



APPLICATION SUMMARY SHEET

PROJECT NAME Tree Trimming: Venice Beach Post Office	
BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION (50 WORDS OR LESS) Venice Beach has twenty-one Italian Stone Pines (Pinus pinea) in dire need of pruning and care. Our trees circumnavigate the post office on Grand, Riveria and Windward. The pruning is a prerequisite as specified by Urban Forestry before a larger, future proposed safety and beautification project to repair / refurbish public sidewalks/curbs around the post office can take place. Note: tree trimming now is paramount to our trees long term health, and to preserve them as a community asset.	
PROJECT SITE NAME AND FULL ADDRESS Venice Beach Post Office, 313 E. Grand Blvd	
PROJECT COMPLETION DATE Before Spring 2016.	# OF VENICE STAKEHOLDERS 31,125 = population TO BENEFIT BY THIS PROJECT of Venice. Plus our visitors!

ORGANIZATION OR STAKEHOLDER NAME Venice Stakeholders Association / Darin Morris volunteering /representing the VSA.		
QUALIFYING ADDRESS 1615 Andalusia, Venice CA 90291		
DAY PHONE 323-937-4270 (work, D. Morris)	EVENING PHONE	CELL PHONE 310-963-0077
E-MAIL ADDRESS morris@gruenassociates.com		FAX

PROJECT MANAGER Darin Morris		TITLE Project Manager
MAILING ADDRESS 509 Grand Blvd Venice CA 90291		
DAY PHONE 323-937-4270	EVENING PHONE	CELL PHONE 310-963-0077
E-MAIL ADDRESS morris@gruenassociates.com		FAX

BY SIGNING BELOW, I agree to the terms of the 2015-16 Community Improvement Project funding guidelines. I also acknowledge that the Information submitted in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Submitting an application with misleading information may be cause for disqualification.

AMOUNT REQUESTED \$5000

Darin Morris
STAKEHOLDER SIGNATURE
Darin Morris
PROJECT MANAGER SIGNATURE

4/1/2015
DATE
April 1, 2015
DATE

REVIEW (For Office Use Only)

PROJECT # (For Office Use Only) <i>P</i>



PROJECT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Include how many stakeholders will be working on this project.) (Maximum 500 words)
We have twenty-one beautiful Italian Stone Pine (Pinus pinea) trees that circumnavigate the Venice Beach Post Office. Our trees and sidewalks here are in dire need of care and repair. As the City of Los Angeles is short on street servicing budget, our Venice Community must take it upon ourselves to care for our Italian Stone Pine trees and other community assets.

As part of a future, larger proposed plan to fix the City sidewalks and curbs around our post office, our Italian Stone Pine trees are past due for proper tree pruning. Proper tree pruning will afford the trees to grow into well formed, tall trees with expansive and urban scale canopies, providing much needed shade and beauty to our neighborhood. Mature Italian Stone Pines can make a majestic gateway street gesture worthy of our world-renown beach destination, and improve the quality of the day-to-day lives of our residents.

Currently our trees are at risk to blowing over in a major storm event due to their thick, wind resistant and impenetrable crowns. City Street Sweeping vehicles also cannot properly clean our streets without damaging the low hanging crowns. Also, the trees have out grown their existing tree wells, which in a future project engagement would be enlarged to better accommodate our trees.

Tree trimming is a professional service endeavor with certain safety precautions not conducive to volunteer work. As such we would not be soliciting the Venice Community at this time to assist, with the exception of having a couple qualified residents to observe the tree pruning work to help ensure pruning specifications are followed. However, there are future, proposed projects to beautifying and refurbishing our public right of way around the post office where community involvement would be highly desirable.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT (Description of benefit to the entire community and justification for these benefits)

1. Community asset: our Post Office Italian Stone Pines are a community asset that if properly cared for will outlive most of our current Venice residents and will be enjoyed by generations to come.
2. Cleaner streets: raising the tree canopy will allow City street sweeping trucks to pass without damaging the trees. Currently street sweepers avoid portions of Grand, Riveria and Windward because of the low canopies.
3. Gateway to Venice: Grand Blvd and Windward are major pedestrian streets between Abbot Kinney and the Venice Beach Recreation Area and Boardwalk. Well maintained trees welcome our Venice Beach visitors and our residents.
4. Sustainability: proper tree form will increase canopy size and coverage, providing much needed shade on our sidewalks and streets, lowering street surface temperature and reducing urban heat island effect.

