

**September 26, 2024
Oak Park MAC
Consent Agenda Item**

**Oak Park MAC Landscape Committee Report Out
Submitted by: Brian Trushinski, Oak Park MAC Chair**

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CSA4 Landscape Committee

- Ventura County Public Works is currently reviewing contractor proposals for Oak Park CSA#4 landscaping services for 2024/25. No information on the selection of the contractor has been provided to the Committee.
- Ventura County Public Works' contractor conducted extensive riparian vegetation removal along Medea Creek, upstream of Conifer Street. This work was done without notifying Supervisor Gorell's office ahead of time, and to the Oak Park MAC as was promised by the Acting Public Works Director (David Fleisch) at the February 29, 2024, MAC meeting. The work done resulted in environmental damage and residents have reported that the results created an eye sore to the Oak Park community. This continues to be a serious and ongoing concern of the MAC, and a long-term management and communication plan is urgently needed to prevent this situation from happening in the future.
- No update has been provided to the Landscape Committee by Ventura County Public Works (Transportation), regarding their discussions with California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) for the significant vegetation removal that was done on Medea Creek (Kanan Road/ Oak Hills Drive) in October 2023. At the May 2024, MAC meeting, Brian Trushinski reported that after reviewing County Transportation's CDFW Routine Maintenance Agreement, it appears that this specific reach of Medea Creek, as well as the creek vegetation removal was conducted without CDFW's awareness or approval.
- County Public Works is working with a vendor to replace the solar lights for the Kanan Road center median "Welcome to Oak Park" monument sign. This project was first brought to Public Works' attention by the Landscape Committee in May 2024.
- County Public Works has not yet approved budget funds for the revitalized planting areas along Hawthorn Drive (both sides) between Cremona Way and Kanan Road. These areas are identified in the Steiner report (2024) as Areas J, K, L, M, and N. The Landscape Committee requested budget approval in June 2024 and was discussed at the July 2024 MAC meeting.
- In May 2024, the Landscape Committee suggested that there be installed a "Welcome to Oak Park" monument sign and planting bed on Lindero Canyon Road (like what exists on Kanan Road) as a visual gateway to Oak Park. This was

presented at the June and July 2024 MAC meetings. The County has since advised that there are no CSA#4 funds budgeted in 2024 for this project. The process has stopped. The County suggests that this project be considered by the MAC during its 2025 budget deliberations.

- Irrigation breaks occurred in August on Rockfield Street, Hawthorn Drive, and Kanan Road. All have been repaired and are now properly working.
- No new incidents of damaged landscape areas since the July 2024 MAC meeting.

Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District (RSRPD)

- Plans and specifications for six pickleball courts and other project amenities at Deerhill Park were submitted to the County of Ventura Planning Department, along with an entitlement permit adjustment for the Park, on April 24, 2024. The project was deemed complete on July 25, 2024. Construction plans were submitted to the County's Building and Safety Department on August 2, 2024. Results of this County plan check review are still pending.

In anticipation of receiving County building permits, the RSRPD Board authorized its staff on September 4, 2024, to solicit public bids for the Deerhill Park Pickleball Court Conversion Project.

- RSRPD's environmental consultant (Envicom) has completed the field surveys along Medea Creek in preparation of a California Department of Fish & Wildlife Permit to remove invasive plant species, palm trees, dead trees, and discarded household items. Envicom will also be the environmental monitor to ensure that work crews do not inadvertently remove native and other environmentally sensitive vegetation.

Phase 1 of the project is between Kanan Road and Oak Hills Drive. Work should begin around year-end 2024/ early 2025. Phase 2 (Oak Hills Drive to the Oak Park/ Agoura border) will occur a couple of months later.

- The District's 2024 wildfire abatement work program is approximately 90% completed.

Street Sweeping

- No citizen complaints received.

- End of Report -