



OPEN MEETING

REGULAR OPEN MEETING OF THE THIRD LAGUNA HILLS MUTUAL LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE*

**Thursday, October 10, 2024 9:30 a.m.
24351 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA
Board Room and Virtual with Zoom**

Laguna Woods Village owners/residents can participate in all open committee meetings in-person and virtually. To submit comments or questions virtually for committee meetings, please use one of the following options:

1. Join the committee meeting via Zoom by clicking this link:
<https://zoom.us/j/92325659805>
2. Email meeting@vmsinc.org any time before the meeting is scheduled to begin or during the meeting. Please use the committee's name in the email's subject line. Name and unit number must be included.

NOTICE AND AGENDA

This Meeting May Be Recorded

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Meeting Report from September 5, 2024
4. Remarks of the Chair
5. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)
6. Response to Member Comments
7. Department Head Update
 - a. Project Log
 - b. Tree Work Status Report
 - c. Greenius Training Update
 - d. Quality Control Monthly Report
8. 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.*
 - a. 5065 Tree Removal Request
 - b. 3205-B Tree Removal Request
 - c. 3231-D Tree Removal Request
 - d. 5391-A Tree Removal Request

9. Items for Discussion and Consideration
 - a. Habitat Enhancement Project Report
10. Future Agenda Items: *All matters listed under Future Agenda Items are items for a future committee meeting. No action will be taken by the committee on these agenda items at this meeting.*
 - a. Slope 2025 Schedules
 - b. AB 1572 Updates
 - c. Resident Turf Reduction Incentives
11. Committee Member Comments
12. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.
13. Adjournment

*A quorum of the Third Board or more may also be present at the meeting.

S.K. Park, Chair
Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer
Megan Feliz, Landscape Administrative Assistant
Telephone: 949-268-2565



OPEN MEETING

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE THIRD LAGUNA HILLS MUTUAL
LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.
BOARD ROOM/VIRTUAL MEETING
Laguna Woods Village Community Center, 24351 El Toro Road**

REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair- S.K. Park, Reza Karimi, David Veeneman, Moon Yun

ADVISORS PRESENT: Diane Bonar, Mark Brenner, Krystal Meier

ADVISORS ABSENT: Patricia Bailey

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Megan Feliz

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Park called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Chair Park asked to add item #9b design concept B4001-B4009, item #9c follow-up on previous designs, and item #9d PPRP communication plan. Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the August 1, 2024 Report

Director Karimi moved to approve the meeting report, Director Yun seconded it, and it was unanimously approved.

4. Remarks of the Chair

Chair Park stated this is just his second meeting and he is still learning, as Landscape has several large projects being worked on with AB1572 and PPRP. He is doing his best to keep everyone informed and up to date.

5. Member Comments

- A member commented asking about grubs he noticed in his lawn and what he should do or what protocol on this.
- A member complained about inconsistency in landscape work, not sweeping up well enough after mowing, and about tree replacement.
- A member commented on golf cart charging, security, and water saving in Gate 14.

6. Response to Member Comments

Mr. Wiemann responded to member comments.

7. Department Head Update

a. Project Log

Mr. Wiemann went over the project log for each section in detail. Questions were asked and answered.

b. Tree Work Status Report

Mr. Wiemann explained this report was for Committee information.

c. Greenius Training Update

None

d. Quality Control Monthly Report

Mr. Wiemann explained the graphs. Questions were asked and answered. The committee asked staff to add an area to explain what items were flagged.

8. Consent Calendar - *All matters listed under the Consent Calendar were recommended for action by committees and were enacted by the Board by one motion. Items removed from the Consent Calendar by members of the Board were moved for further discussion and action by the Board.*

a. 5450 Tree Removal Request

Director Karimi moved to approve the staff recommendation to deny the tree removal. Director Veeneman seconded. The Consent Calendar motion was approved by consent.

9. Items for Discussion and Consideration

a. 3200-B Tree Removal Request

Mr. Wiemann presented the staff recommendation and explained the resident's wishes. Director Veeneman motioned to accept the staff recommendation to remove the tree at the owner's expense, and Director Karimi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Design Concepts for B4001-B4009

Mr. Wiemann notified the committee he received the final concepts for B3312-B3329 last night. He will send them out today for their review. B4001-B4009 latest comments were sent back to the designer for changes, will send them out once received.

c. Follow-up up previous design reviews

Mr. Wiemann notified the committee that they are considered a disadvantaged community by the California State Water Resources Control Board, and this gives them another year, until 2030, to comply with AB1572. He offered to give each building schedule for PPRP to the next meeting and where they are in the process.

d. PPRP Communication Plan

Mr. Wiemann explained the notification process and steps to the committee for the PPRP project.

10. Items for Future Agendas

- Slope Schedule 2025
- Incentives for members to remove turf ahead of staff
- AB1572 update

11. Committee Member Comments

None

12. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

13. Recess at 11:20 a.m.

S.K. Park

S.K. Park (Sep 11, 2024 09:16 PDT)

S.K. Park, Chair

Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer

Megan Feliz, Landscape Administrative Assistant

949-268-2565

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Third Mutual Landscape Project Log October 2024									
Project	Contractor	Description	Status	Estimated Completion	Completion	Budget Status	Budget	YTD*	Balance
Tree Maintenance	Great Scott Tree Services, Inc.	The annual program, a combination of contracted work and in-house staff, working on a 6 year species-based trim cycle. Contractor performs mainly scheduled annual maintenance and isolated removals. Staff crew focuses on customer service.	Contracted tree crews trimmed 1,238 trees, removed 13 and planted 1 tree.	Annual Program	55%	48%	\$578,588	\$280,479	\$298,109
	In-House Tree Crew		As of August 31, 2024, the in-house crew trimmed 315 trees and removed 75 trees.		55%	69%	\$401,600	\$278,927	\$122,673
Landscape Modernization	Staff	Replacing old, end of useful life plant material using drought tolerant where appropriate. Replanting small slopes.	On-going annual project using in-house crews. Replanting small slopes in Gate 9 & 10.	Annual Program	60%	44%	\$200,293	\$87,574	\$112,720
Turf Reduction	Nuvis	Turf Reduction/Front Yard Designs	Typical Front Yard Concept Plans; work on hold per Committee direction 4/24. Received final concepts.	June 2024	100%	100%	\$19,250	\$19,250	\$0
	Mission Landscape Architecture	Gate 14 AB1572 Compliance Project	Awarded 9/17/24	July 2025	0%		\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Digital Mapping Project	David Voliz Design	Bahia Blanca Designs	Consultant is finalizing construction plans	August 2024	91%	91%	\$90,604	\$81,524	\$9,080
	Monarch	ArcGIS Mapping of Turf and Slopes	In progress	December 2024	100%	100%	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
Slope Maintenance Outsourced	Mission Landscape	Annual Maintenance	In progress, one month ahead of schedule.	Annual Program	55%	66%	\$568,152	\$373,373	\$194,779
Paint Program Relandscaping Project	Harvest Landscape	Annual Project	In Design. Contractor currently working at B4001-B4004, B3312-B3325.	Annual Project	5%	5%	\$1,750,000	\$93,790	\$1,656,210
Fire Risk Reduction	Dudek/HRS	Habitat Restoration Project	Remove high fire risk/non-native plant material in 100' zone outside perimeter walls in open space area. Ongoing - Selective growth kills in progress.	5-Year Project	50%	52%	\$86,000	\$44,800	\$41,200
	Mission Landscaping/Staff	Project includes the removal of vegetation with a high risk of fire.	Removing overgrown material from interior slopes.	Annual Program	45%	43%	\$94,000	\$40,191	\$53,809
Operations Contracts									

*Completion based upon invoices recieved to-date, 9/27/2024. In-House Expenses as of 08/31/2024

Three Week Projected Schedule

<https://www.lagunaoodsvillage.com/news/category/landscape>

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Third Mutual Off Schedule Tree Work

