



Date: January 29, 2019
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.H.W.*
From: *CB* Craig A. Beck, Director of Public Works
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Transition of Street Medians Maintenance - Effective February 1, 2019

On September 4, 2018, the City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY 19) budget. As part of budget adoption process, the City Council provided direction to transition all City street medians maintenance responsibility from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) to the Department of Public Works (PW). This move will include maintenance of both landscaped and hardscaped surfaces, primarily in the public right-of-way (medians, embankments, traffic circles, setback easements, etc.). The transition is effective February 1, 2019.

PW Street Maintenance will have primary responsibility for overseeing the existing maintenance contractors, Azteca Landscaping and Parkwood Landscape Maintenance, Inc. These firms provide services related to mowing, trimming, weeding, irrigation, cleaning, repairing, and pest management. A subsequent budget adjustment will be submitted to the City Council to transfer the funding from PRM to PW associated with the work conducted by the contractor. If a location requires additional work beyond the contractor services, the work will be performed by PW staff. PW is evaluating how best to manage this effort operationally. It is anticipated two new positions will be needed to adequately manage the roughly 200 acres of medians citywide.

Additionally, PW is seeking funding opportunities to provide median enhancements that would focus on the removal of grass and installation of native plants, which are estimated to use 60 percent less water. Transitioning away from grass will also reduce green-house gas emissions that may result from mowing. PW is seeking support from the Water Department under the lawn to garden program to help fund this effort.

This transition is anticipated to provide more efficient use of City resources. If you have questions regarding this matter, please call Arthur Cox, Public Service Manager, at (562) 570-2780.

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MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK (REF. FILE #18-0744)