

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD POLICY

SUBJECT: Palm Tree Preservation and Planting

BACKGROUND: In the past, large numbers of palm trees have been planted in San Diego on public street rights-of-way, the grounds of public facilities and parks, and in private developments. These plantings have contributed to the semi-tropical image of the City. Currently, redevelopment activity, old age and disease have caused the loss of a significant number of mature palm trees. This loss does not appear to have been offset by new palm plantings.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to encourage a balanced landscape, which includes palm trees, to assist in the retention of the City's semi-tropical image.

POLICY: It shall be the policy of the Park and Recreation Board to encourage the retention and planting of palm trees as follows:

1. Street Rights-of-Way: Existing palm plantings will be retained and protected to the extent feasible.

It is recognized that trees growing into power lines are dangerous, and effective remedies must be initiated to correct the hazardous condition. If a palm tree cannot be trimmed or the power line re-routed at a reasonable cost to avoid conflict, the palm tree may be removed under City permit which will require replacement with a suitable palm where feasible.

Due to the maintenance frequency required for palms planted in the street right-of-way, new plantings of palms as street trees will be limited to low maintenance palm species.

2. Public Facilities and Parks: The planting of a balanced landscape will be required in public facilities and parks. Consultants shall consider palm trees, if appropriate. The approved design standards for Mission Bay Park will govern in that facility.

POLICY:

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3. Other agencies and the private sector are encouraged to include palms in their landscaping projects where appropriate.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The responsibility for implementation of this policy is placed on the Park and Recreation Department.

SUBSTANTIATION:

Council Resolution No. 223288, April 17, 1979.  
Park and Recreation Board Minutes of July 17, 1979.

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