



STAFF REPORT
11/10/2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Maritza Martinez, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Authorize City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Coachella, West Coast Arborists, Inc., and California Urban Forests Council for the Circle 4 Amplify the Urban Forest Project and all corresponding documents.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Coachella, West Coast Arborists, Inc., and California Urban Forests Council for the Circle 4 Amplify the Urban Forest Project and all corresponding documents.

BACKGROUND:

The city's tree arborist contractor, West Coast Arborists Inc.(WCA) has applied and been approved for a CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grant (Circle 4). This grant will collaborate with CA Urban Forests Council, Western Chapter ISA, Taylor Guitar, The Britton Fund, and over 30 agencies. WCA asked the City of Coachella to be one of the over 30 partner agencies. The grant will plant over 2,000 trees in one day, March 12, 2022.

This grant will provide the City of Coachella sixty-five (65) fifteen (15) gallon trees; the grant does stipulate the trees species, which are all water efficient trees that will develop healthy shade canopies. As a partner agency the City of Coachella would be awarded over \$30,000 in donated trees and tree related services. Staff has also reached out to the California Conservation Corps whom is also interested in participating with the City in the planting event on March 12, 2022.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Staff would recommend participating in the grant and using the 65 trees to provide shade and landscaping to the pedestrian pathway installed along Avenue 53 between Shady Lane and Adams Street. Currently, a pedestrian pathway was installed as a capital improvement project in 2017/2018 but the parkway area where the pathway meanders through is not landscaped and



results in weed abatement concerns annually. Irrigation improvements needed would be installed by public works staff, with support from the Coachella Water Authority. In addition to the tree installation, weed barrier landscape fabric and three quarter California gold landscape rock material will be installed in the parkway area; please see adjacent concept design of the tree and rock material proposed for this area.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The rock material and irrigation materials need will cost \$25,000 -\$35,000; these costs are available in the approved parks and street division budgets and approval of the recommended MOU would not have a negative fiscal impact.

Attachments:

MOU and Circle 4 Watering Agreement