CITY OF CORONADO

DEODAR CEDAR REPLACEMENT & MAINTENANCE PROCEDURE

The thirty-six (36) Deodar Cedar trees planted along the Orange Avenue medians in Coronado are one of the most recognizable features of the City, and are considered by many to be a significant and endearing part of the community's heritage since they were initially planted as memorial trees in the early 1950's. Many of these Deodar Cedar trees have declined and fallen into poor health, by which their condition cannot be corrected by pruning or any other means. Recognizing that many of the current and future Deodar Cedar/Afghan Pine trees along this important corridor will need to be properly replaced and maintained throughout the years, the City and the Street Tree Committee have implemented this program, to ensure the proper care and preservation of this vital City asset.

PROGRAM GOALS

The goals of the program:

- To appropriately replace and maintain the current Deodar Cedar trees and the future replacement trees, whether the tree is a Deodar Cedar or Afghan Pine.

- To provide the community with information about this particular City urban forestry asset and how it is maintained.

- To ensure that this urban forestry feature along Orange Avenue continues to be a priority asset and distinct feature of the community.

MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS RELEVANT TO THE PROGRAM

52.32.010(B) General

B. Provisions. This chapter provides full power and authority over all trees, palms and shrubs located within public rights-of-way, parkways, parks and other public places of the City. The provisions of this chapter are enacted to:

1. Establish and maintain the maximum sustainable amount of tree cover on public lands in the City;

2. Maintain City trees in a healthy and nonhazardous condition through approved arboricultural practices; and

3. Establish and maintain appropriate diversity in tree species and age classes to provide a stable and sustainable urban forest.

52.32.020 Jurisdiction

A. The City of Coronado shall have control of all public trees, palms, shrubs and other plantings in any parkway, public right-of-way, park, golf course, or other public property within the City limits.

B. The Department of Public Services shall be responsible for the planting, care and removal of public trees, palms and shrubs on public rights-of-way. (Ord. 1967 § 2, 2005)

52.32.030 Public policy regarding trees

It is the public policy of the City of Coronado to maintain existing trees and to provide for and encourage the planting of new trees within the City to the greatest extent possible for the enjoyment and betterment of the community. (Ord. 1967 § 2, 2005)

52.32.080(A) Tree planting procedures

A. It shall be the policy of the City of Coronado to replace trees on public property that have died or have been removed for any reason. No person other than City employees, City-authorized contractors, City-authorized agents or volunteers organized and supervised by the Street Tree Committee shall plant any tree within a public right-of-way or on public property without first obtaining a tree planting permit from the Director of Public Services. Selected trees shall be from the City-approved street tree list.

52.32.100 Removals of public trees and palms

Trees or palms on public property are to be removed at the discretion of the Department of Public Services. Trees and palms on public property are to be removed if they present a condition that is hazardous, are in declining or poor health and the condition cannot be corrected by pruning or any other means. Removal is warranted if the cost of maintaining the tree or palm is greater than its value. (Ord. 1967 § 2, 2005)

TREE REMOVAL

1. **Evaluation** – An ISA Certified Arborist shall complete a tree hazard evaluation for each Deodar Cedar/Afghan Pine that is being considered for removal, to ascertain the condition of the tree and the need for removal. Some of the components being evaluated include:
    A. Tree Characteristics (DBH, height, canopy spread, live crown, age, pruning history)
    B. Tree Health (foliage color, foliage density, twig dieback, major pests/diseases)
    C. Site Conditions (site attributes, irrigation, infrastructure damage, soil problems)
    D. Target (use and occupancy adjacent to tree)
    E. Noted Tree Defects (deficiencies detected in the roots, trunk, scaffolds and branches)
    F. Hazard Rating (establish rating using failure potential, size of part and target rating)
    G. Hazard Abatement (recommendations to prune, cable/brace, removal of tree, whether to replace the tree if removed, and moving target at risk if tree found hazardous)

2. **Review of Proposed Removals** – When one (1) or more Deodar Cedar/Afghan Pine trees are being considered for removal and/or replacement, the tree(s) proposed for removal shall be reviewed by the City Arborist and/or the Street Tree Committee. Concerns including property damage, landscape renovation, maintenance problems, declining tree health, non-approved tree species and environmental issues may be reasons for approval of the proposed tree removal. The Director of Public Services, after considering the recommendations of the City Arborist and/or the Street Tree Committee, shall have the authority to issue or not issue a directive for removal. The Director of Public Services shall have the authority to forego the review process and order the removal of public trees that present an imminent hazard.