Date	Manor	Description	Tree Type	Labor Hours	Reason	Decision Level	Replacement Tree	Location of Replacement
8/28/2024	3091	Hanger	Chinese Elm	3	Hanger in Canopy	Staff		
8/28/2024	3071	Hanger	Silk Oak	2	Hanger in Canopy	Staff		
8/28/2024	3070	Hanger	Silk Oak	1	Hanger in Canopy	Staff		
8/29/2024	3162	Trim	Carrottwood	5	Full Trim	Staff		
8/29/2024	3162	Trim	Carrottwood	5	Full Trim	Staff		
8/29/2024	3073	Clearance	Magnolia	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
8/29/2024	3073	Clearance	Magnolia	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
8/29/2024	3054	Clearance	Crape Myrtle	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
8/29/2024	3143	Clearance	Carrottwood	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
8/29/2024	5536	Clearance	Nitida	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
8/29/2024	5547	Clearance	Christmas tree	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
8/29/2024	5561	Clearance	Ficus	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
8/29/2024	3158	Clearance	Carrottwood	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
8/29/2024	3158	Clearance	White Birch	1	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
8/29/2024	3158	Clearance	White Birch	1	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
8/30/2024	5075	Clearance	Melaluca	6	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
8/30/2024	3052	Trim	Melaluca	6	Full Trim	Staff		
8/30/2024	5436	Removal	Grapefruit	6	In Decline	Staff	TBD	TBD
8/30/2024	5204	Clearance	Crape Myrtle	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
8/30/2024	5202	Clearance	Crape Myrtle	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
8/30/2024	5396	Trim	Brisbane Box	6	Full Trim	Staff		
8/30/2024	5396	Trim	Brisbane Box	6	Full Trim	Staff		
9/3/2024	5396	Trim	Brisbane Box	4	Full Trim	Staff		
9/3/2024	2392	Hanger	Aleppo Pine	2	Hanger in Canopy	Staff		
9/3/2024	2292	Removal	Juniper	4	In Decline	Staff	TBD	TBD
9/3/2024	2292	Clearance	Juniper	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/3/2024	2292	Clearance	Juniper	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/3/2024	2292	Clearance	Juniper	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/3/2024	2292	Clearance	Juniper	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/3/2024	2292	Clearance	Juniper	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/3/2024	2345	Clearance	Juniper	1	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/3/2024	5511	Removal	Crape Myrtle	4	In Decline	Staff	TBD	TBD
9/3/2024	5511	Clearance	Monterey Pine	4	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/3/2024	3319	Clearance	Monterey Pine	4	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/3/2024	2337	Clearance	Chinese Elm	1	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/6/2024	5511	Clearance	Lemon	4	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/8/2024	2337	Clearance	Rubber Tree	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/8/2024	2319	Clearance	Yucca	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/8/2024	2160	Clearance	Crape Myrtle	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/8/2024	2160	Clearance	Crape Myrtle	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/8/2024	2267	Clearance	Tupidanthus	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/8/2024	2271	Clearance	Crape Myrtle	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/8/2024	2087	Clearance	Crape Myrtle	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/8/2024	2093	Removal	Juniper	4	In Decline	Staff	TBD	TBD
9/8/2024	2008	Trim	Melaluca	2	Full Trim	Staff		
9/8/2024	2008	Trim	Palm King	2	Full Trim	Staff		
9/10/2024	5298	Hanger	Eucalyptus	2	Hanger in Canopy	Staff		
9/10/2024	3016	Trim	Brazilian Pepper	6	Full Trim	Staff		
9/10/2024	3139	Clearance	Benjamin Ficus	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/10/2024	3165	Clearance	Ficus	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		

9/10/2024	3451	Trim	Crape Myrtle	6	Full Trim	Staff		
9/10/2024	3451	Clearance	Crape Myrtle	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/10/2024	3009	Hanger	Mulberry	2	Hanger in Canopy	Staff		
9/10/2024	5514	Clearance	Red Ironbark	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/10/2024	5514	Clearance	Red Ironbark	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/10/2024	5502	Hanger	Bottlebrush	1	Hanger in Canopy	Staff		
9/10/2024	5480	Clearance	Bottlebrush	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/10/2024	3272	Removal	Lemon	3	In Decline	Staff	TBD	TBD
9/11/2024	5189	Clearance	California Pepper	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/11/2024	4025	Hanger	Eucalyptus	3	Hanger in Canopy	Staff		
9/11/2024	5545	Clearance	California Pepper	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/11/2024	5580	Clearance	Bottlebrush	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/11/2024	5391	Clearance	Carrotwood	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/11/2024	5351	Clearance	Silver Maple	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/11/2024	3063	Trim	Carrottwood	6	Full Trim	Staff		
9/11/2024	3146	Clearance	Carrottwood	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/11/2024	3146	Clearance	Carrottwood	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/11/2024	3350	Clearance	Rusty Leaf Fig	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/11/2024	3350	Clearance	Carrottwood	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/12/2024	3160	Clearance	King Palm	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/12/2024	3160	Clearance	King Palm	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/12/2024	3160	Clearance	King Palm	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/12/2024	3160	Clearance	King Palm	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/12/2024	3241	Clearance	Carrottwood	1	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/12/2024	3423	Removal	Podocarpus	3	In Decline	Staff	TBD	TBD
9/12/2024	2356	Clearance	Ficus	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/12/2024	2357	Clearance	Coral Tree	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/12/2024	22311	Clearance	Lemon	3	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/12/2024	2231	Clearance	King Palm	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/12/2024	2231	Clearance	Brazilian Pepper	1	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/12/2024	2231	Clearance	Brazilian Pepper	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/12/2024	2231	Removal	Pomgrante	2	In Decline	Staff	TBD	TBD
9/12/2024	2118	Hanger	Ficus	1	Hanger in Canopy	Staff		
9/12/2024	2111	Clearance	Rusty Leaf Fig	1	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/12/2024	2111	Clearance	Hibiscus	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/19/2024	3294	Clearance	Bottlebrush	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/19/2024	3250	Clearance	Peppermint tree	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/19/2024	3250	Clearance	Peppermint tree	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/19/2024	3250	Clearance	Peppermint tree	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/19/2024	3250	Clearance	Peppermint tree	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/19/2024	3250	Clearance	Peppermint tree	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/19/2024	3250	Clearance	Magnolia	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/19/2024	5502	Clearance	Indian Laurel Fig	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/19/2024	5502	Clearance	Bottlebrush	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/19/2024	3025	Trim	Canary Island Pine	2	Full Trim	Staff		
9/19/2024	3474	Trim	Carrottwood	2	Full Trim	Staff		
9/19/2024	5518	Clearance	Bottlebrush	1	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/19/2024	5323	Hanger	Chinese Elm	2	Hanger in Canopy	Staff		
9/19/2024	5371	Hanger	Bue Gum	2	Hanger in Canopy	Staff		
9/19/2024	3382	Clearance	Rusty Leaf Fig	2	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/19/2024	5545	Clearance	California Pepper	1	Clear, End Weight	Staff		
9/20/2024	5214	Removal	Rusty Leaf Fig	9	In Decline	Staff	TBD	TBD
9/20/2024	5214	Removal	White Mulberry	9	In Decline	Staff	TBD	TBD
9/20/2024	5214	Trim	Chinese Elm	5	Full Trim	Staff		

GREENIUS TRAINING SCHEDULE 2024

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Blower Safety	Edger Safety	Trimmer Safety	Hedge Trimmer	Truck and Trailer Safety	Zero Turn Mower / Stand On Mowers	Heat Stress	Garden Planting Basics / Plant Transporation / Heat Stress (Refresher)	Pruning / Tree Planting /	Hand Tools	Stump Grinder	Wood Chipper	
1/8/2024	2/6/2024	3/4/2024	4/8/2024	5/9-5/8/2024	6/6-6/7/2024	9/2024-12/2024 7/1, 7/25	8/5/2024	9/2/2024	10/7/2024	11/4/2024	12/2/2024	

SCHEDULED
COMPLETED

*Schedule is subject to change

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Orange QC Reports
8/28/24-9/27/24

Inspections

Average Inpsection Score	Inspections
98.88%	48

Third Inspections Performed Per Day	
Date	Inspection Count
7/21/2024	9
7/28/2024	18
8/4/2024	12
8/11/2024	9
8/18/2024	24

Location Name	Average Inspection Percentage Score	Inspection Count
Third Mutual / (530) Section 5	98.54%	21
Third Mutual / (530) Section 6	99.07%	9
Third Mutual / Section 7 - Gate 11	99.19%	18

Tickets

Third QC Tickets Created Per Day	
Date	Ticket Count
9/8/2024	1
9/15/2024	1

Reason Ticket Created	
9/18/2024	Clipping- not called in
9/15/2024	Active beehive in trunk of tree

Flagged Inspection Tickets Created by Location	
Area	Flagged Inspections
Third Mutual / Section 5	1
Third Mutual / Section 7 - Gate 11	1

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STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 10, 2024
FOR: Landscape Committee
SUBJECT: Tree Removal Request: 5065 Avenida Del Sol – One Melaleuca and Three California Pepper Trees

RECOMMENDATION

Deny the request for the removal of one Melaleuca tree and three California Pepper trees located behind 5065 Avenida Del Sol.

BACKGROUND

The resident purchased the unit in November 2019, and is requesting the removal of one Melaleuca tree and three California Pepper trees, *Melaleuca Linariifolia* and *Schinus Molle*, located at the rear slope of the manor. The reason cited for the removal is tree flammability. There are three additional signatures on the request form, two in favor and one against the removal (Attachment 1).

The Pepper trees were last pruned in May of 2021. Future trimming is tentatively scheduled for fiscal year 2025 as these tree species are on a four-year trim cycle. The height of the Melaleuca tree is approximately 40 feet with a trunk diameter of approximately 10 inches. The Pepper trees are approximately 25 to 30 feet tall with a DBH of 15 to 17 inches. All four of the trees are growing mid slope approximately thirty to sixty feet from the building.

DISCUSSION

At the time of inspection, the Melaleuca and Pepper trees were found to be in good condition. There were no signs of pests or previous pest damage. No decay, no dead, or burnt branches were in the canopy. There wasn't any evidence of a potential fuel ladder. A fuel ladder is a Fire Service term for live or dead vegetation, typically low branches, tall shrubs or grasses, that allows a fire to climb up from the ground level landscape into the tree canopy. These trees were in proximity to the recent fire and were not affected. Due to the distance of the trees to the manor, there is more than sufficient room between the manor and the trees.

Due to the sensitive nature of this request, staff reached out to the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) for their official opinion on the matter (Attachment 2). OCFA stated unless the tree is dead or dying they do not mandate removal.

