

## AGENDA

### ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

#### TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

RUSH PARK  
Administration Building  
3001 Blume Drive  
Rossmoor, California

**Wednesday, May 23, 2018**  
**8:00 a.m.**

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**A. ORGANIZATION**

1. CALL TO ORDER: 8:00 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Directors DeMarco, Nitikman
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. PRESENTATIONS: None

**B. PUBLIC FORUM**

*Any person may address the members of the Trees/Parks/Facilities Committee at this time upon any subject within the jurisdiction of the Trees/Parks/Facilities Committee of the Rossmoor Community Services District.*

**C. REGULAR CALENDAR**

1. WEST COAST ARBORIST CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR TREE SERVICES
2. RESIDENT TREE REMOVAL REQUEST

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

**CERTIFICATION OF POSTING**

I hereby certify that the attached Agenda for the Wednesday, January 17, 2018, 8:00 a.m. Rossmoor Trees/Parkways Committee Meeting of the Rossmoor Community Services District was posted at least 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES D. RUTH  
General Manager

Date May 21, 2018

**ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

**AGENDA ITEM C-1**

**Date:** May 23, 2018  
**To:** Trees/Parkways Committee  
**From:** General Manager  
**Subject:** **Contract Renewal for West Coast Arborist, Inc. for Tree Services**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

RCSD General Manager recommends that RCSD renew a three-year contract with West Coast Arborist, Inc. (WCA) for tree services including. Services under the contract would include: yearly grid trimming of one of four RCSD districts, off-grid trimming for safety and clearance issues and young tree crown shaping, tree planting, park tree removals, tree health care and emergency call-outs for trees in RCSD parks that do not fall under County jurisdiction. The contract period would be for three years, commencing on July 1, 2018, with three one-year options upon mutual consent. WCA proposes to hold the rates the same for the first two fiscal years. After such time, they propose a cost adjustment provision based on Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Orange-Riverside region.

**BACKGROUND**

For the past 15 years, West Coast Arborist, Inc. has proven to be a reliable contractor, providing RCSD with outstanding customer service and special attention. Pruning, planting and tree removal work is properly performed, following guidelines set forth from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and standards set forth by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The online inventory system and application provided by WCA has proved an invaluable tool for maintaining the urban forest of Rossmoor. The existing contract with WCA is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2018. Before RCSD's last contract renewal in 2015, there had not been a price increase implemented by WCA since 2009. Due to an increase in prevailing wages set forth by The California Department of Industrial Relations, RCSD prices were increased by 7% for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 fiscal years with a 6% increase for 2017-2018. As our current contract was set to be renewed, WCA informed RCSD that another price increase

was necessary. RCSD staff carefully reviewed recently awarded contracts from several cities of similar size for price and work comparison and it was determined that the best option would be to 'piggy-back' on the City of Duarte's award contract prices. 'Piggy-backing' on a recent competitive procurement process by another local city is also known as Cooperative Purchasing and is allowed by the California Public Contract Code.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The current Fiscal Year 2017-2018 RCSD Budget for Department 80 Parkway Trees allows \$108,500 for Contract Services and Tree Planting. As of May 16, 2018, a total of \$98,566 had been spent on tree services. The projected annual budgeted contract cost is estimated to be \$110,000-\$115,000 with a mid-line estimate of \$112,500. The estimated contract cost of \$112,500 would require a budget adjustment of \$4000, which is an increase of 3.697%.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. WCA Proposal to RCSD
2. WCA Proposed Price Schedule for RCSD
3. WCA Current Price Schedule for RCSD



*Tree Care Professionals Serving Communities Who Care About Trees*

www.WCAINC.com

April 23, 2018

Rossmoor Community District  
**ATTN: Mary Kingman**  
3001 Blume Drive  
Rossmoor, CA 90720

**RE: TREE MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

Dear Ms. Kingman,

Over the years, West Coast Arborists, Inc. (WCA) and Rossmoor Community District ("Rossmoor") have forged a very productive and cohesive working relationship. Today, our common goal remains the same; to preserve the integrity and health of the District's urban forest.

As we approach the end of the current contract term, we propose to continue tree maintenance services under a "piggyback" approach. Recently, the City of Duarte held a formal RFP for Tree Maintenance Services and WCA was awarded a new contract. **WCA agrees to provide similar tree care services to Rossmoor consistent with the terms and conditions set forth in the City of Duarte's contract service agreement. WCA respectfully proposes a contract term of three years with three one-year options upon mutual consent. As part of a new Agreement, WCA proposes to hold the rates the same for the first two fiscal years. After such time, we propose a cost adjustment provision based on the Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Orange-Riverside region.**

Please note that Duarte's Agreement contains a Cooperative Purchasing Provision that allows the other agencies to piggyback.

