



MEMORANDUM

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From: John Gibbs, WRT
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Ref. No.: 8135

Project: Alameda Complete Streets

Pages: 7

Re: Otis Drive Tree Placement

This memo summarizes WRT's preliminary review of species and locations for new trees on Otis Drive as part of the mobility enhancement project. This is a preliminary assessment, and we recommend additional assessment of existing and proposed trees in partnership with the City of Alameda and residents of Otis Drive.

Street trees are proposed for the existing 21 vacant tree wells along Otis Drive. Attached is a plan diagram showing the locations of these 21 tree wells (indicated as blue dots), with species recommendations for each location. Trees are highly valuable to urban neighborhoods, as they perform a multitude of environmental, social and economic services, including absorbing carbon and pollutants from the atmosphere, reducing urban heat island effect, enhancing water infiltration, providing wildlife habitat, helping to boost property values, and providing shade and improved street character, among others. ¹

WRT reviewed the Master Street Tree Plan list and Alameda Point's 'Site A' Tree List from City arborists, went to the site, observed tree pit sizes, noted what tree species seem to be doing well in the current conditions, and discussed these observations with the City of Alameda staff, including the City's arborist.

With this understanding, and given projected future conditions of the site, namely drought and increased salinity due to sea level rise, WRT recommends revising the Master Street Tree Plan list to remove *Tilia tomentosa* and *Pyrus c. "Aristocrat"*, and replacing them with *Lophostemon confertus*, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, and *Hymenosporum flavum*, as well as *Koelreuteria elegans ssp. Formosana*, *Parrotia*

¹ Landscape Architecture Foundation. Landscape Performance Series Fast Fact Library [Web log post]. Retrieved May 17, 2019, from <https://www.landscapperformance.org/fast-fact-library>



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persica, and Tipuana tipu, consistent with Alameda Point’s ‘Site A’ Trees List. Therefore, the revised preliminary recommended species list for the Otis Drive Corridor is as follows: (see photos of tree species on pages 3-6 of this memo.)

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Size</i>
Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	Large
Corymbia ficifolia*	Red Flowering Gum	Large
Hymenosporum flavum	Sweetshade	Small
Koelreuteria elegans ssp. Formosana **	Henry Flame Tree	Small-Medium
Lophostemon confertus	Brisbane Box	Medium
Melaleuca quinquenervia	Cajeput Tree	Medium
Metrosideros excelsa*	New Zealand Christmas Tree	Small
Parrotia persica**	Persian Ironwood	Small
Tipuana tipu**	Tipu Tree	Medium-Large

*From Master Street Tree Plan List

**From Alameda Point’s Site A Tree List

Additionally, the existing Pyrus trees along Otis Drive (see photo on page 7 of this memo) are a short lived species that is performing poorly in this location due to climate suitability and future soil conditions. They look to be over 5 years old, at their mature size, and they do not seem to be doing well in current conditions. Community members have also brought up this concern. While there was discussion of waiting to see if some of them would recover from the drought, our recommendation remains to plan for the removal and replacement of the majority of them as part of an overall tree planting project. A preliminary count indicates that there are 25 Pyrus trees on site. A further assessment of each tree should be conducted to decide which ones should be removed.

Finally, for the long-term solution roundabout, we recommend planting a Quercus agrifolia, raised up above the street level by berming up the soil in the roundabout (see photos of tree species on page 8 of this memo), as a native species is desired by community stakeholders.



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Recommended Tree Species Example Photos



Corymbia ficifolia



Hymenosporum flavum



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Koelreuteria elegans ssp. formosana



Lophosterum confertus



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Melaleuca quinquenervia



Metrosideros excelsa



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Parrotia persica



Tipuana tipu



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Existing Pyrus tree example photo



Example of existing Pyrus tree to be removed and replaced



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Recommended Tree species for the long-term solution roundabout



Quercus agrifolia



Example of Quercus agrifolia (in winter) in a roundabout