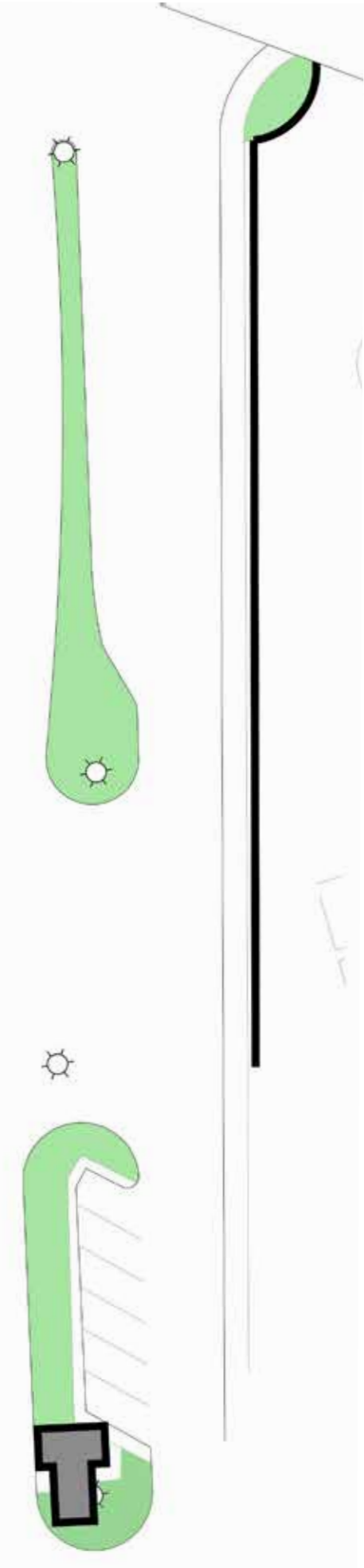
Gate 8

Planting Notes:

- 1. Variety of planting types. Birds of paradise. Dietes cut back, open areas may be due to shade and watering.
- 2. Euonymus japonica doing well-Most shady areas are performing well.
- 3. Side slopes included?
- 4. Irrigation appears to be all spray.
- 5. Front median 70% redo, Gate Median 20%, Behind Gate House neglected dried out and needs 100% renovation-Irrigation disconnected.

Hardscape and other Visual Notes:

- 1. No updates on ADA walkways.
- 2. Old metal gates



Gate 8



Gate 7

Planting Notes:

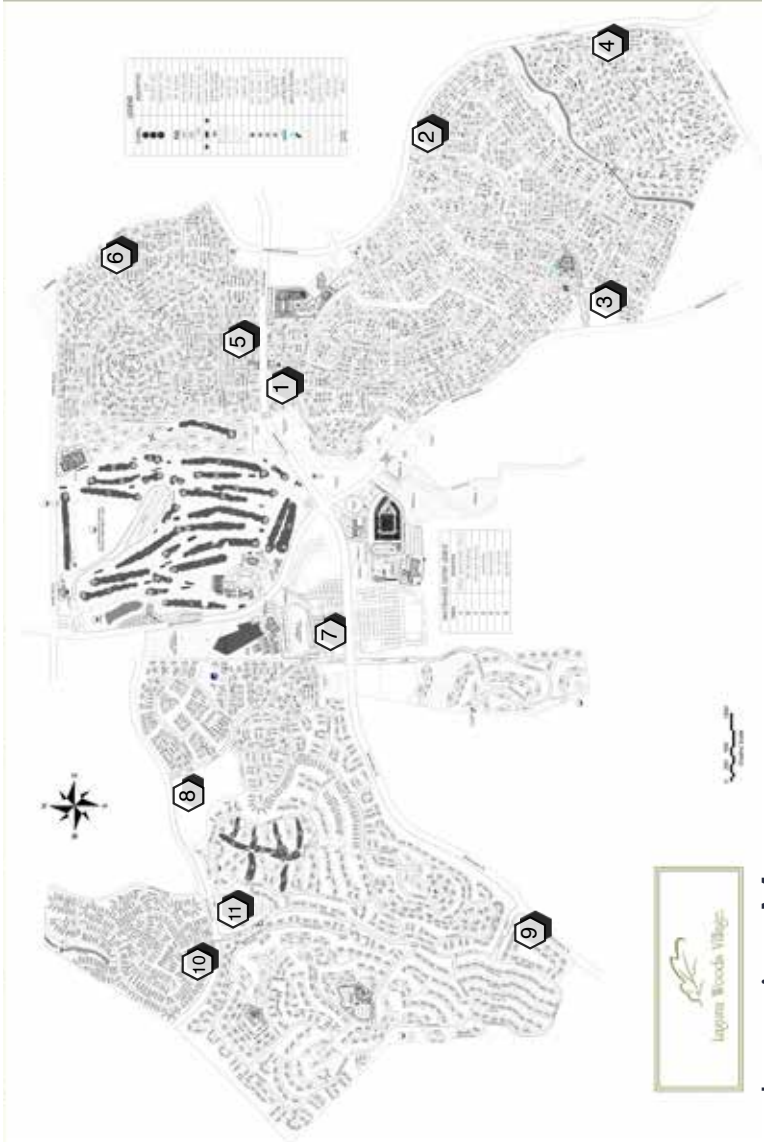
- 1. Palm Theme – Is this still desired?
- 2. Planting is spotty, bare areas, planting has been updated at some point – a lot of die back.
- 3. Irrigation appears to be converted to drip

Hardscape and other Visual Notes:

- 1. Updated ADA walkways.