These trees do not meet the parameters set forth in § 3.3.3, Infrastructure Conflicts, of the Third Mutual Urban Forest Management Plan. It is the recommendation of staff the tree removals be denied. Removing the Melaleuca and California Pepper trees will encourage other members to request unnecessary tree removals of these species. These removals would set a precedent for the community-wide removals.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The cost to remove each Pepper tree is approximately \$1,035 and the Melaleuca \$2,686. The cost to trim the trees at scheduled trimming is \$185 per tree. The estimated value of the Melaleuca tree is \$17,260 and the California Peppers at \$1,380 per tree based on the tree inventory data.

Prepared By: John Cox, Landscape Manager
Reviewed By: Kurt Wiemann, Director of Field Operations
Megan Feliz, Department Administrative Assistant

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1: Mutual Landscape Request Form
Attachment 2: OCFA Email
Attachment 3: Photographs

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.

5065 Avenida del Sol

Address

July 18, 2024

Today's Date

Jeffrey and Audrey Grider

Resident's Name

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): Tree removal or heavy pruning for fire mitigation.

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): Highly flammable trees near houses - neighbor's house caught fire.

GUIDELINES:

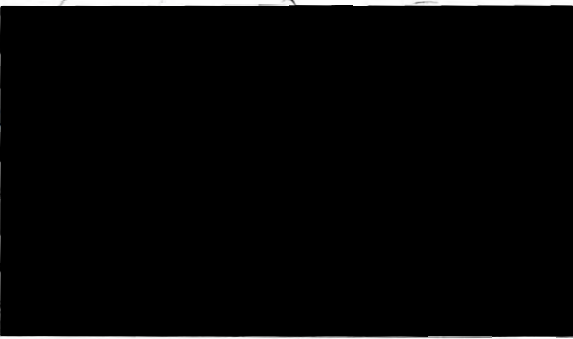
- Structural/Sewer Damage: Damage to buildings, sidewalks, sewer pipes, or other facilities may justify removal if corrective measures are not practical.
- Overgrown/Crowded: Trees or plants that have outgrown the available space may justify removal.
- Damaged/Declining Health: Trees or plants that are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

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. Melaleuca and pepper trees on rear slope in very close proximity to houses. On 7/14/2024 the neighbor's house caught fire, and the only reason that the trees didn't catch fire is because we weren't having windy conditions. This is a second request, as melaleuca is highly flammable, and becomes a torch with a crown fire when combusting, along with toxic smoke. This is in follow-up to an email that was sent to VMS and GRF on 7/18/2024. The original request was made on 5/7/2020. We are very concerned for our safety in the event of brush fires or other fire events, such as happened on 7/14/2024. Ideally, we want these trees removed as soon as possible, especially since we will shortly be entering fire season.

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.

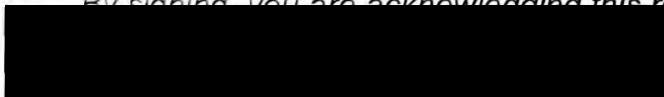
Signature	Manor #	For	Undecided	Against
	5066	REMOVE TREES		
	5064	Remove Trees		
	5129	Trim		
	Ayres Hotel - we don't have their names -			

Note

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

Acknowledgement - Owner

By signing, you are acknowledging this request.



Owner's Signature

Jeffrey and Audrey Grider

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: _____

From: Babbitt, Nathan [REDACTED]@ocfa.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2024 4:50 PM
To: [REDACTED]@vmsinc.org>
Subject: Laguna Woods - Trees

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]@ocfa.org. [Learn why this is important](#)
Good afternoon John,

OCFA does not mandate tree removal unless they are dead or dying. If the trees are healthy and being properly maintained (4' from the groundcover or vegetation underneath) we will not mandate removal.

Thank you,



Nathan Babbitt
Fire Prevention Specialist
[REDACTED]

In service of others!

Attachment 3













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STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 10, 2024
FOR: Landscape Committee
SUBJECT: Tree Removal Request and Off-schedule Trimming Request: 3205-B Via Buena Vista – One Shamel Ash Tree

RECOMMENDATION

- Deny the request for the removal of one Shamel Ash tree located at 3205-B Via Buena Vista
- Deny the request for the off-schedule trimming of one Shamel Ash tree located at 3205-B Via Buena Vista

BACKGROUND

The resident purchased the unit in November 2017, and is requesting the removal of one Shamel Ash tree, *Fraxinus uhdei*, located at the rear of the unit in the turf. The reason cited for the removal is root intrusion leading to foundation crack. There are two additional signatures on the request form in favor of the removal (Attachment 1).

The Ash tree, and the adjacent trees in the turf area, were last pruned in February of 2021. Future trimming is tentatively scheduled for fiscal year 2025 as this tree is on a four-year trim cycle. The height of the tree is approximately 40 feet with a trunk diameter of approximately 19 inches. The tree is growing in the turf approximately 45 feet from the building.

DISCUSSION

At the time of inspection, the Shamel Ash tree was found to be in good condition. There were no signs of pests or previous pest damage. No decay and no lean towards the building. There is dormancy in the branches in the canopy which is normal for this species. There were no visible surface roots growing towards the manor.

Due to the proximity of the tree to the manor, there is more than sufficient room between the manor and the tree. There had been a building settlement inspection in July of 2024, which did not conclude the tree was the issue.

This tree does not meet the parameters set forth in § 3.3.3, Infrastructure Conflicts, of the Third Mutual Urban Forest Management Plan. It is the recommendation of the staff the tree removal be denied. The off-schedule trimming of the trees is unnecessary as the tree is scheduled for 2025.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The cost to remove the Ash tree is approximately \$1,501. The cost to trim the tree at a crew rental cost is approximately \$450, scheduled trimming is \$185. The estimated value of the tree is \$6,080 based on the tree inventory data.

Prepared By: John Cox, Landscape Manager
Reviewed By: Kurt Wiemann, Director of Field Operations
Megan Feliz, Department Administrative Assistant

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1: Mutual Landscape Request Form
Attachment 2: Photographs



BY: _____

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.

3205 VIA BUENA VISTA #B

Address

AUG. 27, 2024

Today's Date

GARY WEBER

Resident's Name

[REDACTED]
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): TREE ROOT SYSTEM CAUSING LIVING ROOM FRACTUREDESTROYING CARPET & PAD / ALSO DISCOVERING 9" TILE WITH ASBESTOS MASTIC**Reason for Request**

HEALTH HAZARD

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

☐ Structural Damage ☐ Sewer Damage ☒ Overgrown ☐ Poor Condition☐ Litter/Debris ☐ Personal Preference ☐ View Obstruction☐ Other (explain): TREES NEEDS TRIMMING (3-TOTAL) ON GREENBELT**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.
- View Blockage: By nature, view blockage must be reviewed case by case to determine the appropriate course of action.
- 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.

TREE IN QUESTION IS 47 FT FROM REAR DECK - ROOTS

GROWING UNDER GROUND UNDER LIVING ROOM SLAB

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
KAREN CLARK (VACANT)	A			
MARK FARLAN	C			

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

Acknowledgement - Owner

By signing, you are acknowledging this request.