RETURN ON VNC INVESTMENT (One of the main missions of the VNC is to outreach to Venice stakeholders so that we can represent them to the City. Will this project help us do that, and in what ways).

Beautification and Public Safety: The condition of our street trees is one of the most visible statements Venice Beach can make. Taking care of our trees will afford them to live for generations to come. And in taking care of our trees now, much needed repair for our public sidewalks can commence in the near future. Our Venice Beach is a tourist destination of world-renown, perhaps the largest tourist destination in the City of Los Angeles. Our neighborhood public streets need to reflect that the City and the residents care about our environs. The current disrepair shows neglect. We must turn this around, and can best do so one block at a time.



PROJECT PLANNING SHEET

WORK PLAN (Include a TIME-LINE for the project with beginning date and completion date of each phase. Projects may not begin prior to August 1, 2015 and must be completed by May 15, 2016)
The tree trimming can commence as soon as the weather cools, either late October or early November. (The weather is too warm now, leaving trees susceptible to beetle infestation, disease or other harmful vectors when branches are freshly cut.) Tree trimming for all twenty-one (21) trees should take approximately 30 - 40 hours, to be done during Monday through Friday.

All work must follow City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Street Services, Urban Forestry Division specifications for proper tree trimming to reduce risk associated with introducing harmful vectors, and maintaining best practices for proper tree form. See attached exhibits regarding tree pruning specs and correspondence with Urban Forestry. See Exhibit 2.2

A Venice Beach volunteer project manager will observe portions of the work to help ensure City specs are followed by the tree trimming contractor.

Pinus pinea need to be thinned out and crowns raised to prevent blow over during a storm event. Trees require severe training cuts to establish a higher canopy. Smaller cuts will serve the long term health of the trees better. Putting off the tree pruning further will only allow the trees to continue with an incorrect growth pattern.

Vehicle traffic will need to be re-routed and parking lane will need to be occupied for those portions of the tree trimming.

Cut limbs will be mulched through a wood chipper.

Tree trimming is required before sidewalk repair can begin in a future proposed project. Part of sidewalk repair will include removing existing tree well permeable paver covers that have been uprooted. Tree wells will be cut wider and enlarged, limited by maintaining a five (5) clear set-back to the back of sidewalk where possible. Tree wells will be in-filled with decomposed granite.

MAINTENANCE PLAN (If applicable)

Depending on growth of the trees, we can anticipate tree trimming again in three to five years. Pinus pinea will grow 10 - 15 ft. in the first five to eight years. After, growth slows to approximately 1 ft. per year until the trees reach maturity at a height of 40 - 60 ft.

PROJECT RENDERING SHEET (If applicable)

Attach conceptual images of the project to this sheet or design and print your own sheet. Include text explanations.



Existing Condition
Italian Stone Pines (Pinus pinea)
on Grand Blvd.

Trees must be thinned

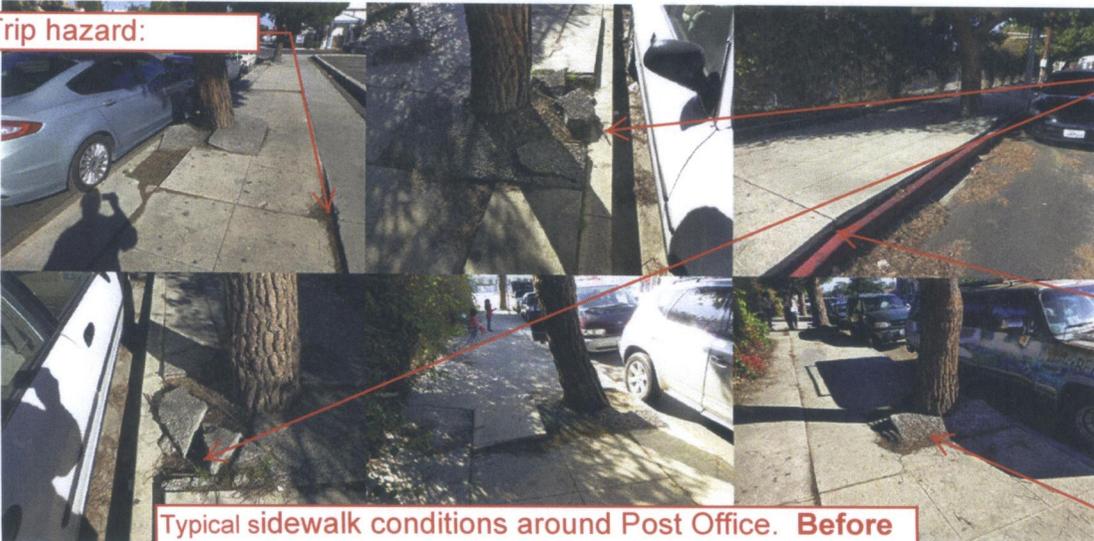
Crowns must be raised to prevent damage from trucks and to allow trees to grow into best possible form.



