

## Tree Subcommittee Report

For 19Feb2019 LAHFCD Board Meeting

Prepared by George Tyson (chair), Duffy Price, with help from Stu Farwell and J. Logan

The regular operations update on the current tree program will be covered by Stu in his Consultant Report.

The tree subcommittee met on 28Jan2019, with attendance by Tyson, Price, Farwell, and Logan.

We reviewed the operations under the current tree removal contract with S.P. McClenahan and reached the following observations.

- Tree removal has been occurring without incident - the contract continues to work down the trees scheduled for removal (of trees identified before 01Jul2018) and expects to complete these by the end of June.
- The expectation is that, as the contract approaches the \$2MM budgeted, work will cease such that the budgeted amount is not exceeded.
- The trees on the wait list (sites of subsequently-identified trees) continues to grow and is expected to reach ~220 sites by the end of FY19 (number to be updated at the meeting). The number of trees has not been determined (not until after site evaluation), but based on historic averages, will be ~800. (based on historical 3.6 trees per site), which would cost ~\$2.3MM (based on \$2800/tree).
- New dead trees continue to be identified, resulting largely from residual effects of our recent drought.
- Property owners with new additions to the waiting list have been communicated with that the timing for their tree removal hasn't been set and will be better defined with a new Tree Removal contract. We recognize that this delay is inconvenient to them. We also intend to develop additions to the LAHFCD website to make it easier to submit and track the progress of tree requests.
- As discussed during the Budget Narrative, the structure and form of a new Tree Removal contract, including strategies related to a changed focus on tree species, tree location, or even the focus on trees vs. brush, is still being formed. The proposed budget allows for additional trees to be added beyond those identified by 30Jun2019. Feedback from the pending County Management Audit may have an impact on that program focus and structure.
- The Tree Subcommittee recommends that the Board consider initiating arborist site reviews on at least some of the wait list properties, to better plan and potentially accelerate implementation of additional tree removal in FY20. Feedback will be collected at this meeting and a formal proposal potentially submitted at a subsequent board meeting.

An operations subteam of the Tree Subcommittee (Logan, Farwell, Tyson, and Nguyen) met with Josh McClenahan at the latter's site on 29Jan2019. After doing a site walk-through, an extended discussion was held to review past and current operations issues and discuss ideas relating to some potential process improvements noted above.