We appreciate your ongoing efforts to make this Agreement a success for both the District and WCA and look forward to continuing our successful business relationship. Should you have any questions, or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact me at (800) 521-3714.

Sincerely,

Victor Gonzalez  
Vice President

**West Coast Arborists, Inc.**

2200 E. Via Burton Street • Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714.991.1900 • 800.521.3714 • Fax 714.956.3745

# Rossmoor Community District

Tree Maintenance Services- 2018-2021

## West Coast Arborists, Inc.

Item	Description	Unit	Proposed Unit Prices
1	Grid Tree Trimming	Each	\$ 72.00
	Aesthetic/Service Request	Each	
2	0-6" dbh	Each	\$ 50.00
3	7-12" dbh	Each	\$ 90.00
4	12-18" dbh	Each	\$ 150.00
5	19-24" dbh	Each	\$ 190.00
6	25-36" dbh	Each	\$ 250.00
7	37" dbh & over	Each	\$ 300.00
8	Block Tree Trimming	Each	\$ 145.00
9	Queen Palm Trimming	Each	\$ 50.00
10	Mexican Fan Plam Trimming	Each	\$ 70.00
11	Date Palm Trimming	Each	\$ 190.00
12	Tree & Stump Removal 0-24" dbh	Each	\$ 570.00
13	Tree & Stump Removal over 25" dbh	Each	\$ 970.00
14	Stump Only Removal	Each	\$ 190.00
15	Tree Planting - 15-gallon tree	Each	\$ 160.00
16	Tree Planting - 24-inch box tree	Each	\$ 320.00
17	Tree Planting - 36-inch box tree	Each	\$ 870.00
18	Tree Watering	Day	\$ 640.00
19	Crew Rental - 3-men with equipment	Hour	\$ 240.00
20	Crew Rental - 2-men with equipment	Hour	\$ 160.00
21	Crew Rental - 1-man with equipment	Hour	\$ 80.00
22	Specialty Equipment	Hour	\$ 150.00
23	Emergency Crew Rental	Hourly	\$ 291.00
24	Tree Inventory Software	Annually	\$ -
25	GPS Tree Inventory Updates	Tree Site	\$ 4.00
26	Ficus Tree Trimming	Each	\$ 350.00

**Grid Trimming:** Grid tree trimming is based on tree trimming in pre-designed districts, or grids on a set cycle and includes all trees (small, medium and large-sized.) Trees are not excluded from the Grid.

**Block Tree Trimming:** Block tree trimming consists of trimming trees along a block segment or "run" as designated by the City. This is different from "Grid Trimming" where all trees are prune (small, medium and large-sized) within a grid or district.