Owner's Signature

GARY WEBER
Owner's Name

OFFICE USE ONLY

MOVE-IN DATE: _____

DATE: _____ INITIALS: _____

530 _____ 540 _____

570 _____ LAST PRUNED: _____

RELANDSCAPED: _____

NEXT TIME: _____

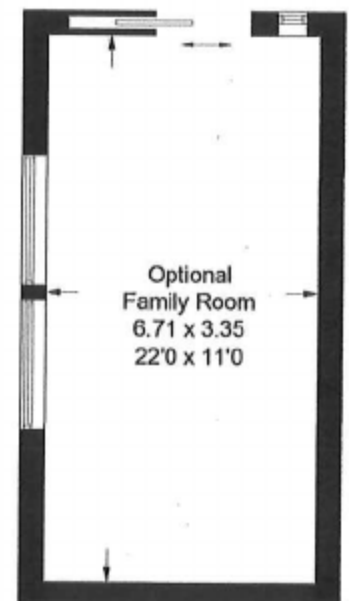
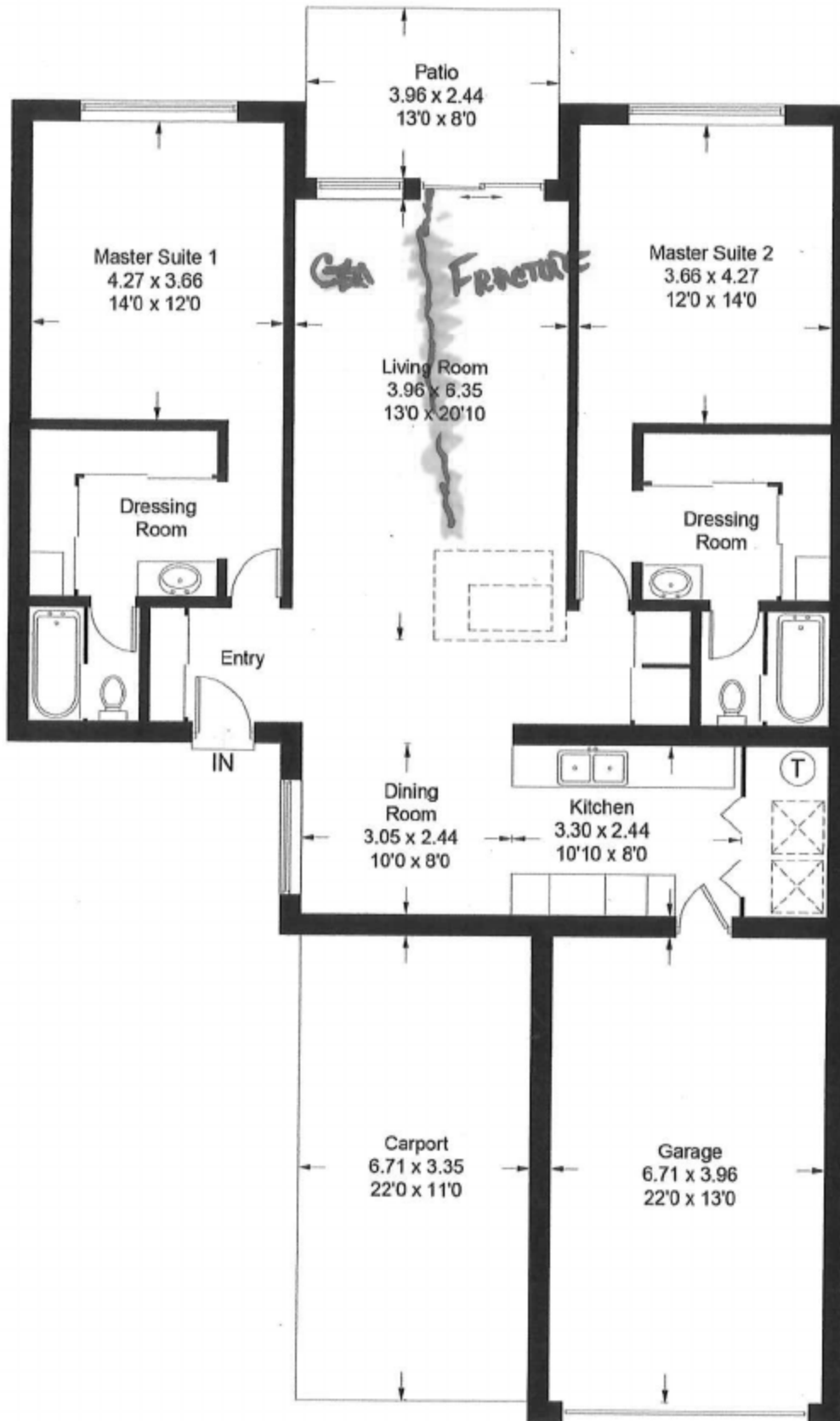
TREE SPECIES: _____

COMMENTS: _____

TREE VALUE: _____ TREE REMOVAL COST: _____

El Doble

Approximate Gross Internal Area = 116.1 sq m / 1250 sq ft
(Including Garage / Optional Family Room)



(Not Shown In Actual
Location / Orientation)





Attachment 2





















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STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 10, 2024
FOR: Landscape Committee
SUBJECT: Tree Trimming Request: 3231-D Via Carrizo – One Weeping Fig Tree

RECOMMENDATION

Deny the request for the off-schedule trimming of one Weeping Fig tree located in the turf in front at 3231-D Via Carrizo.

BACKGROUND

The resident purchased the unit in June 2023, and is requesting the off-schedule trimming of a Weeping Fig tree, *Ficus Benjamina*, located at the front of the unit, in the turf. The reason cited for the removal is leaf and fruit debris. There are three signatures on the request form in favor of the trimming (Attachment 1).

The Weeping Fig tree was last pruned in May of 2023. Future trimming is tentatively scheduled for fiscal year 2026. This tree is on a three-year trim cycle. The height of the tree is approximately 40 feet, with a trunk diameter of approximately 19 inches. The tree is growing in the turf at the front of the manor. The tree is approximately 30 feet from the manor.

DISCUSSION

At the time of inspection, the Weeping Fig tree was found to be in good condition. There were no signs of pests or previous pest damage. No decay, dead or broken branches were in the canopy. There was no overhang of limbs over the roof. No visible surface roots were seen.

The proximity of this tree did not jeopardize the stability of the tree. The tree is well situated in the middle of a sizable turf area. Leaf debris is seasonal and is not considered a reason for off-schedule trimming.

The tree does not meet the parameters set forth in §3.2.2.1, Tree Pruning Recommendations, of the Third Mutual Urban Forest Management Plan. It is the recommendation of staff the off-schedule trimming be denied.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The cost to trim the tree at off-schedule trimming is \$800. The estimated value of the trees is \$6,080 based on the tree inventory data.

Prepared By: John Cox, Landscape Manager
Reviewed By: Kurt Wiemann, Director of Field Operations
Megan Feliz, Department Administrative Assistant

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1:	Mutual Landscape Request Form
Attachment 2:	Photographs



Laguna Woods Village

BY: _____

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.

3231 VIA CARRIZO UNIT D
Address

9/11/2024
Today's Date

Gene Han
Resident's Name

414-837-0691
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): Too many fruits and leaves are falling from this Ficus tree.

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): _____**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.

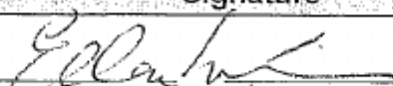
Description & Location of Request

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.

In front of the garage.

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
	3224 (1117B)			
Kathy Kones	3224 A			
Connie Kulesh	323 K			

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

Acknowledgement - Owner

By signing, you are acknowledging this request.

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: _____

Attachment 2







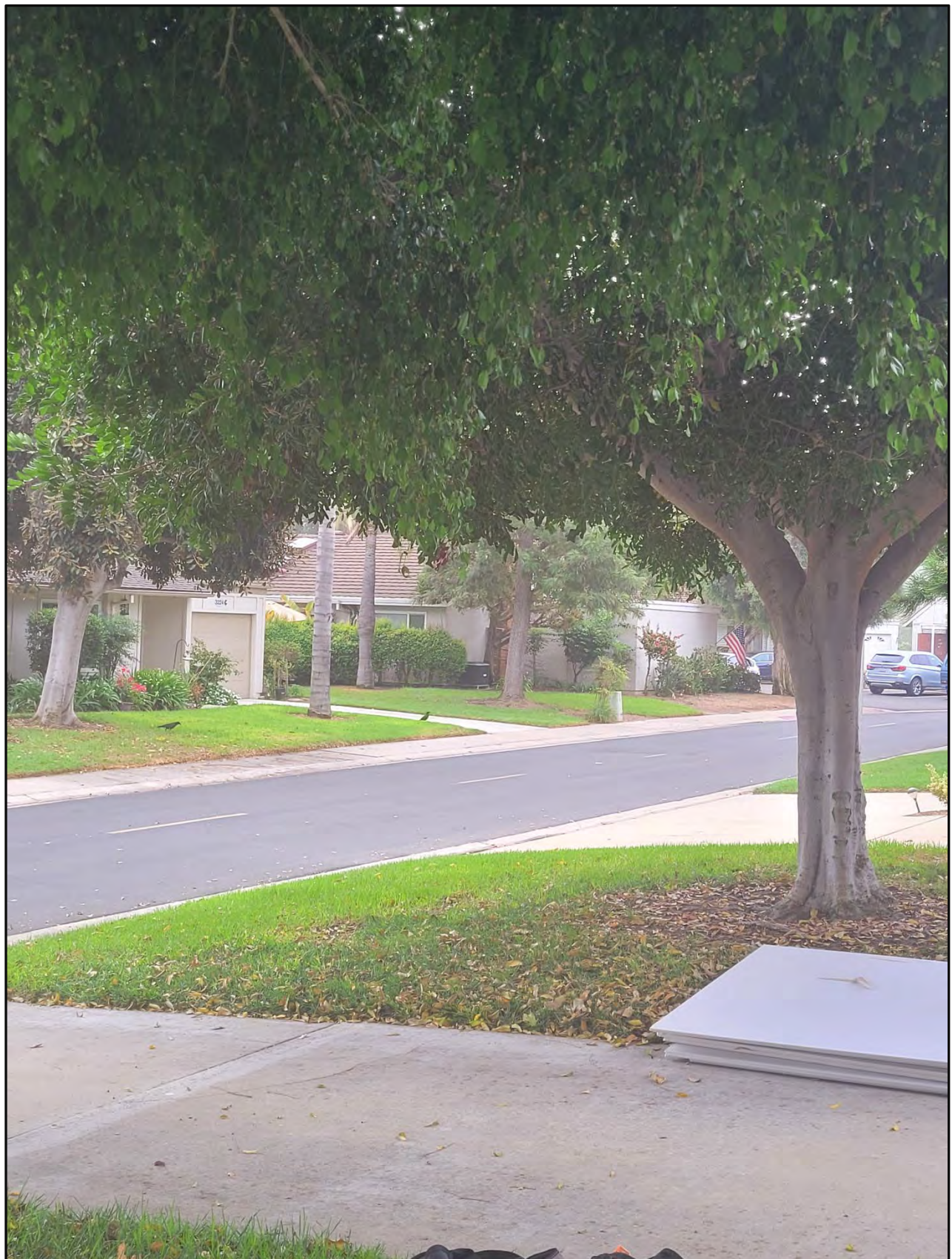




















STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 10, 2024
FOR: Landscape Committee
SUBJECT: Tree Removal Request: 5391-A Paseo Del Lago West – One Carrotwood Tree and One Pine Tree

RECOMMENDATION

- Deny the request for removal of one Carrotwood tree
- Approve the request for the removal of one Pine tree located at 5391-A Paseo Del Lago
- Defer the request for a retaining wall to the Maintenance and Construction Committee

BACKGROUND

The resident purchased the unit in June 2012, and is requesting the removal of two trees. One of the trees is a Pine tree, *Pinus Halepensis*, located at the side of the unit in the shrub bed. The other tree is a Carrotwood tree, *Cupaniopsis Anacardioides*, located in the rear of the unit on the turf. The reason cited for both removals is the potential for tree root intrusion. There are no additional signatures on the request form in favor of the removal (Attachment 1).

