



**AGENDA REPORT**  
SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Meeting Date: May 21, 2019

Agenda Item 6-H  
**Approvals:**  
City Manager JW  
Dept. Head JOB  
Attorney \_\_\_\_\_  
Finance JR

**Department:** Public Works  
**Prepared By:** Tom Bonigut, Public Works Director/City Engineer

**Subject:** *REPLACEMENT OF COMMUNITY CENTER CHRISTMAS TREE.*

**Fiscal Impact:** Yes. The recommended action would incur a cost of about \$25,000 which would be funded from the upcoming Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget.

**Summary:** This report requests City Council approval to replace the fallen Christmas Tree at the Community Center as further described below.

**Discussion:** During a wind storm in March, the tree at the Community Center (within the planter area near the corner of Del Mar and Seville) fell over and had to be removed. This is the tree that was used in recent years for the annual Christmas celebration, so staff researched several options to re-establish a tree:

1. Purchase a freshly cut 25-foot tall tree from a tree farm and have it placed and decorated during the holiday season at an annual cost of at least \$30,000.
2. Build a lighted "tree" using a steel support pole and guide wires, similar to the lighted tree the City establishes each year on Esperanza. This approach would not incur new costs since such a lighted tree could be installed with existing materials and City staff.
3. Plant a new living tree. City staff coordinated with Rod's Tree Service (who provides arborist services to the City) to extensively research tree types that would be successful in the site soil conditions and micro-climate, while also resembling a natural Christmas tree. Based on this research, staff recommends planting a California Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*, sample photo available at [www.bigtreesnursery.com/inventory/calocedrus-decurrens-9](http://www.bigtreesnursery.com/inventory/calocedrus-decurrens-9)). This tree will perform well, and there is a California Incense Cedar on Avenida Granada that is doing well. The new tree would come from a nursery in an 84-inch box and be about 25 feet tall with an approximately 12-foot diameter. The total estimated cost for purchase, delivery and installation is \$25,000.

If the City Council concurs with staff's recommendation to install a new tree per Option #3 above, this cost is proposed to be funded from the FY 2020 landscape contract supplemental budget. This amount has been included in the proposed FY 2020 budget that Council will consider for adoption at its June 4, 2019 meeting.

**Recommended**

**Action:** STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council:

1. Concur with the staff recommendation to purchase and install a California Incense Cedar tree, 84-inch box size, at the Community Center to replace the fallen tree; and
2. Upon approval of the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 budget, authorize the Public Works Director to approve a purchase order not to exceed \$25,000 to purchase and install the new tree using approved Fiscal Year 2020 landscape contract supplemental funding.

**Attachment:** None.

**Notification:** Downtown Business Association.

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