Gate 7



Location Map



Gate 10

Planting Notes:

- 1. Variety of planting types.
- 2. Planting is spotty, bare areas, planting has been updated at some point – a lot of die back, shade and water may be issues.
- 3. Irrigation appears to be converted to drip

Hardscape and other Visual Notes:

- 1. No updates on ADA walkways?
- 2. Old metal gates



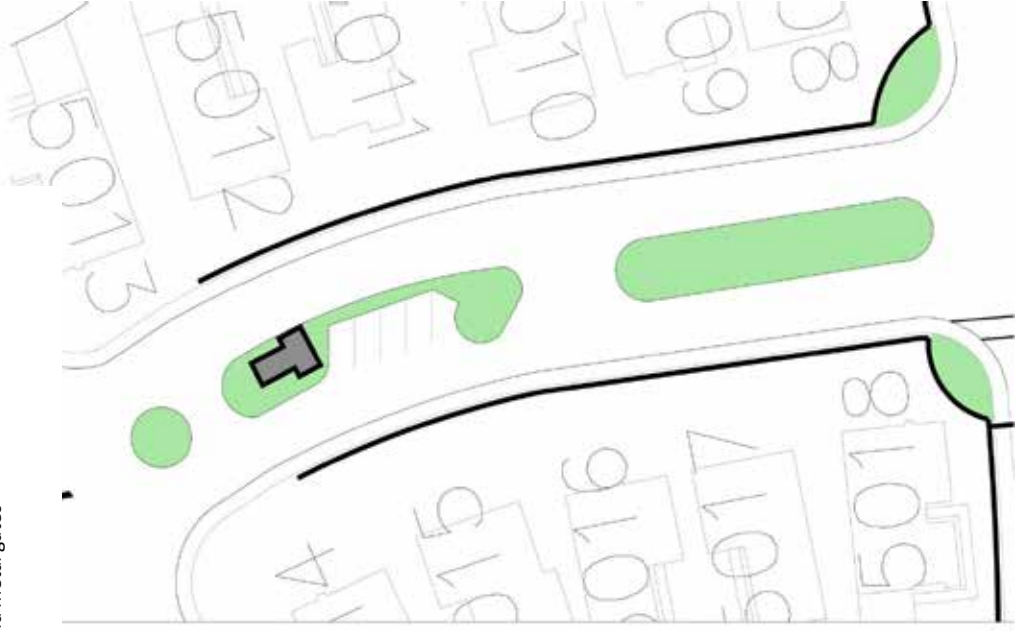
Gate 11 – need 100% renovation

Planting Notes:

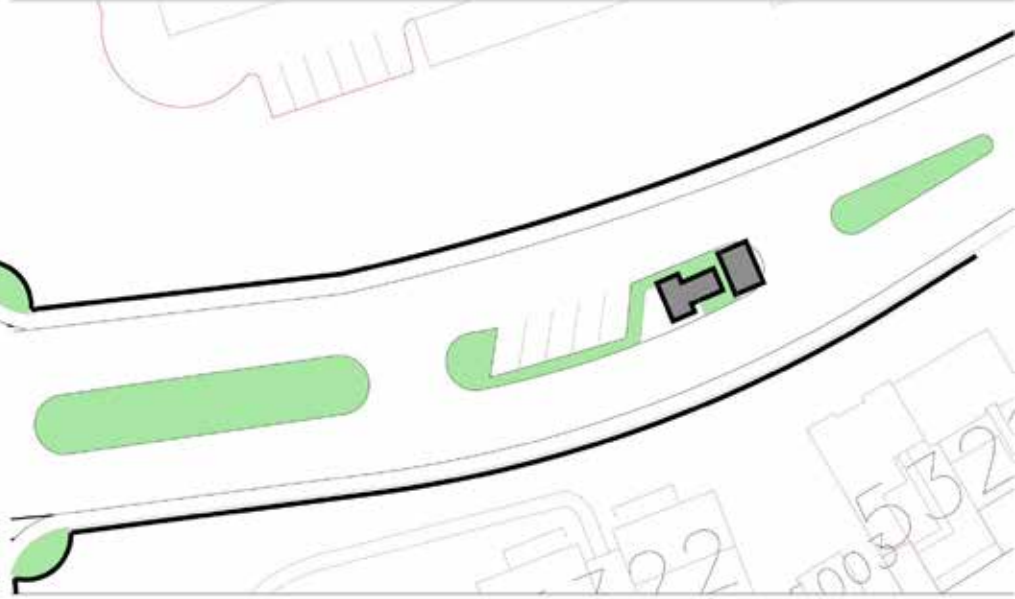
- 1. Planting has not been renovated – large turf median, mature cypress and trees.
- 3. Irrigation appears to be all spray.