The height of the Carrotwood tree is approximately 40 feet with a trunk diameter of approximately 18 inches. The tree is growing in the turf area approximately 30 feet from the building.

DISCUSSION

At the time of inspection, the Carrotwood tree was found to be in good condition. There were no signs of pests or previous pest damage. No decay, no lean towards the building. There were no surface roots growing towards the manor. The tree is well situated in the turf area with sufficient room between the canopy and the alteration patio cover roof.

The Pine tree is not in Mutual inventory and appears to have grown from a volunteer. Due to the proximity of the tree to the manor, there is insufficient room between the manor and the tree and it should be removed.

The Carrotwood tree does not meet the parameters set forth in §3.3.3, Infrastructure Conflicts, of the Third Mutual Urban Forest Management Plan. It is the recommendation of the staff the tree removal be denied.

The Pine tree meets the parameters set forth in §3.3.3, Infrastructure Conflicts, of the Third Mutual Urban Forest Management Plan. It is the recommendation of the staff the tree removal be approved.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The cost to remove the Pine tree is approximately \$828 and to remove the Carrotwood tree \$1,242. The estimated value of the Carrotwood tree is \$3,260 based on the tree inventory data.

Prepared By: John Cox, Landscape Manager
Reviewed By: Kurt Wiemann, Director of Field Operations
Megan Feliz, Department Administrative Assistant

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1: Mutual Landscape Request Form
Attachment 2: Photographs



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.

5391 Paseo Del Lago West, Unit A

9/9/2024

Address

Today's Date

Vincent Chang

Resident's Name

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): Building retaining walls along the front planter area to prevent dirt/land slide on to the side walk, also causing the vegetation to die

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): Building retaining walls along the front planter area to prevent dirt/land slide on to the side walk, also causing the vegetation to die

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.

1) Tree removal: (2) trees in the backyard too close to the house and both overgrown causing the roof damages with the fallen leaves.

2) Building retaining walls along the front planter area to prevent dirt/land slide on to the side walk, also causing the vegetation to die

NOTE: Pictures are attached for both requests.

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

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

Acknowledgement - Owner

By signing, you are acknowledging this request.

Owner's Signature

Vincent Chang

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: _____

1) Tree Removal



Tree is overgrown, causing the massive amount of the leaves fallen to the roof. Fallen leaves causes the damage to the roofing and clogs the rain gutter and spout.



Tree is grown too close to the building.
The foundation might get damaged and the root intrusion to the sewer pipe was discovered and cleared.

2) Retaining Wall



Some trees need to be removed in order to provide space for the retaining wall.

2 lines of retaining wall would be needed to provide adequate plantation space.



Neighbor across the street has the retaining wall already.

Carrotwood Tree





Pine Tree



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Year 1 Annual Report

Laguna Laurel Conservation Easement Property Habitat Enhancement Project

SEPTEMBER 2024

Prepared for:

VILLAGE MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.

24351 El Toro Road

Laguna Woods, California 92637

Contact: Kurt Wiemann

Prepared by:

DUDEK

605 Third Street

Encinitas, California 92024

Contact: Jeremy Rios

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APPENDICES

- A Plant Compendium
- B Wildlife Compendium

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
OC Parks	Orange County Parks
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
FMZ	Fuel Modification Zone
HOA	Laguna Woods Homeowners Association
HEZ	Habitat Enhancement Zone
OCFA	Orange County Fire Authority
HRS	Habitat Restoration Sciences, Inc.
GPS	Global Positioning System Unit

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1 Project Information

This annual report documents the first year of the Laguna Laurel Conservation Easement Property Habitat Enhancement Project (project) in the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. The Laguna Laurel Easement Property (property) is situated directly northwest of the Laguna Woods Village residential community. The property occupies 173 acres within the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, included in the Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks. The property is encompassed by a 20,000-acre protected open space area in the northern foothills of the San Joaquin Hills in Orange County, California (Figure 1).

Orange County Parks (OC Parks) owns the property, and the Nature Conservancy (TNC) holds a conservation easement deed on the land. OC Parks and TNC jointly manage the property, referred to as Parcel 5, and identified in *The Resource Plan for Laguna Laurel Enhancement Property* (TNC 2009). A 30-foot fuel modification zone (FMZ) has been mowed by the Laguna Woods Village Homeowners Association (HOA), via an annual encroachment permit, since 2019. The HOA requested an expansion of the 30-foot FMZ in 2021. OC Parks and TNC responded to the HOA's request by proposing a habitat enhancement zone (HEZ) that would be maintained an additional 70 feet away from the pre-existing 30-foot FMZ. The changes to the property maintenance agreement were approved via the *First Letter Amendment to Resource Plan for Laguna Laurel Conservation Easement Property* (TNC 2021) on August 20, 2021.

The *Laguna Coast Wilderness Park – Laguna Laurel Conservation Easement Property Habitat Enhancement Plan for “Vegetation Management Zones”* (Plan; OC Parks 2022) serves as the guiding document for this project and outlines the project objectives, background, schedule, and methodology in detail. OC Parks and TNC maintain that any observed negative biological impacts on the property, attributed to mowing, may compromise the recurring approval of the annual encroachment permit. The expanded project area includes two zones encompassed by the HOA maintained property (Figure 2):

1. Fuel Modification Zone (FMZ) – 0 feet – 30 feet beginning at the HOA boundary wall.
2. Habitat Enhancement Zone (HEZ) – 30 feet – 100 feet from the HOA boundary wall.

The purpose of the project is to reduce the fuel load throughout the vegetation zones while also enhancing the habitat. In the FMZ, fuel load reduction is the primary goal, while in the HEZ the primary goal is to enhance habitat.

1.1 Project Objectives

The goals for the project are reduce fuel load throughout the FMZ, enhance habitat in the HEZ, and provide data and management strategies via experimentation that may educate and provide outreach opportunities to further improve management of the wildland-urban interface. The three goals outlined per the Plan include:

Goal 1: Improve Ecological Function

Reduce the percent cover of non-native plants and increase the percent cover of a functionally diverse suite of native plants.

- Objective 1A: Prevent the introduction and establishment of new invasive plants
- Objective 1B: Decrease percent cover of non-native plants

- Objective 1C: Increase and sustain percent cover and species richness of native plants
- Objective 1D: Enhance pollinator resources throughout the year by increasing the presence of native plant species with a variety of bloom times
- Objective 1E: Create habitat for cactus wrens (cactus, bare ground, native forbs)
- Objective 1F: Create habitat for grassland-associated wildlife such as badgers, kites, and burrowing owls (low-growing vegetation)

Goal 2: Reduce Vegetative Fuel Load

Reduce dry flashy fuels by establishing low-growing native plants with high moisture content that can be periodically mowed and by planting cactus.

- Objective 2A: Permanently reduce the non-native vegetative fuel load by maintaining vegetation to Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) standards of mowing and spacing, and converting habitat type
- Objective 2B: Allow annual mowing of non-shrub native vegetation, per TNC's Resource Plan
- Objective 2C: Further fire-harden the habitat enhancement zone by installing plantings of native cacti

Goal 3: Experimentation, Education, and Outreach

Contribute knowledge and best practices for managing conserved wildlands along the wildland-urban interface.

- Objective 3A: Experiment with the timing of mowing events to maximize fuel reduction, non-native plant propagule reduction, pollinator resource availability, and native plant persistence
- Objective 3B: Experiment with the native seed mix to maximize fuel reduction, non-native plant propagule reduction, pollinator resource availability, and native plant persistence
- Objective 3C: Educate HOA on plant ID and preferred species composition within zone for long-term maintenance
- Objective 3D: Communicate project status and results to OC Parks, TNC, and interested partners and stakeholders (e.g., Coastal Greenbelt Authority, Natural Communities Coalition, and Laguna Canyon Foundation)

In addition to the project goals, two research questions were posed to drive data collection, data analysis, and the maintenance and monitoring program. These research questions are focused on the timing and frequency of mowing and the seed mix composition and rates of application. Research questions will be addressed by Dudek during each annual report.

Timing and Frequency of Mowing

- a. What is the ideal timing for mowing of native species, to maximize native seed set, minimize non-native seed set, and minimize fuel loads?
- b. Can generalities be drawn over multiple years, or will this necessarily be an adaptive decision every year based on variable environmental conditions and plant phenology?
- c. Is one mowing event per year in native grassland/forbland vegetation communities sufficient to meet fuel reduction goals in all years?

Seed Mix Composition and Rate of Application

- a. What seed mix is most successful for establishment of a mowable native grassland/forbland?