3. **Removal Guidelines** – A removal cycle should typically occur at least twelve (12) months after the prior removal cycle. One time hazardous or emergency removals should not be considered a scheduled removal cycle. Care should be taken to ensure that the trees assessed to be in the most need of removal are prioritized and scheduled for removal first.

TREE REPLACEMENT

1. **Replacement Tree Species** – The preferred replacement tree will be the Deodar Cedar (Cedrus deodara). The Afghan Pine (Pinus eldarica) may be utilized as an alternate replacement tree, should the City Arborist and/or the Street Tree Committee find that there is merit and reasoning to do so.

2. **Replacement Tree Health** – As is typical for the species/cultivar, trees shall be healthy and vigorous, as indicated by an inspection for the following:
    A. Foliar crown density
    B. Length of shoot growth (throughout crown)
    C. Size, color, and appearance of leaves
    D. Uniform distribution of roots in the container media
    E. Appearance of roots
    F. Absence of twig and/or branch dieback
    G. Relative freedom from insects and diseases

3. **Replacement Tree Specification**

A. CROWN

i. Form: Trees shall have a symmetrical form as is typical for the species/cultivar and growth form.

ii. Central Leader: Trees shall have a single, relatively straight central leader and a tapered trunk, free of co-dominant stems and vigorous, upright branches that compete with the central leader.

iii. Main Branches (Scaffolds): Branches should be distributed radially around and vertically along the trunk, forming a generally symmetrical crown typical for the species.

B. TRUNK

i. The trunk diameter and taper shall be sufficient so that the tree will remain vertical without the support of a nursery stake.

ii. The trunk shall be free of wounds (except properly made pruning cuts), sunburned areas, conks (fungal fruiting-bodies), wood cracks, bleeding areas, signs of boring insects, galls, cankers and/or lesions.

iii. The trunk diameter at 6" (six inches) above the soil surface shall be a minimum of 1.5" (one & one half inches) to 2.5" (two & one half inches) and be contained in a 24-inch box sized container.

C. ROOTS

i. The trunk, root collar (root crown) and large roots shall be free of circling and/or kinked roots. Soil removal near the root collar may be necessary to inspect for circling and/or kinked roots.

ii. The tree shall be well rooted in the soil mix. When the trunk is carefully lifted both the trunk and root system shall move as one.

iii. The upper-most roots or root collar shall be within 1" (one inch) above or below the soil surface.

iv. When the container is removed, the root ball shall remain intact.

v. The root ball periphery should be free of large circling and bottom-matted roots.

D. MOISTURE STATUS

i. At time of inspection and delivery, the root ball shall be moist throughout, and the tree crown shall show no signs of moisture stress, as indicated by wilt, shriveled, dead leaves, or branch dieback. Roots shall show no signs of being subjected to excess soil moisture conditions, as indicated by root discoloration, distortion, death, or foul odor.

4. **Timing of Replacement Tree Planting**

A. Given the limit number of Deodar Cedar/Afghan Pine trees in the Orange Avenue medians and the recognized importance of tree age diversity, no more than 15% of the trees should be replaced in a normal replacement cycle.

B. All replacement trees should ideally be planted in the Fall or Spring season, as these times of the year are generally recognized as having the most favorable weather conditions, which best assist a newly planted tree in establishment and tends to yield the best long term health of a tree.

C. Tree replacement cycles should ideally occur at least every twelve (12) months, until all trees that are deemed to need replacement are replaced.

TREE MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

Pruning of the Deodar Cedar/Afghan Pine trees along Orange Avenue is and will be performed according to the International Society of Arboriculture (I.S.A.) pruning standards, as adopted by the City. A copy of the I.S.A. pruning standards is available for reference at the office of the Department of Public Services.

Several notable maintenance practices unique to the care of the Deodar Cedar/Afghan Pine trees have been identified within this program. In addition to the I.S.A. tree care and pruning standards, extra emphasis will be given to the following "key" maintenance practices:

A. The trees will no longer be sheared. This was a previous past maintenance practice that will no longer be part of the maintenance of the Deodar Cedars/Afghan Pines along Orange Avenue.

B. The trees will be minimally pruned to I.S.A. standards, as information indicates that Deodar Cedars/Afghan Pines tend to be healthier with less non-essential pruning. Pruning efforts will have more of an emphasis on removing dead or failing branches, hazardous branches, branches negatively impacting other branches, and diseased branches or branches that are otherwise being negatively affected by external factors.

C. Each tree will be inspected annually for excess buildup of exfoliated foliage and green waste within the tree canopy, along the tree trunk, scaffolds and branches that may be negatively impacting the tree.