



## Rancho Bernardo Maintenance Assessment District Year in Review

The Rancho Bernardo Maintenance Assessment District is a citizen's advisory board that works with city staff to manage the landscaping in Rancho Bernardo. The maintenance is funded by a special assessment that is collected from the property taxes of residents and businesses in the maintained areas of Rancho Bernardo. It is also funded in part by special taxes not limited to gas taxes. The work is performed by a landscaping company who has a contract to perform the work.

### Issues discussed through out the past year

#### **March 2005**

Michael Crull, PE from Boyle Engineering presented the plans for **widening Bernardo Center Drive** and realigning the medians on the east and west sides of the freeway. The committee advised as to the replacement plants and trees after the road is widened. Topics of discussion included that fact that 2 main arteries would be under construction at the same time and that Cal Trans would be advised of the concerns.

The outdated and inefficient **up-lighting along Rancho Bernardo Road** were replaced with lights that were 40% more energy efficient. 75 lights were replaced. 50 were running automatically from 7-11 pm nightly. Other lighting was near construction areas and was not operational.

#### **April 2005**

The second rebaloting was passed 73% Yes and 27% No. This new money would not be available until after the December tax bills are collected. Private businesses donated \$30,000 to help keep the maintenance district running until the money from the rebaloting was available.

Gary Powers presented to the committee the Keep RB Beautiful Committee which consists of members from the Chamber of Commerce office, Pomerado Publishing, Community Council, Bike Coalition, RB Realtors and RB Sun.

#### **June 2005**

The I15 construction destroyed an olive tree and was making plans to replace it with a specimen that is at least 10 foot tall.

Since funding was limited, services were cut back so there was a need to catch up on fertilizing, trimming and doing pest control on the trees. Recommendations were made to start to water regularly, mow weekly and fertilize as needed in order to get the grass back from June 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005

### **July 2005**

The committee welcomed the new City District Manager Joe Henderson. The storm drains along Pomerado are neglected by the Streets Division so the committee investigated the reason. The Streets Division reported that since they have neglected them so long the area has turned into an environmentally sensitive area and needs state permits.

### **August 2005**

After 11 months, the water meter under I-15 at RB Road had been installed but they are controlled manually. Clean up by the contractor was expected to start soon. After which, the lights will be brought to working order.

A olive tree was destroyed due to a traffic accident and replaced.

### **September 2005**

Issues of construction work at I15 and RB Road effecting the watering and upkeep of the medians was discussed. Cal-Trans was asked to increase their manual watering. In addition to a tree struck by a car in August, two more trees and two new lights have been hit by cars

City Environmental Planner assessed the streets division's blocked storm channel at Rios Road and Pomerado has been inspected, and declared it too "environmentally sensitive" clean out. A small ecosystem has developed in the concrete receptacle with minnows and reeds, etc. that apparently qualify it as protected wetland. Council Rep Janette Littler met with Cory and Steve at the site and promised to pursue placing this issue on a priority list when permits are received by Streets Division (possibly as late as 2007).

### **October 2005**

CalTrans started to clean the turf median on the east side of the freeway overpass, aerify, top dress and reseed turf. One light damaged by CalTrans was replaced. Another light at the nose was to be repaired due to an accident last month.

The decision was made to move the trees and plantings on the west side of Bernardo Center Drive to Pomerado Road at Rios Road. The HOA would be approached to supply a water line to the trees and plants.

**November 2005**

The landscaping contract is up for renewal and the committee has requested to be more involved with the bidding process.

A company had been found who will transport the nine trees from Bernardo Center Drive free of charge. Urban Corp has offered to dig the holes in the new location.

**December 2005**

The turf on the medians east of I-15 has been seeded by contractor. Watering during middle of day will continue until grass sets.

The city staff presented preliminary budget to the committee. Since there is some extra money in the Capital Improvement Fund, the committee will make recommendations at the next meeting on how to allocate the money in the coming Fiscal year.

**January 2006**

The wires and main line for irrigation and up-lighting under I-15 along RB Road will be reinstalled by CalTrans with stamped concrete to follow.

The replacement of a damaged electrical meter pedestal by the Mercado has been bid by and came in at \$6800. The cost is due to an older version set up at the location.

A prebid conference for our contract was held on January 10th. A committee member attended along with fourteen contractors. Deadline to have a contract in place is April 1st. Bid closing is January 20th.

Final approval and recommendations of upcoming budget were passed.

**February 2006**

Contract bids (five lowest) have been reviewed by purchasing department and delivered to Cory's office last Thursday. Cory will review calculations, compare hours to ensure responsible bids and make a recommendation.

An accident occurred at 12025 Rancho Bernardo Rd destroyed a two inch backflow which was installed two years ago. The costs, \$1,879.52, will be turned over to the City's Revenue and Recovery team to pursue reimbursement from the individual who caused the damage.

The up-lights on Rancho Bernardo Rd. between Acena and Bernardo Center Dr were malfunctioning and the problem was found in a junction box and corrected with final cost being \$238.26.

Capital Improvement recommendations were voted on and a unanimous vote to obtain the two large backflows in Seven Oaks median at the cost of \$1500 each. Unanimous

vote to upgrade electrical system for lights on Bernardo Center Drive. Unanimous vote to obtain manual irrigation valves at approximately \$2500-\$3000 each to convert to solar or battery.

Discussion as to possible ways of improving Pomerado Rd. asphalt median were discussed. Various suggestions such as loose gravel with boulders, stamped concrete, slurry seal, etc., were made. The City staff gave an estimated cost of \$3.4 million to replace them with stamped concrete.

Since the HOA has decided to turn us down in assisting with the initial watering of the plants/trees, the committee felt a water truck would be the best solution and would allow for trees and plants north of Rios Road.

The Conserve a Tree program offered by the City was discussed for the maintained trees in Rancho Bernardo.