

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, January 16, 2019 - 1:30 p.m.
Laguna Woods Village Community Sycamore Room
24351 El Toro Road**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Acknowledgment of Media
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Report for September 19, 2018
5. Chair's Remarks
6. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)
7. Response to Member Comments
8. Department Head Update

Consent:

None

Reports:

9. Aliso Creek Update

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

10. Elimination of Roundup

Items for Future Agendas:

11. GRF Properties within Third Mutual
12. Request for Three Benches – West Creek

Concluding Business:

13. Committee Member Comments
14. Date of Next Meeting – March 20, 2019
15. Adjournment

Bert Moldow, Chair
Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer
Lulu Boctor, Administrative Coordinator, 949.597.4650

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**REPORT OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION
LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 19, 2018 – 1:30 p.m.
Laguna Woods Village Community Center Board Room
24351 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bert Moldow – Chair, Ray Gros, Jim Matson, Maggie Blackwell, Juanita Skillman, Andre Torng in for Manuel Armendariz

ADVISORS:

MEMBERS ABSENT: Manuel Armendariz, James Tung,

OTHERS PRESENT: Janey Dorrell in audience, Diane Phelps in audience, Manuel Armendariz in audience

STAFF PRESENT: Bruce Hartley, Larry Hernandez, Lulu Boctor

1. Call to Order

Chair Moldow called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Acknowledgment of Media

No press was present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Moldow – added a new item #11 “Use of Round Up” to the Agenda. The amended agenda was approved by consensus.

4. Chair’s Remarks

Chair would like a tree report and an Aliso Creek report at the next meeting.

5. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)

Kerry Stiles 921-B – Spoke about creek issues

Valerie Sund 932-A – Spoke about landscape staffing and trees

6. Response to Member Comments

Mr. Hartley and Mr. Hernandez provided response to Mr. Stiles and Ms. Sund.

7. Department Head Update

Mr. Hartley spoke about gate-house landscape, the creek and the nursery operations.

Consent:

None

Reports:

8. GRF Facilities

Bruce gave an explanation the "GRF Facilities" report

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

9. Committee Charter

Jim Matson made motion to approve Charter, second by Director Blackwell. Approved by Committee unanimously.

10. Date of Next Meeting

December 19, 2018 at 2:30 p.m

11. Use of Round Up

Chair Moldow asked if Round Up is currently being used at GRF facilities. Mr. Hartley responded to Chair Moldow that Round Up is currently being used.

Concluding Business:

12. Committee Member Comments

Director Gros spoke about the creek.

Director Torng appreciated public comments.

Chair Moldow spoke about the Communication Committee.

Director Matson spoke about the horse trails.

13. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 19, 2018

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.


Bert Moldow - Chair
GRF Landscape Committee

STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 16, 2019
FOR: Landscape Committee
SUBJECT: Aliso Creek Update

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file report.

BACKGROUND

There are two on-going programs that the Landscape Division administers as it relates to the eastern portion of Aliso Creek within United Mutual. Landscape staff performs annual maintenance work within the Aliso Creek channel within parameters set by the Streambed Alteration Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The work includes cutting down the cattails to one foot above the water line and removing non-native plants. To protect nesting birds, this work is restricted to the time period between September 1 and January 31. Prior to any work commencing, a survey for protected Western Pond Turtles must be completed. A biological consultant is contracted for this work Endemic Environmental.

The second program is the establishment and maintenance of a native plant mitigation area created downstream of the bridge construction project area. The required five-year monitoring and documentation of the mitigation establishment is provided through a contract with the environmental consulting firm the Chambers Group.

DISCUSSION

The annual maintenance of the vegetation as part of the Streambed Alteration Agreement began recently, following the completion of the Southwestern Pond Turtle survey report. This survey, completed annually through a contract with an environmental biologist, found none of the protected turtles within the limits of the maintenance work during the October-November monitoring period.

The annual maintenance will include cutting of cattails and non-native plant removal. This will repeat on an as needed basis through January. Cattails, which are considered a native plant species, will be cut to a height no less than 12 inches above the water level; all weeds and invasive non-native plants are removed by the landscape crews. Native trees within the streambed cannot be pruned or removed at any time.

The 2016-17 winter storm flows in the creek heavily damaged the plantings. In the 2017 annual report required by CDFW and prepared by Chambers Group, it was documented that the native vegetation had recovered extremely well from the winter storm damage and that plant establishment is ahead of the require parameters for year three of the five year establishment period. With the successful recovery of the native plants, the project was back on track to meet all requirements without additional funding or repairs.

The 2018 report prepared by the same consultant and submitted to the various agencies with purview over the stream stated that the native plant establishment is meeting the requirements, with very minimal bare areas. The report did state that the non-native plants (weeds) were

becoming excessive and recommended increased maintenance. The evaluation was performed prior to the annual maintenance activities, but does suggest that to insure meeting the five year requirements and ending the project, a greater effort may be required. The management of the mitigation area is continuing; as of the writing of this report the annual maintenance is 75 percent complete.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The 2019 operating budget includes \$18,000 to fund the Southwestern Pond Turtle survey report, the USFW permit fee required prior to performing the annual maintenance work and to pay for the ongoing environmental monitoring of the mitigation site. The annual funding for the environmental consultant may no longer be needed in 2020 depending on the success of the plant establishment program.

