

# Santiago Hills Assessment District (SHAD)

## Landscape Renovation Community Meeting - September 9, 2019



Chapman Hills Elementary School

### Summary Report

On Monday, September 9, 2019, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, the City of Orange Community Services Department conducted a Community Meeting at Chapman Hills Elementary School to discuss proposed landscape renovations in the Santiago Hills Assessment District (SHAD). The purpose of the meeting was to collect input from residents on next steps with landscape renovation.

SHAD residents were notified of the community meeting through mailings sent to 1,574 properties, online postings on the Nextdoor social media site and the City of Orange website, emailed meeting notice flyers, and signs posted within the District.

#### **Meeting Format**

All attendees were asked to sign-in upon arrival. A brief summary of the landscape options presented were distributed for attendees to reference throughout the meeting and to take home. Additionally, attendees had the option to take and fill out a question card to be addressed during the meeting as well as a feedback card to provide input on the landscape options. There were two displays available for viewing during the meeting: the Handy Creek Paseo Conceptual Plan (updated 2017) and the District Priority Map. Both are attached. Thirty-six individuals signed in at the meeting and approximately 45 people attended. The meeting was initiated with a welcome and introductions by Bonnie Hagan, the Assistant City Manager and Community Services Director. Staff present were Leslie Hardy, Assistant Community Services Director, Dana Robertson, Parks and Facilities Manager, Don Equitz, Senior Landscape Coordinator, Nathan Bluhm, Landscape Coordinator, and Michelle Trujillo, Administrative Analyst. Bonnie Hagan then gave a brief history of the District and previous renovation projects, presented water usage data and the budget, explained the landscape options, and informed attendees of the City's Integrated Pest Management Program as well as the Santiago Hills Park Pesticide-Free Landscape Maintenance Pilot Program. Attached is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Following the presentation, the audience participated in a moderated 'Question and Answer' session.

#### **Community Input and Feedback**

The following questions and inquiries were recorded during the moderated 'question and answer' session with meeting attendees:

- Concern was expressed for the removal and replacement of trees within the District, specifically what types of trees would be removed and replaced. Staff explained trees would be removed due to age, condition, and overall function to the area. Replacement trees would be carefully selected to consider the landscape conditions.

- Inquiry about the potential to utilize reclaimed water was discussed. Staff shared that the City has not utilized reclaimed water because it has been identified as cost prohibitive due to the infrastructure requirements and available water sources.
- Clarification on the timeline to complete the second half of Skylark was requested. Staff informed the attendee that the second landscape option includes plans to complete Skylark but if that option was not selected by the community, it would be considered as a future project.
- Feedback on the new irrigation system was received, specifically noting excess water pooling and running down the hardscape adjacent to the planter at Skylark. Staff explained the timing of the watering schedule to occur at various parts of the day making it more visible, and also noted that some pooling of water is to be expected with subsurface irrigation. Additionally, staff would check to ensure the irrigation was functioning properly.
- Inquiries related to weeds and frequency of weed control were submitted. Staff explained that maintenance including weed control occurs every 4 weeks for any given location within the District. Staff would follow up with concerns about weeds not being removed within that time frame.
- A question related to how staff forecasts the CPI increase was submitted. Staff clarified that the assessments may increase by an amount up to the change in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County Consumer Price Index, not exceeding 3% per the resolution.
- An update on the status of the Irvine Company project was requested, considering how it would affect the Jamboree median. Staff shared that the Irvine Company has expressed that they currently do not have a timeline for starting the project.
- Inquiry related to if the Handy Creek Paseo design, even with the doubling of turf, would be compliant with the water ordinance restrictions. Staff confirmed that it would be.
- Several questions were asked regarding pesticide use in the District and the adjacent Santiago Hills Park. Staff explained that the District is managed under the City's current Integrated Pest Management Program and encourages feedback if alternative options for pesticide use within the District is preferred.

Attendees were notified that the presentation, Handy Creek Paseo Conceptual Plan, and the District Priorities Map would be posted online following the presentation. Following the presentation, staff were available to address specific concerns, answer further inquiry, and to record feedback related to the landscape options within the District.

### **Next Steps**

- The City requested input on the landscape options by September 30, at which time City staff will evaluate all input received at the meeting and through email or phone call correspondence to determine a recommendation for next steps.
- The City has also requested ongoing input on the Integrated Pest Management Program and potential alternatives such as manual labor, organic products, or a pesticide-free landscape maintenance program within the landscape assessment District.
- City staff will continue to update the Santiago Hills Landscape District email list and all those who provided their contact information to send future updates and solicit future input.