1.2 Monitoring Methodology

Monitoring of the project will be conducted on a quarterly basis by the Dudek restoration ecologist. During quarterly monitoring visits, the restoration ecologist will document current site conditions including:

- Photos from the established photo points
- Plant species observed on site
- A rapid visual assessment of each established quadrat (10 x 10 meter), associated with a photo point including:
 - Absolute cover of native, non-native, and invasive species
 - Dominant species (>20% absolute cover)
 - Species richness
- Erosion and recommended erosion control measures
- Trash or debris
- Trespassing and/or vandalism

Maintenance recommendations will be provided to the restoration contractor (HRS), OC Parks, and TNC based on the quarterly visit observations. A decision-making protocol was developed by Dudek, with support from OC Parks and TNC provided on an ongoing basis to guide vegetation management based on site assessments conducted at the time of maintenance events. A preliminary decision-making matrix is presented in Table 1 based on the project objectives and the results of the baseline assessment conducted on July 17, 2023.

Table 1. Vegetation Management Decision Support Protocol

Ecological Threshold	Vegetation Zone	Threshold	Response
Absolute Cover Native Grass/Forbs	FMZ	>30%	Avoid mowing, weed whip around native vegetation patches.
	HEZ	>20%	Avoid weed whipping until plants have set seed.
Native Grass/Forb Patch Size	FMZ	>3 m ²	Avoid mowing, weed whip around patch.
	HEZ	>1 m ²	Avoid weed whipping until plants have set seed.
Native Species Richness	FMZ	>5 species	Avoid mowing, weed whip around patches.
	HEZ	>3 species	Do not mow. Weed whip after plants have set seed.

Since the project is a pilot experiment, its purpose is to better understand how to manage FMZs and adjacent habitat (HEZ) to reduce fuel loads and enhance habitat quality. The vegetation management decision support protocol will continue to be developed based on the research questions, project objectives, and findings from implementing vegetation management.

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2 Baseline Ecological Assessment

Dudek conducted a baseline assessment survey of the project area and coordinated work with the restoration contractor prior to the first mowing event. 12 photo points were established with 6 in the FMZ and 6 in the HEZ (Figure 3(a-l)), rapid visual estimating sampling quadrats were established at each photo point, and project boundaries were confirmed for the FMZ and HEZ. A 10-meter by 10-meter (100 meter²) quadrat was established at the northwestern corner of each photo point for conducting rapid visual estimates of cover throughout the site. Assessments conducted for existing (pre-project) site conditions were photo-documented from the 12 established photo points. In addition, a compendium of plant (Appendix A) and wildlife (Appendix B) species observed on site were recorded. Prior to contractor work, the maintenance approach was reviewed with HRS, and a pre-mowing nesting bird survey was completed in accordance with the requirements of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Compendium of plant and wildlife species observed on site are provided in Appendices A and B and will be maintained and updated based on future field observations.

HRS conducted the site maintenance on July 21, 2023, including mowing of the FMZ area and selective mechanical/hand treatment of non-native species throughout the HEZ area, avoiding native species. This mowing event was conducted at the request of the HOA and is an additional mowing event, not required in the plan. OC Parks and TNC approved this request for an additional mowing event. A subsequent non-native maintenance species maintenance visit by HRS took place on September 13, 2023, as part of Year 0 project activities.

OC Parks reported that maintenance activities had encroached upon the City of Irvine property adjacent the project area. Project boundaries were established using approved mapping from OC Parks and was updated to include the corrected boundary (Figure 2). During the following maintenance and monitoring visit, Dudek confirmed the t-posts demarcating the project boundaries appropriately.

Baseline Assessment Results

During the baseline assessment a compendium of plant and wildlife species observed on site was created. In addition, rapid visual cover estimates of quadrats established at each of the 12 photo points were collected. Table 2 shows the average results for the baseline cover results.

Based on the results of the baseline visual cover estimates, it was determined that the FMZ and HEZ averaged similar native cover values. In contrast, the average percent non-native cover in the FMZ was nearly half the non-native cover in the HEZ. In general, the FMZ had more bare ground and much more thatch than the HEZ.

The FMZ may be exhibiting lower non-native cover in response to being routinely mowed since 2019. The FMZ also exhibited much more thatch and bare ground, likely attributed to the routine mowing as well. The HEZ, had less native cover than expected. However, since the quadrats for the HEZ were placed on the boundary of the FMZ and in areas that were more severely degraded, visual cover estimates do not capture portions of the HEZ with high quality habitat. The intent of quadrat placement was to choose areas that were more highly degraded to best capture whether project activities may have a substantial impact on fuel load and habitat quality over time.

Table 2. Baseline Assessment Average Visual Cover Estimates

	Percent Absolute Cover			
	Native	Non-native	Bare Ground	Thatch
Average FMZ	3.3	20.5	11.5	64.7
Average HEZ	5.0	56.5	5.0	33.5

3 Project Implementation and Maintenance

In conjunction with the baseline assessment on July 17, 2023, and prior to the mowing event, HRS installed t-posts throughout the project area, approximately every 100 feet laterally across the site and at all corners, to delineate the 30-foot wide FMZ and the 70-foot wide HEZ. Installed t-posts locations were confirmed by Dudek during the baseline assessment using a sub-meter accuracy global positioning system (GPS) unit.

HRS conducted the first mowing event on July 21, 2023. The FMZ was mowed leaving a few inches of vegetation clearance above the soil surface. The HEZ was maintained using weed whips to avoid any impacts to native vegetation and was mowed in areas dominated by non-native vegetation. A water tank was temporarily staged on the western end of the site as a safety precaution in the event of fire during the mowing event. All thatch was spread along the access road per the plan. In addition to mowing, HRS removed any trash and debris present on site.

The baseline assessment marked the beginning of Year 0 as outline in Table 3. The pre-project mowing event was not specified by the plan but conducted as a supplemental mowing event requested by the HOA and approved by OC Parks and TNC.

Table 3. Project Timeline

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Year 0 (2023)							B, M	S	N			S
Year 1 (2024)		G	S	G, S		S, G	N, S, P	N, A	N	M, N, S	G	N
Year 2 (2025)	G, S	G	G	S, G	N	N	N, S, P	N, A	N	S	G	
Year 3 (2026)	N, D, S		G	S, G	M	N	S, P	N, A		S		N
Year 4 (2027)	N, S			S, N	M	N	S, P	A	N	S		N
Year 5 (2028)	N, S			S, N		S, M	N, S, P	A	N	M, P	A, T	N

B = Baseline Assessment
M = Mowing Event
S = Site Monitoring

G = Grow-kill Treatment
N = Non-native Species Maintenance
P = Photo Point/Quadrat Data Collection (Annual)

D = Drill Seeding Installation
A = Annual Report
T = Project Termination

The first mowing event of Year 2 is scheduled to occur in Fall 2024 after any native summer flowering species have finished setting seed. Ecological monitoring will continue to be conducted on a quarterly basis and as-needed in support of maintenance activities for the duration of the project. Nesting bird surveys will be conducted prior to any mowing events during nesting bird season (March 1 – August 31). In addition, any sensitive plant or wildlife species observed on site will be flagged for avoidance and appropriate buffers will be established to avoid any impacts. A detailed schedule is presented in Table 3.

The vegetation management support decision protocol outlined in Table 1 will be used as a working and evolving protocol for the duration of the project. As more data is collected and the management team analyzes project progress, the vegetation management support decision protocol may be updated and expanded. Dudek will work collaboratively with OC Parks, TNC, and HRS throughout the project to achieve the goals and objectives outline Section 1.2 and the Plan.

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4 Year 1 Quantitative Results

Dudek conducted the first annual quantitative monitoring visit on July 16, 2024, to document visual cover estimates of the 12 established, 10-meter by 10-meter quadrats. Updated photos were also collected at the established photo points for each quadrat and are provided in Figure 3(a-l). Table 4 displays the results from the rapid visual cover estimates of the established quadrats.

Table 4. Year 1 Annual Quantitative Visual Cover Estimates

Quadrat	Percent Absolute Cover			
	Native	Non-native	Bare Ground	Thatch
FMZ #1	40	20	50	30
HEZ #1	55	15	35	20
FMZ #2	80	20	30	15
HEZ #2	20	55	25	10
FMZ #3	30	50	70	10
HEZ #3	80	15	25	20
FMZ #4	1	70	20	10
HEZ #4	45	35	40	15
FMZ #5	0	80	15	20
HEZ #5	3	50	20	40
FMZ #6	25	55	45	10
HEZ #6	80	15	35	10
Average FMZ	29.3	49.2	38.3	15.8
Average HEZ	47.2	30.8	30	19.2

Based on the results of the visual cover estimates (Table 4), the HEZ averaged almost double the native cover as the FMZ. In contrast, the FMZ had a higher non-native cover and slightly higher level of bare ground compared to the HEZ. In general, the HEZ and FMZ had similar levels of thatch.

Compared to the results of the baseline assessment (Table 2), native cover in both the FMZ and HEZ has significantly increased. Non-native cover in the HEZ has decreased and was lower than the non-native cover in the FMZ, in contrast to the baseline results when non-native cover was much higher in the HEZ than the FMZ. These differences in native and non-native cover are most likely due to the more selective weed treatment protocol established as part of the project objectives (Table 1). Bare ground has increased in both the FMZ and HEZ compared to the baseline assessment and thatch has been significantly reduced in both zones.

The main purpose of the project is to reduce the fuel load throughout the vegetation zones while also enhancing the habitat. The Year 1 quantitative results suggest that the maintenance schedule in the first year was effective in progressing towards project goals. Native cover has greatly increased in both zones and non-native cover is significantly lower in the HEZ at the end of Year 1 compared to the baseline assessment, indicating an overall improvement to the habitat quality. Bare ground has also increased, and thatch greatly reduced, on average, which is reducing the available fuel load.