Existing Condition
Mature, well formed Italian Stone Pines
on National Blvd. in West LA

Well formed Italian Stone pines in neighboring West Los Angeles. These trees are the pride of National Blvd.

Trip hazard:



Public safety hazard: exposed rebar

Trip hazard: Sidewalks delaminated from curb

Trip hazard: permeable concrete tree well covers uplifted

Typical sidewalk conditions around Post Office. **Before sidewalks can be repaired, trees must be trimmed.**



ORGANIZATION SHEET (if applicable)

(Only complete this form if the applicant is an organization. If so, do not complete Page 7)

ORGANIZATION NAME	Venice Stakeholders Association
ORGANIZATION ADDRESS	1615 Andalusia Avenue, Venice, CA 90291
ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE (Include the experience that your organization has in the execution of similar projects)	<p>Venice Stakeholders Association is dedicated to civic improvement. It supports slow growth and the limits of the Venice Local Coastal Specific Plan, neighborhood safety, improved traffic circulation, increased parking for residents, neighborhood beautification projects, historic preservation, habitat restoration and protection of coastal waters. The VSA is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization.</p> <p>Darin Morris is the volunteer project manager for this grant. He is a veteran landscape architect with the firm of Gruen and Associates. He resides on Grand Boulevard, one block from the project site.</p> <p>Mark Ryavec is the president of the VSA. He is certified as an Urban Forester by TreePeople and was the co-director of the effort 20 years ago that led to the planting of the 21 Italian Stone Pines around what is now the Venice Post Office, then the Postal Annex. In that effort Mr. Ryavec joined Jim Murez and Ed Barger in organizing 200 Venetians to install the 21 trees.</p>

TOTAL MEMBERS	The proposal must include the names and SIGNATURES of 5 members of the organization (preferably Board members)	YEAR ESTABLISHED
124		2010

BY SIGNING BELOW, I declare in good faith that I am a member of the organization named above. I realize the Venice Neighborhood Council may contact me to verify my membership and participation in this organization.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	SIGNATURE
Mark Ryavec	1615 Andalusia Ave	310 392 4843	Mark S. Ryavec
MICHAEL KING	230 HORIZON AVE.	310-991-6278	
Doug Himmel	25 Paloma Ave	310 903 2444	
Bonnie Felix	2604 GRAND CANAL	310 306-4995	Bonnie Felix
DARIN MORRIS	509 GRAND BLVD.	310-581-0018	Darin Morris

Exhibit 2.1

<p>Campos Greenview Landscape & Tree Service</p> <p>14845 Tuba Street Mission Hills, CA 91345</p> <p>(310) 936-4525* Camposgreenview@gmail.com</p>	<p>Venice Stakeholders Association</p> <p>453 Rialto Avenue Venice, Can 90291</p> <p>ATT: Michael</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tree Trimming Proposition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trimming of twenty-one pine trees• Clean up and disposal of debris and clippings <p style="text-align: right;">Total\$ 5,000.00</p>	

Hi Darin,
The Urban Forestry Division will extend the TreePruning Permit till Fall of 2015 to prune the 21 Stone Pines during the months of Oct-December for cool weather timing. See attached sheets we use for our contract trimming contractors, I will update this if there are revised standards.
Thanks, Stephen

On Mon, May 18, 2015 at 10:58 AM, Darin Morris <morris@gruenassociates.com> wrote:
Hi Stephen,

Our Venice Beach Post Office Pinus pinea tree trimming project is up for a Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) grant to pay for the tree trimming!
Most excellent!

