



January 21, 2025

Caring for Our Coast



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AUBREY AUSTIN PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

CONSTRUCTION TO RESUME IN EARLY FEBRUARY 2025

WITH NO PLANNED TREE REMOVALS

To all interested community members:

The following background information and update on the Aubrey Austin Park Improvement Project is provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH).

BACKGROUND:

- The Aubrey Austin Park Improvement Project (Project) aims to enhance public access for all in Marina del Rey, ensuring ADA compliance, while prioritizing the health of the park's existing mature coral trees by removing excess concrete paving to provide additional space as well as an upgraded irrigation system for the trees and plants to thrive.
- During the Project's demolition phase, extensive roots of several coral trees were discovered to be in conflict with the reconstruction of the waterfront promenade.
- The promenade is an essential public access amenity that also serves as vehicular access for operations and maintenance providers as well as first responders.
- The Project underwent additional redesign after the sidewalk/promenade demolition to minimize conflicts with mature coral trees to the greatest extent feasible.
- The Project requires the roots of two trees to be pruned to prepare the site for reconstruction of the promenade.
- Reconstruction of the promenade will involve excavation up to 18 inches below the existing ground surface for preparation and compaction of the soil subgrade and placement of gravel base material and concrete for the new promenade to support the vehicle loads and meet the grades necessary for proper site drainage and ADA accessibility.
- Extensive root pruning for roots with diameters larger than 8" within the excavated areas is expected to cause the health of the two trees to rapidly decline. Therefore, the County's arborist recommended removal of the two impacted trees and planting of two new trees during construction due to significant public safety risks from potential tree failure in the months following the root pruning.



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UPDATE:

- To balance community concerns about the removal of mature trees with the County's responsibility to ensure public safety, the roots of the two impacted trees will be **pruned only** as necessary for the promenade reconstruction. And the trees will remain and be protected in place for the duration of the Project.
- To reiterate, **no mature trees are planned for removal** during construction of the Project. Instead, root pruning will be conducted as needed and documented with photos and videos under the guidance of a certified arborist, and all best practices will be implemented to safeguard tree health. Moreover, the mature trees will undergo regular monitoring by the County's qualified arborists for indications of rapid decline and resulting potential public safety risks.
- Should a tree show signs of imminent failure, it may require removal on an emergency basis in line with the Marina del Rey Local Coastal Program/Land Use Plan's policies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Call (424) 526-7900
- Email: info@bh.lacounty.gov

About the Department of Beaches and Harbors

DBH manages Marina del Rey harbor and more than 24 miles of beaches along the Los Angeles County coast, including world-famous Zuma, Malibu Surfrider, Venice, Dockweiler and Manhattan beaches. In addition to promoting and maintaining a clean coastline, DBH operates Burton Chace Park in Marina del Rey and the Dockweiler Youth Center and Dockweiler RV Park at Dockweiler State Beach. For more information, visit our website at beaches.lacounty.gov.