

City of Encinitas  
*Segment C*

## FAQ - Trees

### 1. What is the primary purpose of this project?

The Leucadia Streetscape project includes a number of coastal improvements aimed at preserving and revitalizing 2.5 miles of N. Coast Highway 101 and provides improved accessibility to the area, whether in a car, on a bike or on foot.

### 2. Where is this project located?

The Leucadia Streetscape current Segment C construction and drainage project area is located along North Coast Highway 101 from La Costa Avenue to Jupiter Street. Phase one has been completed between Marcheta Street and Basil Street.

### 3. What types of trees are being planted in the project area?

The trees selected for the entire Streetscape project are a mix of California native plants combined with familiar and hardy non-native plants. Specific varieties are approved by the California Coastal Commission. The goal is to restore native and ecologically appropriate plants to support the City's carbon emissions reduction goals, reduce water needs and support a thriving ecosystem.

Possible varieties include:

- Pinus Torreyana, Torrey Pine (11)
- Cercis Occidentallis, Western Redbud (29)
- Arbutus 'Marina', Strawberry Tree (12)
- Bauhinia Purpurea, Orchid Tree (3)
- Brachychiton Acerifolius, Flame Tree (6)
- Cassia Leptophylla, Gold Medallion Tree (5)
- Darcaena Draco, Dragon Tree (5)
- Eriobotrya Deflexa, Bronze Loquat (3)
- Hymenosporum Flavum, Sweetshade (2)
- Jacaranda Mimosifolia, Jacaranda (7)

- Magnolia Grandiflora 'D.D. BLA' (4)
- Melaleuca Nesophila, Pink Melaleuca (17)
- Metrosideros Exelsus, New Zealand Christmas Tree (14)
- Quercus Agrifolia, Coast Live Oak (12)
- Quercus Engelmanni, Engel Oak (5)
- Spathodea Campanulata, African Tulip Tree-Yellow (6)
- Spathodea Campanulata, African Tulip Tree-Orange (4)

#### **4. Why were non-native trees selected?**

As with earlier segments of Streetscape, the City strategically decided upon using a mixed palette of different tree species, including non-native trees because a mixed palette in an urban forest environment can help to reduce destruction from common pests. These include bark beetles, tree borers and diseases that can devastate monoculture species designs.

A mixed palette tree canopy also provides a diversity of tree colors, shapes, sizes, and seasonal change that help create year-round variety in the landscape. The trees selected were also chosen based upon the location of the project, constraints imposed by the improvements, and the developed nature of the North Highway 101 corridor. Many of the spaces we have for trees are close to buildings and/or traffic lanes and need to fit the available space.

The tree selection was also influenced by other projects in the City of Encinitas that use a mixed species of trees in urban forest projects. These projects include Leucadia Boulevard, El Camino Real, and Encinitas Community Park.

#### **5. How many trees are being removed along North Coast Highway 101?**

The Leucadia Streetscape Segment C project is removing 17 trees and three stumps in the area of the new construction. The following trees are scheduled to be removed between Jupiter Street and La Costa Avenue:

- 1 Red Iron Bark
- 1 Brisbane Box
- 4 Torrey Pines
- 1 Torrey Pine Stump
- 2 Chinese Pistache
- 1 Sugar Gum
- 3 Strawberry Trees
- 4 Yucca Gloriosa
- 1 Weeping Fig
- 1 Western Red Bud Stump
- 1 Oleander Stump

We understand the community's concern about losing mature trees, given their history in the corridor, role in sustainability and protecting the environment. However, each tree that is slated for removal was closely scrutinized to determine how their presence impacts the ability of the City to construct fully accessible pathways and/or install the required infrastructure

including storm drains. The trees that need to be removed were presented to the City's Urban Forestry Advisory Committee in a public meeting July 2022.

Native plants will be reseeded and restored as part of the project, and 145 new trees will be planted within this segment. This is part of the City's efforts to re-establish the historic tree canopy along North Coast Highway 101. All efforts will be taken to share timely information on impacts to trees and vegetation.

**6. Why do the trees need to be removed?**

Revitalizing and restoring the tree canopy along Highway 101 is a major goal for the Leucadia Streetscape project. The City has made every effort to preserve trees that are healthy and followed the City's ordinance for tree removal. The project team worked with the city arborist to identify which trees were to be removed due to long-term health of the tree, public safety, or conflicts with future Leucadia Streetscape project improvements, like wider sidewalks, ramps and medians needed to make the corridor more accessible to all individuals, including the mobility impaired.

**7. Could the City move the trees somewhere else along the North Coast Highway 101?**

Replanting trees was evaluated by the City and arborist, but, unfortunately, this was not deemed viable. It is rare for replanted mature trees to thrive. For this reason, each of the removed trees will be replaced with a native or drought tolerant tree, planted within the North Coast Highway 101 corridor.

**8. What about birds that are nesting in the trees?**

The project team is ensuring that all of the City's tree ordinances and environmental protection requirements are being followed. The project's Environmental Impact Report did not locate any sensitive biological or bird species within the project limits that require any additional protection measures.

**9. To receive information about the project during construction?**

Information is available on the City Website: [www.encinitasca.gov/streetscape](http://www.encinitasca.gov/streetscape)

You may also reach our project team through the following:

Email: [Streetscape@encinitasca.gov](mailto:Streetscape@encinitasca.gov)

Phone: (760) 512 - 3800