We have however a fine print obstacle and would need your / Urban Forestry's sign-off and help before we can proceed:

I missed the fine print 30 day expiration date, which also says, no permit may be reissued for another two years. Permit copy is attached. As we hadn't yet raised the funds back in January when I pulled the permit, due diligence from the VNC says we need to clear this with you that we can either use the original permit, attached, or may apply for and be granted a new one even though we will be within the two year blackout period.

Ivan Spiegel, VNC Program Administrator (parliamentarian@VeniceNC.org, cc'd on this email) for the grant program said that a **reply-back email from you or from Urban Forestry saying we can proceed as planned with the existing permit, etc. would suffice to clear our status as a potential grant recipient** to properly trim our 21 Pinus pinea around the Venice Beach Post Office.

Also, for your interest, I've attached our entire grant application, if you wish to review it. We put quite a bit effort in: I want to ensure the long term health for our trees in our community.

In case you are out of town, I've also cc'd Adrian Sanchez, as we need to have a response before the end of this week.

Much obliged for your earliest response.
Thank you and regards!
Darin

Street Tree Pruning Permit

Exhibit 2.2



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUREAU OF STREET SERVICES
URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION



PERMIT TO PRUNE STREET TREES

DATE: 29-Jan-15 **REF. NO.:** TPR2015000091
PERMISSION IS HEREBY GRANTED TO: VENICE STAKEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION
ADDRESS: 509 . GRAND BL, LOS ANGELES, CA 90291 **PHONE:** 310-9630077
WORK SITE ADDRESS: 313 E GRAND BL, LOS ANGELES, 90291
TO TRIM : 21 TREE(S)

Tree(s) over 15 feet in height must be pruned to ensure free passage of vehicle and pedestrian traffic upon streets and sidewalks.

Tree(s) or shrubs shall be pruned so as to have a minimum clearance of:

1. 13 feet 6 inches over that portion of state highways and major streets improved, designed or original used for vehicular traffic;
2. 11 feet over that portion of local streets improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular traffic.
3. 9 feet over the sidewalk and parkway area of all streets.

In addition to the above, the Bureau requests that you:

- * Prune the trees in a professional manner in accordance with current arboricultural standards.
- * Do not remove more than 25% of the live green foliage.
- * Remove dead, diseased, damaged and crossing limbs.
- * Do not leave rips or stubs in the trees.
- * Do not make topping cuts.
- * Remove any broken hanging limbs.
- * Leave the tree(s) in a balanced, safe and aesthetically pleasing condition.

All street trees shall be pruned in accordance with the International Society of Arboriculture "Tree Pruning Guidelines", and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI A-300) "Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Maintenance Standard Practices."

All brush generated from the pruning of street trees shall be properly disposed of at the permittee's expense immediately after the tree is pruned. Brush shall not be allowed to obstruct the street, sidewalk or parkway.

NOTE: THIS PERMIT IS NOT VALID FOR THE PRUNING OF OAK TREES. BEFORE ISSUING A PRUNE PERMIT FOR OAK TREES, AN ONSITE INSPECTION BY A URBAN FORESTRY REPRESENTATIVE IS REQUIRED.

THIS PERMIT EXPIRES 30 DAYS FROM DATE OF ISSUANCE. NO ADDITIONAL TREE PRUNING PERMITS SHALL BE ISSUED FOR THIS TREE(S) FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS.

Thank you for your concern and support in the maintenance of the City's living infrastructure, the street trees of Los Angeles.

If you have any questions, please contact the Urban Forestry Division at (213) 847-3077.

Darin Morris

From: Darin Morris <morris@gruenassociates.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 2:24 PM
To: Darin Morris
Subject: RE: Venice Beach, saving Pinus pinea, sidewalks lifting

From: Stephen Duprey [mailto:stephen.duprey@lacity.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 2:52 PM
To: Darin Morris
Subject: Re: Venice Beach, saving Pinus pinea, sidewalks lifting

Hi Darin,

I went out yesterday to look at the trees, they do indeed need a training prune to raise limbs away from curb line and over sidewalk and a much needed thin out of dead needles and branches.

Yes October this year would be a good time to prune.

Thanks, Stephen

On Tue, Jan 20, 2015 at 12:36 PM, Darin Morris <morris@gruenassociates.com> wrote:

Much obliged.