# Rossmoor Community Services District

Price Schedule for Fiscal Years 2015-16, 2016-17, & 2017-18

## Tree Maintenance Services

Item	Description	Unit	Current Unit Prices	Proposed Unit Prices FY15-16	Proposed Unit Prices FY16-17	Proposed Unit Prices FY17-18
1	Tree Pruning 0-6" dsh	Each	\$ 30.30	\$ <b>32.40</b>	\$ <b>34.65</b>	\$ <b>36.75</b>
2	Tree Pruning 7-18"	Each	\$ 41.50	\$ <b>44.40</b>	\$ <b>47.50</b>	\$ <b>50.35</b>
3	Tree Pruning over 18" dsh	Each	\$ 64.00	\$ <b>68.50</b>	\$ <b>73.30</b>	\$ <b>77.70</b>
4	Palm Pruning 0-30 ft.	Each	\$ 17.00	\$ <b>18.20</b>	\$ <b>19.50</b>	\$ <b>20.65</b>
5	Palm Pruning over 30 ft.	Each	\$ 28.20	\$ <b>30.15</b>	\$ <b>32.25</b>	\$ <b>34.20</b>
6	Tree and Stump Removal	Inch	\$ 14.50	\$ <b>15.50</b>	\$ <b>16.60</b>	\$ <b>17.60</b>
7	Tree Only Removal	Inch	\$ 10.10	\$ <b>10.80</b>	\$ <b>11.55</b>	\$ <b>12.25</b>
8	Stump Only Removal	Inch	\$ 4.60	\$ <b>4.90</b>	\$ <b>5.25</b>	\$ <b>5.55</b>
9	Plant 15 gallon tree w/out RB	Each	\$ 89.90	\$ 89.90	\$ 89.90	\$ 89.90
10	Plant 15 gallon tree with RB	Each	\$ 106.70	\$ 106.70	\$ 106.70	\$ 106.70
11	Plant 24" Box tree w/o RB	Each	\$ 179.60	\$ 179.60	\$ 179.60	\$ 179.60
12	Plant 24" Box tree with RB	Each	\$ 218.70	\$ 218.70	\$ 218.70	\$ 218.70
13	Specialty Plant 15 gallon tree w/out RB	Each	\$ 123.30	\$ 123.30	\$ 123.30	\$ 123.30
14	Specialty Plant 15 gallon tree with RB	Each	\$ 140.50	\$ 140.50	\$ 140.50	\$ 140.50
15	Specialty Plant 24" Box tree w/o RB	Each	\$ 246.90	\$ 246.90	\$ 246.90	\$ 246.90
16	Specialty Plant 24" Box tree with RB	Each	\$ 286.10	\$ 286.10	\$ 286.10	\$ 286.10
17	Crew Rental - 3 man crew	Hourly	\$ 106.20	N/A	N/A	N/A
18	Crew Rental - 2 man crew	Hourly	\$ 106.20	\$ 106.20	\$ <b>113.60</b>	\$ <b>120.40</b>
19	Emergency Crew Rental	Hourly	\$ 224.70	\$ 224.70	\$ 224.70	\$ 224.70
20	Watering	Day	\$ 291.60	\$ 291.60	\$ 291.60	\$ 291.60
21	Small Tree Care	Day	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00

For FY15-16 prices in bold reflect a 7% increase .  
 For FY16-17, prices in bold reflect a 7% increase .  
 For FY17-18, prices in bold reflect a 6% increase .

Current prices have been in place since July 2009.

**ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

**AGENDA ITEM C-2**

**Date:** May 23, 2018  
**To:** Trees/Parkways Committee  
**From:** General Manager  
**Subject:** **Resident Tree Removal Request - 11451 Wembley Rd.**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

RCSD General Manager recommends that the Tree Committee review and respond to a request from resident Ann Pray to remove the parkway tree in front of her home.

**BACKGROUND**

On April 25, 2018 RHA President Bev Houghton contacted District Tree Consultant Mary Kingman regarding a request from Rossmoor resident Ann Pray at 11451 Wembley Rd. to have the parkway tree in front of her home removed due to seedling growth in her front lawn caused by the tree's seeds. The tree is a *Koelreuteria bipinnata*, commonly known as Chinese Flame. The tree is approximately 10 years old and has an estimated value of \$4890.00. Rossmoor has 374 trees of this species currently planted in parkways and parks. Mary Kingman inspected the tree and found it to be healthy and did observe the seedling growth in the lawn. Since the tree did not qualify for removal under RCSD Tree Protection Policy 3080, the removal request was denied and a letter was sent to Ms. Pray explaining this decision and the reason behind it, along with a copy of RCSD Policy 3080. Ms. Pray responded with a letter, dated May 2, 2018 and addressed to the Board of Directors. RCSD General Manager James Ruth has referred the matter to the RCSD Tree Committee for review.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. RCSD Removal Request Denial Letter
2. Response Letter from Ann Pray



April 25, 2018

Ann Pray  
11451 Wembley Rd.  
Rossmoor, CA 90720

Re: Parkway Tree

Dear Ms. Pray,

This letter is in response to your request made for the inspection of the parkway tree in front of your home. The tree is a Chinese Flame tree that is approximately 10 years old and has an estimated value of \$4890.00. Rossmoor has 374 of this species of tree planted in its parkways and parks.

Upon inspection, I did observe seedling growth from the tree in your front lawn. The tree species does have the tendency to produce seedlings and a well-fertilized and well-watered lawn such as yours will promote heavier volunteer growth. While I understand your frustration over this matter, the tree does not qualify the tree for removal under RCSD's Tree Protection Policy 3080, which I have attached.

Since the seedlings will not live without foliage, adjusting the height of the lawn mower to a lower setting will help to remove the leafy tops of the seedlings and discourage more from growing.