Prepared By: Bruce Hartley, General Services Director

Reviewed By: Kurt Wiemann, Senior Field Services Manager

STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 16, 2019
FOR: Landscape Committee
SUBJECT: Herbicide Program

RECOMMENDATION

1. Direct staff to continue to systematically investigate alternative products and methods to eliminate the use of Roundup® for the purpose of identifying a feasible, effective, and economical non-glyphosate based herbicide(s) for the control of weeds at all GRF facilities maintained by the Landscape Division, excluding golf facilities; and
2. Direct staff to determine a feasible, effective, and economical non-glyphosate based herbicide(s) for the control of weeds at all GRF facilities maintained by the Landscape Division.

BACKGROUND

The Landscape Division has utilized Roundup® and other herbicides containing the active ingredient glyphosate to effectively manage landscape weeds at GRF facilities for many years. The 2019 budget includes approximately \$102,000 for labor and materials related to the application of these post-emergent herbicides at GRF facilities, excluding the golf course. All golf facilities are maintained by the Recreation and Special Events Department under the purview of the GRF Community Activities Committee.

In August 2018, the Third Mutual Board directed staff to end the use of Roundup® in the Mutual until the results of organic herbicide testing in United Mutual was completed. On December 13, 2018, the United Landscape Committee recommended to end the use of Roundup® pending approval of future funding by the United Board, which has not yet occurred.

At the January 3, 2019, meeting of the Third Landscape Committee, it was determined that more research and testing was needed to determine a feasible and effective alternative. At the January 8, 2019, Regular Open Meeting, the Third Board of Directors came to a similar conclusion. Staff was directed to research and test more economical options.

DISCUSSION

During the United Mutual herbicide test period, staff has determined that alternative herbicides are generally less effective than Roundup® in completely killing weeds, but would be satisfactory in providing the necessary control of most landscape weeds and, to a lesser degree, edging turf. During the test period further information was received from the City of Irvine on additional effective herbicides and tank mixes of multiple alternative herbicides that have proven to be even more effective than the ones used in the original test. Additional detailed information on adjusting the pH of the water and frequently testing the final product prior to application was also found to be necessary. To preserve the integrity of the testing in United Mutual, these additional products and tank mixes were not utilized. However, they appear to be very promising and will be tested by staff beginning in late January.

The initial test period demonstrated that the elimination of Roundup® and glyphosate products from the landscape maintenance program and utilization of alternative herbicides is a viable alternative. The two alternative herbicides tested however are costlier and require a significantly more labor hours due to more frequent application of organic herbicides and additional time to mix the materials. The increased costs to apply the new herbicides and maintain an effective weed management program at GRF facilities, excluding the golf facilities, is estimated to be approximately \$220,400 per year (Attachment 1).

While staff supports the elimination of the use of Roundup® and other herbicides containing the active ingredient 'glyphosate' from the grounds maintenance program, the impact of the labor necessary for the multiple applications and the high material cost for the products tested must be addressed. As a result, staff proposes to continue testing products to determine a feasible, effective, and economical non-glyphosate based herbicide(s) for the control of weeds at all GRF facilities maintained by the Landscape Division. The identification of this herbicide(s) will be accomplished by a systematic, controlled testing of alternative herbicides. Staff will provide the Committee with updates as the testing progresses. The testing is expected to take 45 to 60 days, depending on results.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Currently, GRF expends approximately \$102,000 per year to manage weeds through the application of Roundup®. Supplemental funding of approximately \$220,400 would be needed in 2019 to maintain existing service levels as it relates to the control of landscape weeds using the tested herbicides. However, the Contingency Fund has an unencumbered balance of only \$260,000 as of November 30, 2018. The funding estimate could be reduced if more cost effective herbicides are identified and utilized. Future business plans will be adjusted to reflect the selected program.

Prepared By: Kurt Wiemann, Senior Field Operations Manager

Reviewed By: Betty Park, Chief Financial Officer
Siobhan Foster, Acting Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

ATT-1: Analysis of Financial Impact of Alternative Herbicide Program Implementation

Landscape Division

ATT-1

Herbicide Applications Compared to Round Up for Weed Control Analysis

Estimated Cost to Spray GRF - 21.78 Acres (Lawns and Shrub-beds)

Pest Control	Estimated Cost Per Day				Estimated Cost Per Cycle				Estimated Cost Per Year			
	Material Cost	Labor hours	Labor Cost	Cost Per Day	Material Cost	Labor hours	Labor Cost	Cost Per Cycle	Material Cost	Labor hours	Labor Cost	Cost Per Year
Suppress Herbicide/Liberate	\$598.16	12	\$553.20	\$1,151.36	\$53,834.06	588	\$27,106.80	\$80,940.86	\$215,336.25	3,528	\$162,640.80	\$377,977.05
Finale Herbicide/Liberate	\$172.25	19	\$885.12	\$1,057.37	\$15,502.50	941	\$43,370.88	\$58,873.38	\$62,010.00	5,645	\$260,225.28	\$322,235.28
Roundup Pro Max	\$57.03	6	\$276.60	\$333.63	\$5,132.81	294	\$13,553.40	\$18,686.21	\$20,531.25	1,764	\$81,320.40	\$101,851.65
Cost difference of Suppress compared to Roundup:				\$817.73	\$48,701.25	294	\$13,553.40	\$62,254.65	\$194,805.00	1,764	\$81,320.40	\$276,125.40
Cost difference of Finale compared to Roundup:				\$723.74	\$10,369.69	647	\$29,817.48	\$40,187.17	\$41,478.75	3,881	\$178,904.88	\$220,383.63

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