I will include this in bold letters at the top of the proposed scope.

Some of the branches are low, you can bump your head on them if not careful.

I'll check with the neighborhood now about raising funds for the tree trimming. If the monies are available, I would try to get this done before this spring. Otherwise we'll need to wait until after next October. Would that be right?

Thanks!

Darin

From: Stephen Duprey [mailto:stephen.duprey@lacity.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 12:28 PM
To: Darin Morris

Subject: Re: Venice Beach, saving Pinus pinea, sidewalks lifting

Hi Darin,

These pines also need some thinning out and crown raising so the don't blow over in a storm, only trim during the cool season to avoid beetle damage in the fresh cuts. The best time to do this is before any sidewalk repairs.

Thanks, Stephen

On Tue, Jan 20, 2015 at 12:00 PM, Darin Morris <morris@gruenassociates.com> wrote:

Hi Stephen,

Much obliged for the feedback!

The sidewalk widths from face of curb to back of sidewalk vary around the perimeter of the post office from 8' to 12'.

We could certainly enlarge the existing tree wells as much as allowable. Much of the sidewalks have lifted and offset from the curbs, which are a tripping hazard. The DG tree wells and a DG parkway would definitely help mitigate some of the trip hazard.

I'll do some more diligence with BOE regarding approach and feasibility, and continue the work with my Venice neighborhood to get plans together.

Thank you again,

Darin

From: Stephen Duprey [mailto:stephen.duprey@lacity.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 11:46 AM
To: Darin Morris
Cc: Alexander Caiozzo
Subject: Re: Venice Beach, saving Pinus pinea, sidewalks lifting

Hi Darin,

My approach would be to enlarge the wells as large as possible with 5' clear passage on the back side and fill in with D.G. The best approach would be to remove the entire sidewalk in say 12' sections and replace it with D.G. although that's not always feasible or permitted. Check with BOE "A" permit section on this

The attached list are some standard well sizes we could enlarge them to suite the site and sidewalk widths.

On Tue, Jan 20, 2015 at 10:11 AM, Adrian Sanchez <adrian.sanchez@lacity.org> wrote:

Darin,

Please follow up with Stephen, he is the inspector for that area. I have included him in this email. His phone number is 213-847-3071

ADRIAN SANCHEZ
Tree Surgeon Supervisor I
Western Chapter C.A.F. WE 80224
Western Chapter C.F.W. # 1484
Urban Forestry Division
Subdivision Section
1149 S. Broadway, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015
213-847-3070

Darin Morris

From: Darin Morris <morris@gruenassociates.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 2:33 PM
To: Darin Morris
Subject: RE: tree trimming - RE: Venice Beach, saving Pinus pinea, sidewalks lifting

From: Stephen Duprey [<mailto:stephen.duprey@lacity.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 9:49 AM
To: Darin Morris
Subject: Re: tree trimming - RE: Venice Beach, saving Pinus pinea, sidewalks lifting

Hi Darin,
See attached list of our contractors.
Stephen

On Tue, Jan 20, 2015 at 1:07 PM, Darin Morris <morris@gruenassociates.com> wrote:

Stephen,

Can you advise who the City contracts with for the tree trimming?

I'd like to get a bid for the general work, and I can get some traction to get the work funded.

There is interest!

I can also work with Salyna Cun at the Office of Community Beautification to help process permits since this is a neighborhood initiated project.

Thanks!

Darin

Exhibit 2.4

Recent Contractors

WEST COAST ARBORISTS, INC
2200 E. Via Burton St
Anaheim, CA 92806-1221
(800) 521-3714 Victor Gonzalez

**Contractors for Tree Pruning who have contracted
in the past with Urban Forestry, Bureau of Street
Services, City of Los Angeles**

TRIMMING LAND CO., INC.
10513 Dolores Ave
South Gate, CA 90280
(323) 569-4498 Tony/Basilio Martinez

TRIFTY TREE SERVICE, INC.
18625 Topham St
Reseda, CA 91335
(818) 996-4577 Dave Aviram

MARIPOSA LANDSCAPES, INC.
15529 Arrow Highway
Irwindale, CA 91706
(626) 960-0196 Dennis Jones

UNITED PACIFIC SERVICES, INC.
120 E. La Habra Bl, Ste 107
La Habra, CA 90631
(562) 691-4600 Eric/Gus Franklin