



Boat Yard Expansion and Sims Way Poplar Replacement Project Recommended Public Process

Introduction:

Public engagement and local stakeholder involvement in this Boat Yard Expansion and Sims Way Poplar Replacement project is critical for successful outcomes. The focus of this recommended public process is its focus on the tree replacement and Sims Way gateway enhancement elements of the project. Based on public feedback to date, the following process is recommended to provide for stepwise stakeholder process that affords the opportunity to bring well thought out information to the public in several steps prior to the City Council making decisions on elements of the final plan.

Stepwise Stakeholder Process

1. After the December 15th Public Meeting, the partners (City, Port, and PUD) will solicit for professional services to include engineering for the boatyard expansion, general electrical design associate with the expansion and location of the underground transmission, and Sims way improvements including the path, Poplar replacement, and landscaping. For the Poplar replacement and Sims Way work we will be soliciting for expertise in Landscape Architecture and Arboriculture with knowledge of our Municipal Code's guidance on the importance of native species, species diversity and conifer/deciduous ratios.
2. Once a team of professionals is hired, the City will convene a 10 member stakeholder committee made up of 2-3 local experts in arboriculture, a Parks Recreation Trail and Tree Advisory Board (PRTTAB) liaison, and representatives for tourism, Port/boatyard/marine trades, PUD/safety, Admiralty Audubon/Kah Tai. City, Port, and PUD staff will also participate.
3. A series of stakeholder meetings will help the team establish the appropriate replacement plan. The intent being that developing the poplar replacement plan will be a participatory process, inclusive of community members and agency stakeholders. However, there will be guardrails in place such as project budget and having PRTTAB and City Council approval.
4. Once the plan has been established, the plan will be presented to the PRTTAB for recommendation of approval or not to the City Council.
5. Once the PRTTAB has provided a recommendation, City staff will provide the final decision making to the City Council.
6. City Council's final decision will be on the replacement plan for the poplars. The boat yard expansion and overhead undergrounding work are independent of the decision making for the poplar replacement, yet the City, Port, and PUD agree that a single well-coordinated project with the final vision for the poplar replacement known early in the design development process is a key element to the overall project success.

Public Engagement

Public engagement and transparency of the process are critical. The use of town hall events in this era of COVID safety is a forum for providing transparency and soliciting public feedback. Periodic townhall events are anticipated. In addition, presentations to the PRTTAB and the City Council are opportunities for public engagement. The PRTTAB is the forum for the public to engage in the decisions making process.