



JOHN A. FANTHAM  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

# County of Santa Cruz

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 410, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
(831) 454-2160 FAX (831) 454-2385 TDD (831) 454-2123

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**AGENDA: APRIL 4, 2000**

MARCH 28, 2000

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 Ocean Street

Santa Cruz, California 95060

**SUBJECT: CABRILLO COLLEGE - SOQUEL DRIVE AND CABRILLO COLLEGE DRIVE  
ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS**

Members of the Board:

On February 15, 2000, your Board directed the Public Works Department to report back on April 4, 2000, for purposes of developing a draft agreement with representatives from the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees to expend \$750,000 in County Transportation Enhancement Act Funds for the Soquel Drive Improvement Project and coordinating activities related to the realignment of Cabrillo College Drive onto Soquel Drive. At this time an agreement has not been sufficiently developed to return this item to your Board. The Public Works Department will continue working with Cabrillo College, and it is expected that an agreement will be submitted to your Board for review on or before May 9, 2000.

As your Board is aware, Cabrillo College is expecting to complete \$3.5 million in transportation and landscaping improvements on Soquel Drive and Cabrillo College Drive during this year. The proposed construction date is projected to start in late May 2000 after the spring semester has been completed at the college. Our department has received a request from the college to accelerate the construction time line by completing some preliminary work in mid April 2000 (during Easter break). This preliminary construction work will allow the college to improve the management of the May 2000 improvement project. It will also allow for the completion of much of the roadway construction work before the college reopens for the fall 2000 semester. The overall improvement plan has been reviewed by the Public Works Department and it satisfies the County's requirements for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It is important to note that this is only part of a comprehensive master plan that will make the Cabrillo College campus more ADA accessible.

The preliminary work would include the removal of the existing median islands on Soquel Drive and partial reconstruction of new 17-foot wide median islands. Only partial reconstruction of the median **inlands** would be possible at this time due to the existing location of the travel lanes on Soquel Drive. Delineators would be used in some areas where the new median islands would not be completed until the larger construction project was to begin in late May. Ultimately, the median islands will be completed by Cabrillo College with a new irrigation system and extensive new landscaping. Cabrillo College will also provide for the future maintenance of the the median islands.

In addition, because of the significance of the proposed roadway construction work, including the construction of eight-foot wide sidewalks with tree wells on Soquel Drive, the realignment of Cabrillo College Drive to Soquel Drive, and the reconfiguration of the college's western access road onto Soquel Drive, there will be a need to remove or relocate existing trees. Cabrillo College retained the services of an arborist and a landscape architect and has completed an extensive evaluation of all trees in the project area. Every opportunity has been taken to preserve or relocate the trees in the roadway construction areas and a significant tree mitigation plan has been developed.

In assessing the impact to trees in the County's right-of-way, there are approximately 35 trees that will either be removed or relocated along the 2,500 lineal feet of pedestrian improvements on both sides of Soquel Drive. Of these **35** trees, approximately 12 are small oaks or other species that will be relocated to other areas of the college. The other remaining trees either are diseased Monterey pines or they must be removed to construct the roadway improvement project.

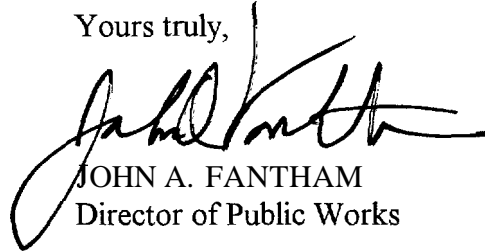
The other trees that will be removed are within Cabrillo College's property. These trees will be removed or relocated because they are also either diseased Monterey pines or they will be directly displaced by the proposed roadway improvements, including the Cabrillo College Drive realignment and the western access road reconfiguration to Soquel Drive. As part of the tree mitigation plan, Cabrillo College will be planting 363, 15 to 24-inch boxed trees in the project area. The new trees are part of the \$1.2 million landscape costs that will meet Cabrillo College's Master Plan for an overall landscaping scheme for the campus.

It is therefore recommended that the Board of Supervisors take the following action:

1. Direct Public Works to continue to develop a draft agreement for your Board's review for purposes of expending the County's \$750,000 in TEA grant funds for infrastructure improvements on Soquel Drive, and coordinate activities related to the realignment of Cabrillo College Drive, the installation of two traffic signals, and landscaping improvements on Soquel and Cabrillo College Drives.
2. Direct Public Works to return to your Board with a draft agreement on or before May 9, 2000.

3. Direct the Public Works Department to process the encroachment permit for Cabrillo College to commence preliminary construction work on Soquel Drive median islands and the relocation and removal of trees in the County's right-of-way.

Yours truly,

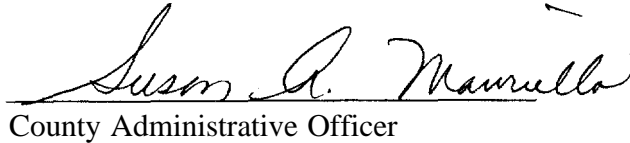


JOHN A. FANTHAM  
Director of Public Works

JJP:mg

Attachments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:



Susan A. Mammella  
County Administrative Officer

copy to:     Public Works  
                  Cabrillo College  
                  Sampson Engineering

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