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5 Discussion

In addition to the project goals, two research questions were posed to drive data collection, data analysis, and the maintenance and monitoring program. These research questions are focused on the timing and frequency of mowing and the seed mix composition and rates of application. However, the main maintenance goal of the first three years of the project is focused on grow-kill events to reduce the available seed bank of non-native species. Three grow-kill events occurred during Year 1, strategically timed to follow rain events and to control non-native species before flowering and seed set. This approach may be considered successful due to the substantial increase in native cover and decrease in non-native cover across the entire Project site. Continuing to strategically time grow-kill events is recommended to continue in Years 2 and 3 of the Project.

Following the completion of Year 1, more data and time is required to reflect on the established long-term goals for the Project. The results of the quantitative visual cover estimates suggest that the current maintenance schedule and vegetation management decision support protocol is working towards the project's goals of enhancing native habitat and reducing the fuel load across the two zones.

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6 Recommendations

Vegetation Management Decision Support Protocol – No changes are proposed to the non-native species control protocol for Year 2. A biologist will continue to monitor the site and mark patches of native grasses and sensitive species that should be avoided during mowing events and when using weed whips.

Maintenance Schedule – No changes are proposed to the maintenance schedule for Year 2.

Seed Collection – Seed collection is recommended to begin in Year 2 so locally sourced seed material can be prepared for the project seed mixes that will begin to be applied in Year 3.

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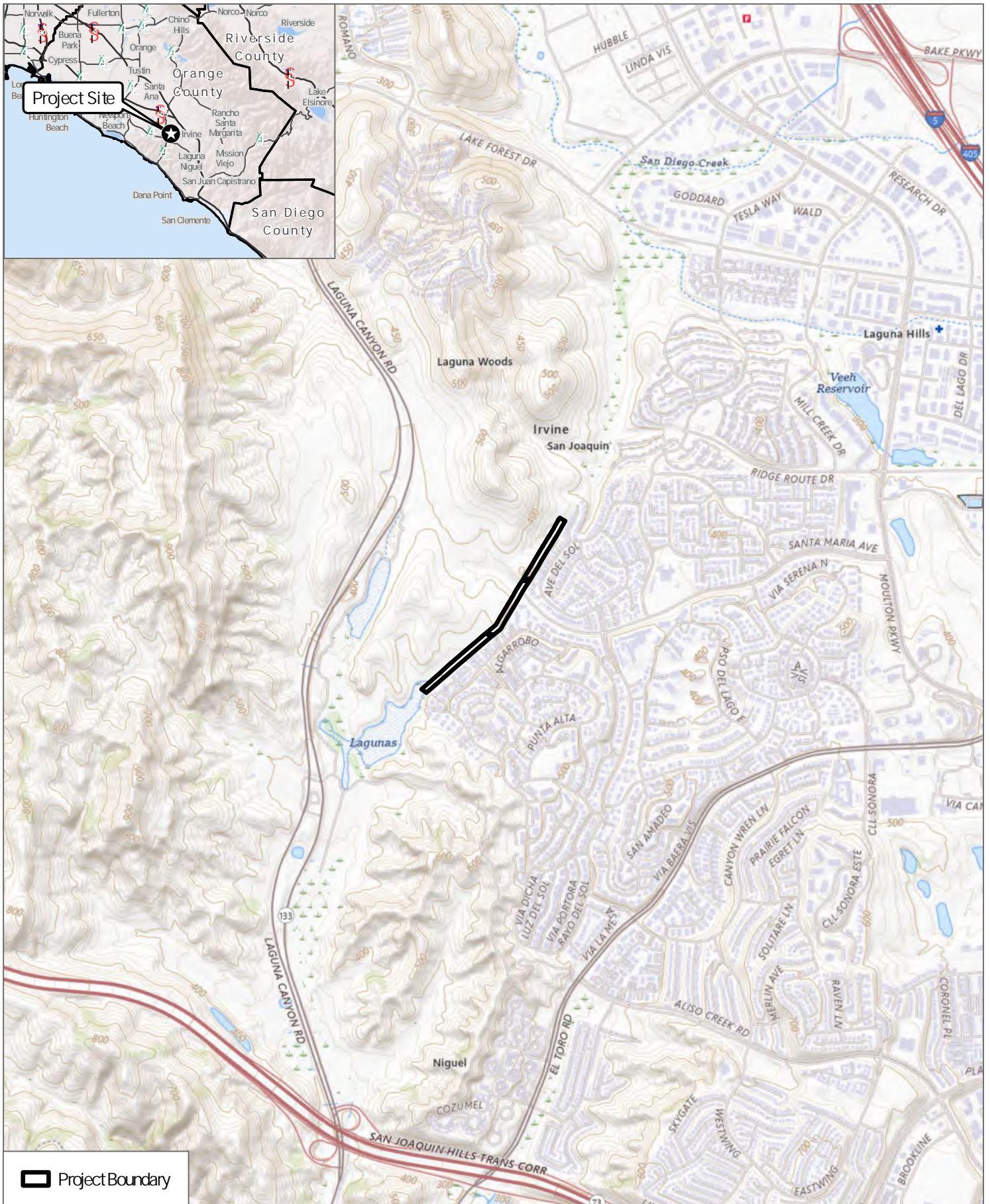
7 References

Orange County Parks. 2022.. *Laguna Coast Wilderness Park – Laguna Laurel Conservation Easement Property Habitat Enhancement Plan for “Vegetation Management Zones.”*

The Nature Conservancy. 2009. *The Resource Plan for Laguna Laurel Easement Property.*

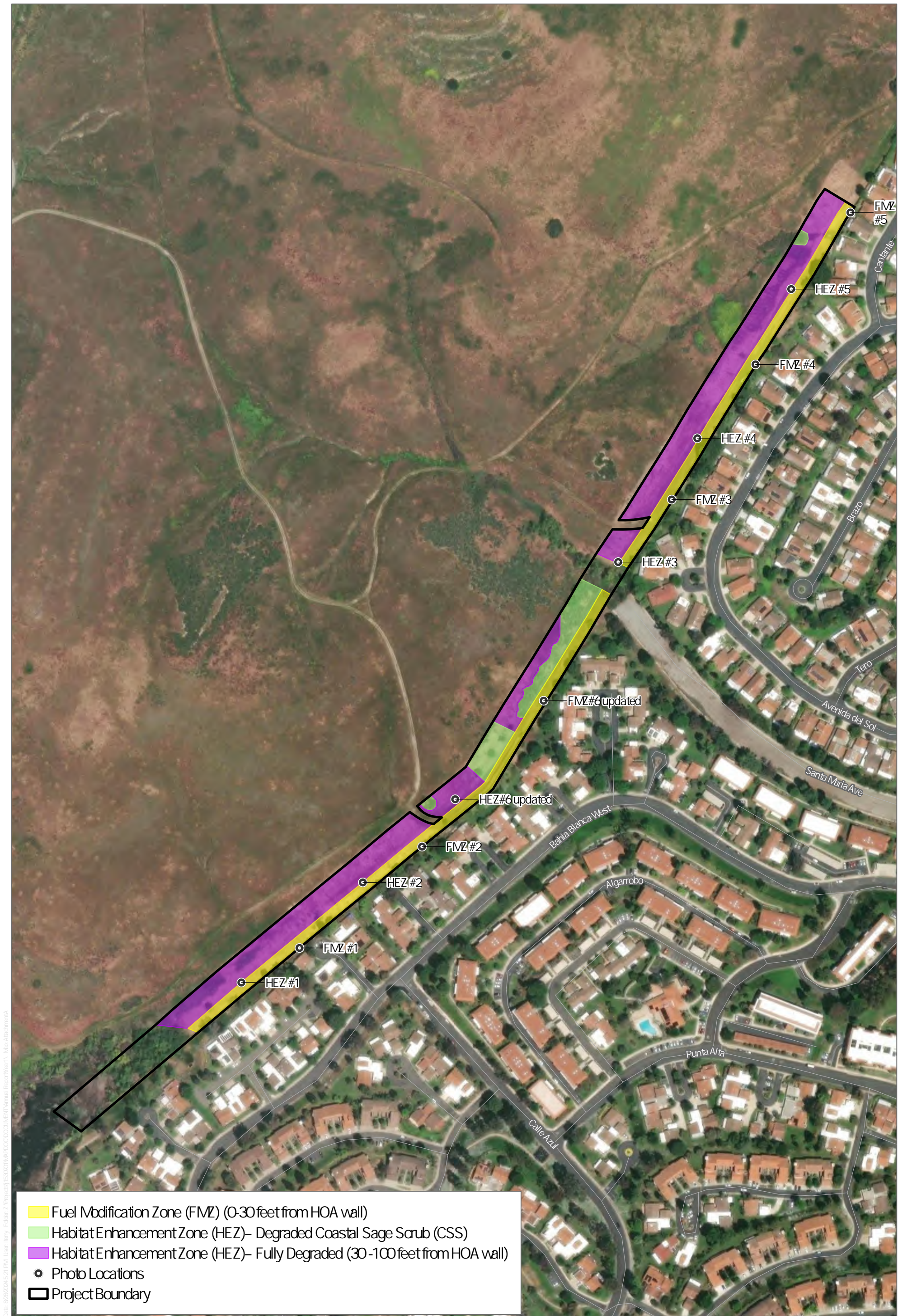
The Nature Conservancy. 2021. *First Letter Amendment to Resource Plan for Laguna Laurel Conservation Easement Property.*

