



## CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** July 24, 2012  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** Ken Pfalzgraf-Parks and Urban Forest Manager  
**Subject:** Removal of Two Ficus Trees from the City Hall Campus

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### INTRODUCTION

As is customary in the case of proposed changes to the landscape on the City Hall campus, staff wishes to advise the City Council of the proposed removal of two Ficus trees along the Burton Way frontage of the south side of the Beverly Hills public library (see Figure 1).

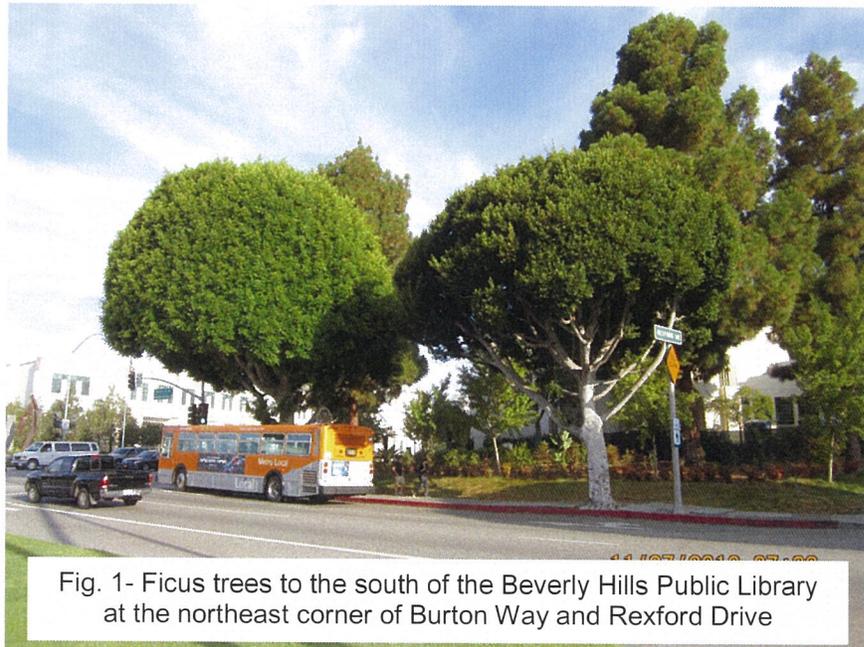


Fig. 1- Ficus trees to the south of the Beverly Hills Public Library  
at the northeast corner of Burton Way and Rexford Drive

**DISCUSSION**

The problem of root versus infrastructure conflicts is common to Ficus trees planted in parkways and has prompted the City to remove and replace Ficus trees on several streets in the City through the Street Tree Master Plan program.



The roots of the trees in question have displaced the sidewalk. The Public Works department has patched these offsets several times using an asphalt material. The problem has progressed to the point where the ramped asphalt patches require frequent maintenance (see Fig. 2). The curb side of the sidewalks has been displaced by roots, creating an offset (see Fig. 3). In addition to being a bus stop, this area is frequently used as an impromptu drop off point for people rushing to make an appearance at the nearby court building while the driver of the car finds parking. In order to make proper repairs to the displaced sidewalk, the roots of the trees would need to be trimmed. In the opinion of the City arborist, the level of root pruning required to make a proper repair would exceed that level at which the City arborist could guarantee the stability of the trees and recommends removal.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The cost to remove the two Ficus trees in question is estimated to be \$1,260.00. The cost to install two new trees in a 48 inch box size would be \$3,000.00, making the total project cost \$4,260.00. This project would be funded through the current Fund 16 CIP budgetary allotment for removal and replacement of trees through the Street Tree Master Plan program for fiscal year 2012/2013.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the two Ficus trees along the Burton Way frontage to the south of the Library be removed due to safety and maintenance concerns and that the tree sites remain vacant until such time as a plan is developed to include the replacement of the remaining Ficus trees on the south perimeter of the City Hall campus.

Steve Zoet  
Approved By

