

Council Meeting of
November 14, 2006

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: City Manager – Approve Streetscape plan for donated trees

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends that City Council concur with a Streetscape Team recommendation for an implementation plan for the 150 tree donation from the Continental Skypark Corporation.

Funding

Funding is not required for this item.

BACKGROUND

The Redevelopment Agency approved a modification to MOD06-00005 on October 3, 2006 that allowed for an alteration to the landscape plan for the Skypark Redevelopment project. The modification included a reconfiguration of the parking area which resulted in the removal of several trees. The landscape plan that was approved included the re-landscaping of the Skypark site; however the developer offered to donate 150 36-inch box trees to the City of Torrance, including installation, at locations to be determined by the City. The item tonight is seeking approval of the location plan for planting the new trees.

ANALYSIS

The Streetscape Team reviewed locations for the tree donation and recommends that the trees be used to enhance the area around the Skypark Development. The Team reviewed areas that were deficient in trees as well as areas that had trees that were maintenance problems (sidewalk, curb and gutter), to develop a plan that would create an overall improvement to the look and feel of the area served.

The implementation plan before you this evening includes two species of trees; *Lagerstroemia indica* (Crape Myrtle) and *Tristania conferta* (Brisbane Box). The trees being recommended are compatible with the height limitations associated with the airport area.

The Brisbane Box is identified as the tree for use along Hawthorne Boulevard, as specified in the Hawthorne Corridor Specific Plan. The Crape Myrtle has been a tree of choice for many areas for the City; it has been welcomed by residents due to its beautiful

springtime bloom, attractive bark and non-destructive root system. Included in the recommendation, and to complete the landscape program for the corridor in this area, are the removal of 17 Ficus trees and the replacement of those trees with the Brisbane Box. This will also reduce the landscape liabilities associated with Ficus trees. It should be noted that the Ficus trees are not specimen trees and have been over trimmed into "lollipop" form and do not meet the overall vision for the corridor plan. The Streetscape Division will be responsible for the removal of the Ficus trees and stumps.

The following locations are recommended for planting the donated trees:

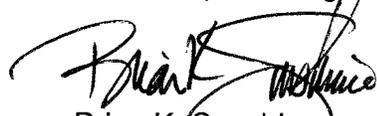
- Hawthorne Boulevard, between Lomita and Pacific Coast Highway (removal and replacement of 17 Ficus and new planting of 29 Brisbane Box).
- Skypark Drive, between Hawthorne and Crenshaw (all new planting). Quantity: 58 Brisbane Box.
- Lomita Boulevard, between Hawthorne Boulevard and Skypark Drive (all new planting). Quantity: 18 Crape Myrtle.
- Madison Street, between Lomita Boulevard and Skypark Drive (all new planting). Quantity: 10 Brisbane Box.
- Madison Street, between Lomita Skypark Drive and Pacific Coast Highway (all new planting). Quantity: 35 Crape Myrtle.

The areas are tentatively marked and mapped pending approval from Your Honorable Body. Streetscape staff is ready to assist in the implementation of the program and the developer is ready to begin upon approval of the tree species and locations.

Respectfully submitted,

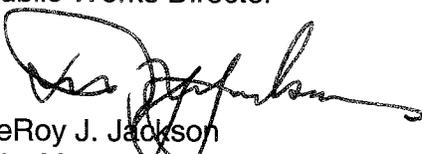
LeROY J. JACKSON
City Manager

By 
Judy Emerson
Streetscape Manager


Brian K. Sunshine
Assistant to the City Manager

Concur:


Robert J. Beste
Public Works Director


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

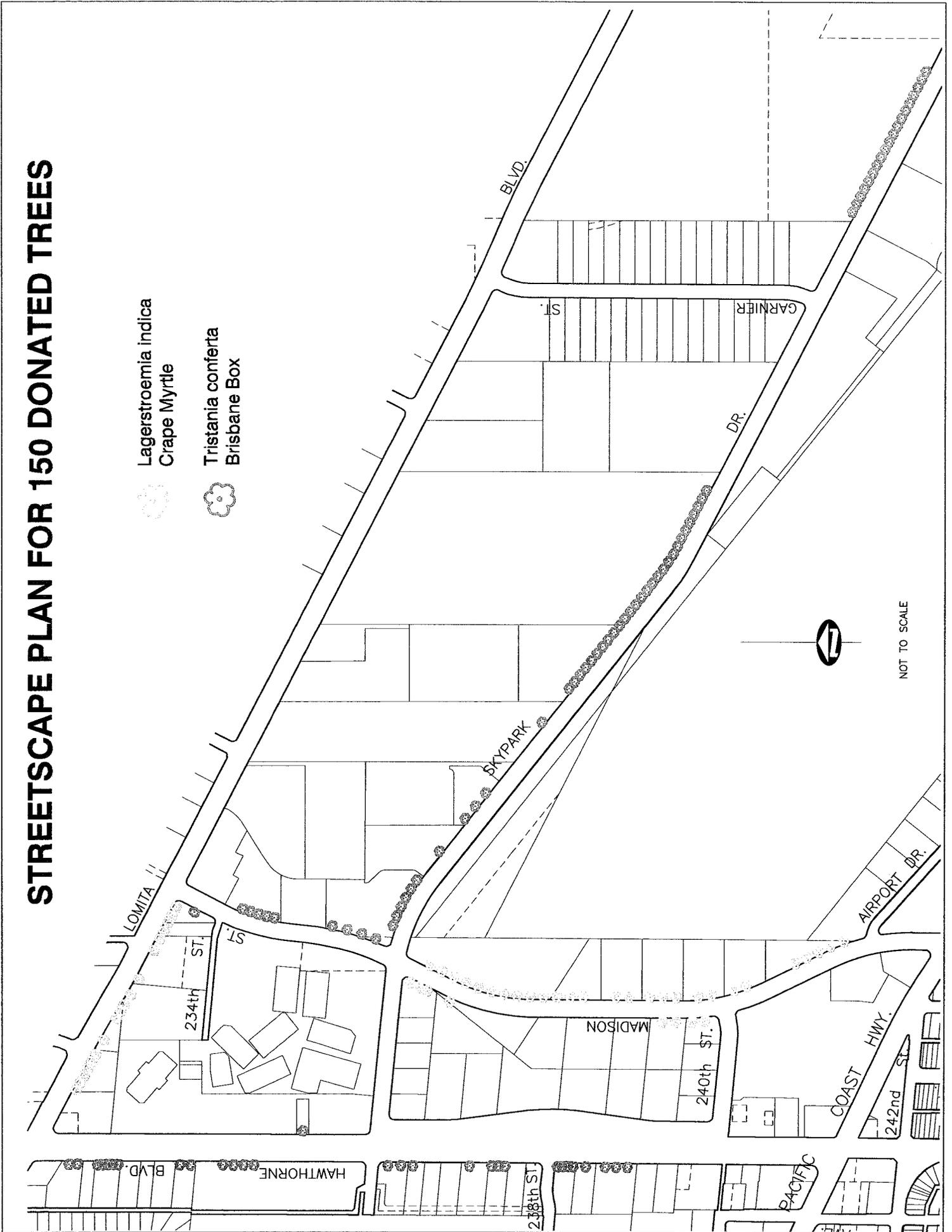
Attachment: A. Tree location map

STREETSCAPE PLAN FOR 150 DONATED TREES

Lagerstroemia indica
Crape Myrtle



Tristania conferta
Brisbane Box



NOT TO SCALE