Hardscape and other Visual Notes:

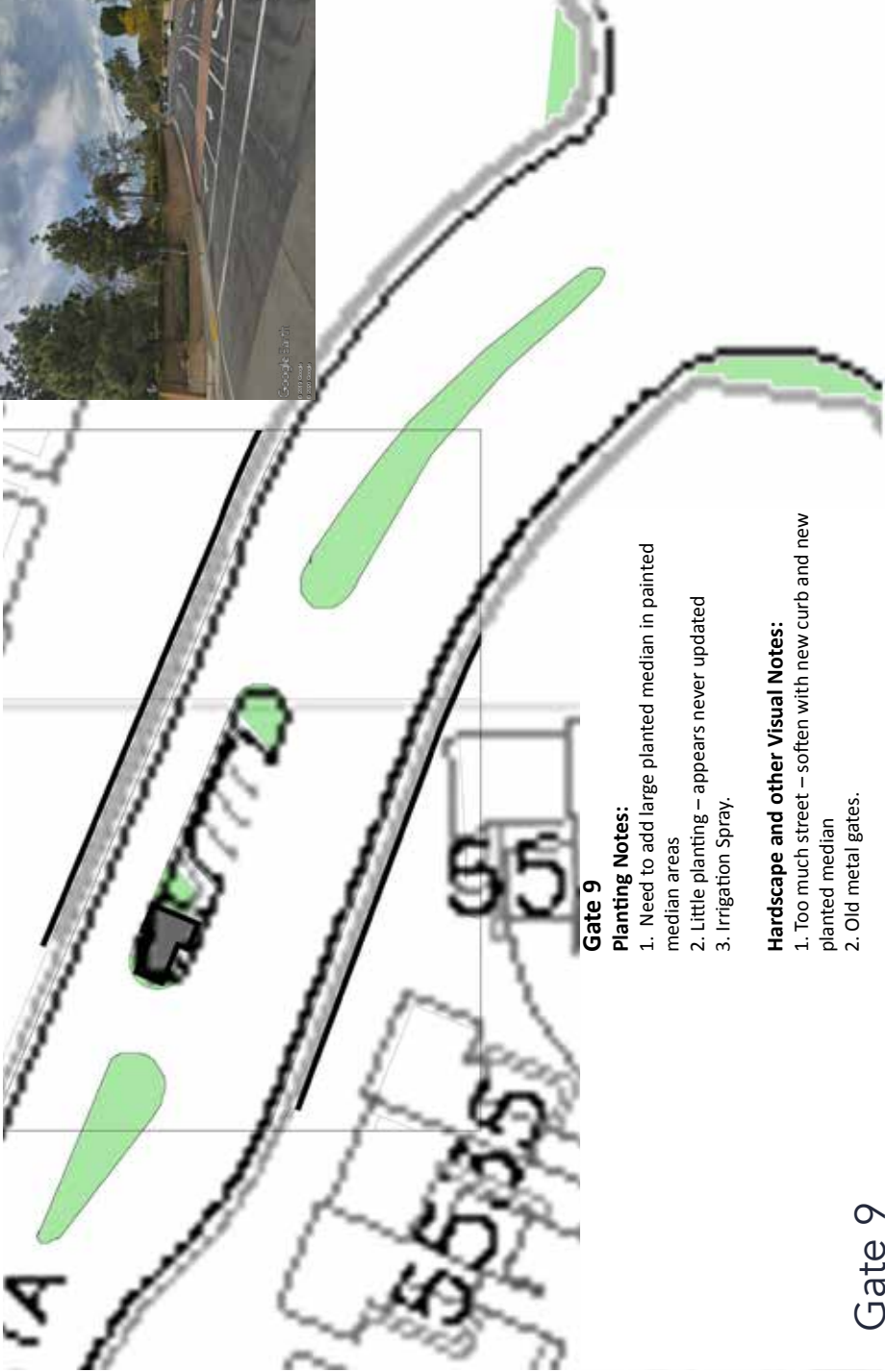
- 1. No updates on ADA walkways.
- 2. Old metal gates



Gate 10



Gate 11



Gate 9

Gate 9

Planting Notes:

- 1. Need to add large planted median in painted median areas
- 2. Little planting – appears never updated
- 3. Irrigation Spray.

Hardscape and other Visual Notes:

- 1. Too much street – soften with new curb and new planted median
- 2. Old metal gates.

Laguna Woods Village

Entry Gate Budget Exhibit

DRAFT

MS+MEGT
Landscape Architecture
Laguna Beach CA