Thank you,

Mary Kingman  
RCSD Tree Consultant  
ISA Certified Arborist #WE-11440A  
[mkingman@rossmoor-csd.org](mailto:mkingman@rossmoor-csd.org)  
[www.rossmoor-csd.org](http://www.rossmoor-csd.org)

May 2, 2018

Dear President DeMarco and members of the Community Services District,

An acquaintance, Bev Houghton, told Mary Kingman about my really big seedling problem at 11451 Wembley Road across from Lee School. She came by and gave a cursory view and sent comments that were either not true or weren't applicable. She wrote that I had a "well-fertilized and well-watered lawn" which "would produce heavier volunteer growth". In truth my sprinklers were off as usual from about November<sup>1</sup> until Spring and even then I follow our drought schedule and only water lightly Tues. and Sat. early a.m. Also my main lawn has not been fertilized since it was put in over 15 years ago. She also wrote that seedlings are a problem for this tree but they wouldn't grow if the lawn mower was set lower. As an arborist she should know that a Chinese Flame tree should not have been planted where any Marathon II sod is because it needs to be cut higher. They should be planted where flat Bermuda, St. Augustine, etc. grass exist.

You need to know that I am a major tree hugger. I volunteered for 2 weeks in Panama to weed seedlings and plant cashew, avocado and one other tree to replace mahogany, teak, etc. to stop erosion and provide a cash crop on the Darien peninsula. I also did the same in Honduras for one week but the other week was on Roatan to make us aware that reefs need to be protected too. Both of these trips were in the 90s with Save the Rainforest and our director was with the Smithsonian in Panama. I also have contributed to the tree people in honor of friends and for Newcomb Academy where I taught in the El Dorado area of Long Beach. And over 14 years ago I started a landscape committee at Good Shepherd Church on Los Al Blvd. Every other Wednesday morning you can find me weeding and pruning there since the gardener mostly just mows and edges.

I bought my home in Rossmoor in 1968 and hated losing my big, beautiful (ash?) tree to termites. I was happy to nurture a new tree and looked forward to it getting bigger. Little did I know that it would turn out to be like that plant in the play "Little Shop of Horrors" that seems to grow over night. Yes the Chinese Flame tree has lovely (but horrible) seed pods and may be a good choice for our beautiful parks but it is not good for residential parkways. My tree is approximately 8 to 10 years old and my neighbors who often walk have hated it. Through autumn and winter, since it is deciduous, it obviously loses its leaves. Well each leaf has a "stem" at least 12 inches long to support its leaflets. The "sticks" are a bit of a hazard for trikes, skateboards, etc. and the seeds are like b.b.s and if a foot landed just right on a couple one might fall.

As an environmentalist, and Water Superintendent's daughter aware of the drought, I had my parkway sprinklers capped off over 3 years ago and planted drought-tolerant plants. The result turned out to be a failure. My lovely blue-gray succulents and kangaroo paws, etc. trapped all those "sticks" and the barren spots of dirt were ripe for all those seedlings both of which needed to be removed by hand and I couldn't keep up with that mess. Our parkways help represent our community, so after my 3 years of work and ugliness I hired Dean Cardenas of "Beautiful Landscaping" in March to again put in sod, relandscape and reconnect my sprinklers. It cost me \$1,300. for the parkway to rototill and hopefully keep new seedlings from growing, but alas after 6 weeks new seedlings are sprouting (over 300 so far) in just the small areas of dirt by the lilies. Dean said that choice of tree was awful due to the continual mess it makes.

Over the last year I have pulled out at least 1000 seedlings in both side yards, backyard, the median between my neighbor's and of course my front yard. The coup d' grace was when my gardener didn't come early April 19 due to rain and by the weekend the problem was abundant. On Sunday my friend and I worked 3 hours each and stopped when we reached 1000 in just a partial area and of course didn't get half of the at least 3 inch roots. (6 very diligent man hours and we only made a dent in it!!) Furthermore, when my new sod was installed, the landscaper would not fertilize my old lawn section because he said it would be a waste of my money as the existing lawn was so old and thick it couldn't get through it well enough, and yet those dam b.b.-like seeds seem to have no problem infiltrating everywhere.

I respectfully beg a community service officer, not an arborist, to please meet with me for 5 minutes so I can show how these insidious seeds grow in planters, very dense growth and develop under my bushes and my neighbor's. I'm in my 70s and an almost 50 year resident have never complained and take pride in our well-landscaped area and I am losing much sleep over this heinous tree that is out of my control and can't imagine living with double the growth after next winter's crop of seeds. I beseech you to let me pay to have it moved to one of our lovely parks where the grass is short. I understand the need for rules and regulations but I feel we should also consider mental health and the human spirit.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,  
Ann Pray  
562) 431-9835