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SOURCE: USGS National Map 2024

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SOURCE: ESRI IMAGERY 2023

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FMZ #1 - West



FMZ #1 - North



FMZ #1 - East

PHOTOS TAKEN JULY 2024

SOURCE: DUDEK 2024

DUDEK

FIGURE 3a

Photo Point Figure - Fuel Mod Zone (FMZ) #1

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FMZ #2 - West



FMZ #2 - North



FMZ #2 - East

PHOTOS TAKEN JULY 2024

SOURCE: DUDEK 2024

DUDEK

FIGURE 3b
Photo Point Figure - Fuel Mod Zone (FMZ) #2

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FMZ #3 - West



FMZ #3 - North



FMZ #3 - East

PHOTOS TAKEN JULY 2024

SOURCE: DUDEK 2024

DUDEK

FIGURE 3c
Photo Point Figure - Fuel Mod Zone (FMZ) #3

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FMZ #4 - West



FMZ #4 - North



FMZ #4 - East

PHOTOS TAKEN JULY 2024

SOURCE: DUDEK 2024

DUDEK

FIGURE 3d
Photo Point Figure - Fuel Mod Zone (FMZ) #4

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FMZ #5 - West



FMZ #5 - North



FMZ #5 - East

PHOTOS TAKEN JULY 2024

SOURCE: DUDEK 2024

DUDEK

FIGURE 3e
Photo Point Figure - Fuel Mod Zone (FMZ) #5

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FMZ #6 Update - West



FMZ #6 Update - North



FMZ #6 Update- East

PHOTOS TAKEN JULY 2024

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HEZ #1 - West



HEZ #1 - North



HEZ #1 - South



HEZ #1 - East

PHOTOS TAKEN JULY 2024

SOURCE: DUDEK 2024

DUDEK

FIGURE 3g
Photo Point Figure - Habitat Enhancement Zone (HEZ) #1

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HEZ #2 - West



HEZ #2 - North



HEZ #2 - South



HEZ #2 - East

PHOTOS TAKEN JULY 2024

SOURCE: DUDEK 2024

DUDEK

FIGURE 3h
Photo Point Figure - Habitat Enhancement Zone (HEZ) #2

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HEZ #3 - West



HEZ #3 - North



HEZ #3 - South



HEZ #3 - East

PHOTOS TAKEN JULY 2024

SOURCE: DUDEK 2024

DUDEK

FIGURE 3h
Photo Point Figure - Habitat Enhancement Zone (HEZ) #3

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HEZ #4 - West



HEZ #4 - North



HEZ #4 - South



HEZ #4 - East

PHOTOS TAKEN JULY 2024

SOURCE: DUDEK 2024

DUDEK

FIGURE 3j
Photo Point Figure - Habitat Enhancement Zone (HEZ) #4

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HEZ #5 - West



HEZ #5 - North



HEZ #5 - South



HEZ #5 - East

PHOTOS TAKEN JULY 2024

SOURCE: DUDEK 2024

DUDEK

FIGURE 3k
Photo Point Figure - Habitat Enhancement Zone (HEZ) #5

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HEZ #6 Update - West



HEZ #6 Update - North



HEZ #6 Update - South



HEZ #6 Update - East

PHOTOS TAKEN JULY 2024

SOURCE: DUDEK 2024

DUDEK

FIGURE 31

Photo Point Figure - Habitat Enhancement Zone (HEZ) #6 Update

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Appendix A

Plant Compendium

Plant Species

Angiosperms (Dicots)

AMARANTHACEAE – AMARANTH FAMILY

- * *Amaranthus albus* – tumbleweed

APOCYNACEAE – DOGBANE FAMILY

Asclepias fascicularis – narrow-leaf milkweed

ASTERACEAE – SUNFLOWER FAMILY

- Ambrosia psilostachya* – western ragweed
- Artemisia californica* – California sagebrush
- Baccharis salicifolia* – mulefat
- * *Centaurea melitensis* – Tocalote
- Chaenactis glabriuscula* – common yellow Chaenactis
- Corethrogyne filaginifolia* – sand aster
- Deinandra fasciculata* – clustered tarweed
- Deinandra paniculata* – San Diego tarweed (CRPR¹ 4.2)
- Ericameria palmeri* var. *pachylepis* – Palmer's rabbitbush
- Erigeron canadensis* – horseweed
- * *Hedypnois rhagadioloides* – Crete weed
- Heterotheca grandiflora* – telegraph weed
- * *Lactuca serriola* – prickly lettuce
- Malacothrix saxatilis* – cliff aster
- Sisyrinchium bellum* – blue eyed grass
- * *Sonchus asper* – spiny sowthistle
- Stephanomeria virgata* – rod wirelettuce
- Trichostemma lanceolatum* – vinegarweed

BRASSICACEAE – MUSTARD FAMILY

- * *Brassica nigra* – black mustard
- * *Hirschfeldia incana* – shortpod mustard

CACTACEAE – CACTUS FAMILY

Cylindropuntia prolifera – coastal cholla

CHENOPODIACEAE – GOOSEFOOT FAMILY

- * *Salsola tragus* – Russian thistle

CONVOLVULACEAE – MORNING-GLORY FAMILY

- * *Convolvulus arvensis* – common bindweed

CUCURBITACEAE – GOURD FAMILY

Cucurbita foetidissima – Calabazilla

EUPHORBIACEAE – SPURGE FAMILY

- * *Croton setiger* – turkey-mullein
- * *Euphorbia maculata* – spotted spurge

FABACEAE – LEGUME FAMILY

Acemisson americanus – American's bird's foot trefoil

Acemisson glaber – deer weed

Lupinus bicolor – miniature lupine

Lupinus succulentus – arroyo lupine

- * *Vicia villosa* – common vetch

GERANIACEAE – GERANIUM FAMILY

- * *Erodium cicutarium* – red-stemmed filaree

HELIOTROPIACEAE – HELIOTROPE FAMILY

Heliotropium curassavicum – salt heliotrope

IRIDACEAE – IRIS FAMILY

Sisyrinchium bellum – blue eyed grass

MYRSINACEAE – MYRSINE FAMILY

- * *Lysimachia arvensis* – scarlet pimpernel

ONAGRACEAE – EVENING PRIMROSE FAMILY

Epilobium brachycarpum – willow herb

- * *Oenothera xenogaura* – Drummond's gaura

PHRYMACEAE – MONKEYFLOWER FAMILY

Diplacus aurantiacus – sticky monkeyflower

PLANTAGINACEAE – PLANTAIN FAMILY

- * *Plantago lanceolata* – English plantain

POLYGONACEAE – BUCKWHEAT FAMILY

Eriogonum elongatum – longstem buckwheat

Eriogonum fasciculatum – California buckwheat

Eriogonum gracile – slender buckwheat

- * *Rumex crispus* – sour dock

ULMACEAE – ELM FAMILY

- * *Ulmus parvifolia* – Siberian elm

Angiosperms (Monocots)

POACEAE – GRASS FAMILY

- Aristida purpurea* var. *purpurea* – purple three awn
- * *Avena barbata* – slender wildoats
- * *Brachypodium distachyon* – purple falsebrome
- * *Bromus diandrus* – ripgut brome
- * *Bromus rubens* – red brome
- * *Cynodon dactylon* – Bermuda grass
- * *Festuca perennis* – Italian rye grass
- Stipa lepida* – foothill grass

- * signifies introduced (non-native) species
- 1 California Rare Plant Ranking

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Appendix B

Wildlife Compendium

Wildlife Species

Birds

ACCIPITRIDAE – HAWK FAMILY

Accipiter cooperii – Cooper's hawk
Buteo jamaicensis – red-tailed hawk
Buteo lineatus – red-shouldered hawk

AEGITHALIDAE – BUSHTIT FAMILY

Psaltirparus minimus – American bushtit

CARDINALIDAE – CARDINAL FAMILY

Passerina caerulea – blue grosbeak

CORVIDAE – CORVID FAMILY

Corvus brachyrhynchos – American crow

FRINGILLADAE – FINCH FAMILY

Haemorhous mexicanus – house finch
Spinus psaltria – lesser goldfinch

PARULIDAE – NEW WORLD WARBLER FAMILY

Setophaga petechia – yellow warbler

PICIDAE – WOODPECKER FAMILY

Dryobates nuttallii – Nuttall's woodpecker

MIMIDAE – MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS FAMILY

Mimus polyglottos – northern mockingbird

PASSERELLIDAE – NEW WORLD SPARROWS FAMILY

Melospiza crissalis – California towhee
Melospiza melodia – song sparrow
Pipilo maculatus – spotted towhee

STRIGIDAE – TRUE OWL FAMILY

Bubo virginianus – great horned owl

TROCHILIDAE – HUMMINGBIRD FAMILY

Calypte anna – Anna's hummingbird
Selasphorus sasin – Allen's hummingbird

TROGLODYTIDAE – WREN FAMILY

Troglodytes aedon – house wren

TYRANNIDAE – TYRANT FLYCATCHERS FAMILY

Myiarchus cinerascens – ash-throated flycatcher

Sayornis nigricans – black phoebe

VIREONIDAE – VIREO FAMILY

Vireo bellii pusillus – Least Bell's vireo

* signifies introduced (non-native) species