



## **EXFIN Meeting**

**May 11, 2023**

**Neighborhood Purpose Grant  
Beautification Project:  
Parkway or Marcasel Ave & LAFD Station 62**

Presentation By Drew Ruesch



## **THE REQUEST | Los Angeles Conservation Corps**

**4) Please describe the purpose and intent of the grant.**

The grant will be used for a beautification project on the parkway along Marcasel Ave and LAFD Station 62.

**5) How will this grant be used to primarily support or serve a public purpose and benefit the public at-large.  
(Grants cannot be used as rewards or prizes for individuals)**

The grant will be used to pay for labor cost of corps members and materials used for the project. The project will include a walkway and seating area in the parkway.



## Neighborhood complaints about landscaping by fire department

## BACKGROUND

### Re: response and update to: Complaint about FEMA sand dropped in the parkway adjacent to Fire Station #62 Mar Vista

**AL** Ashley Lozada <Ashley.Lozada@lacity.org> Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM  
To: [REDACTED] Cc: [REDACTED] +25 more

On Fri, Feb 24, 2023 at 10:46 PM [REDACTED]  
Mr. Diede, Ashley et al;

1. Yes. The sand pile is still there. It's 10:30pm Friday, and raining hard, 2 days of rain, a hail storm and I'm sure no one has taken a single bag. The pile is as high and wide as when it was dropped.
2. Relocating. FD #62 is on 2 boulevards, Venice Blvd and Inglewood Blvd. The sand pile could go onto the FD side of either of those Boulevards. But if it blocks the ingress/egress, then it could go INside the massive parking lot of FD 62.

This sand pile is now the talk of the immediate neighbors! And as [REDACTED] mentioned, we were completely unaware of why it was placed there originally. No communication or notice. Most of us, including myself, thought it was for Venice Blvd street work... or perhaps FD was doing something productive with it for landscaping. It sat there untouched for a month until I emailed Capt. Penrod (with pictures) and was made aware it was for community use, and so the request was made to have it relocated back in November, 4 months ago! And, as [REDACTED] mentioned, we didn't even know about the FD having the bags, IF anyone wanted them. [REDACTED] offered for us to bag sand up and this learned bags are within the FD for the asking.... No one knew/knows that. No communication or notice. Well some people now know... it's been discussed by neighbors since we bagged up the first pile and posted it in apps for people to pickup.

Ironically, if anyone DID want sand, and drove by the fire department to look for the sand, it is not visible to them anyway on the main sides of FD 62! It's sitting within the residential area (all single family homes) of the Mar Vista Oval, by the back corner of the FD - completely out of view of any passerby or prospective "needing person" who drives to the FD searching for it.

[REDACTED] and I regularly maintain the FD Marcase side of the parkway. VERY REGULARLY! We clean up the trash, pick up and pile together the fallen palm tree fronds, we clean up the alley way immediately behind the FD. We upkeep these areas since no one does it regularly - because we care about OUR neighborhood, community and our street. I live directly across from FD 62 so I often do this... so the eye sore of a sand pile is really obtrusive to what little (none) landscape exists on the property of FD.

Note: I took the time to look at the FD website, and FD #62 is not listed as providing Sand. (Palms FD #43, 1.75 miles from here does show up on the LAFD website list, and I know for a fact has sand visible near their Main Door, and Car driveway area. \*\* No communication, no notice\*\*)

~ [REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone XIII





# BACKGROUND

- I connected with Traci Park's office regarding the issue with a potential solution.

 **Re: Budget Update | Mar Vista Community Council**



**Drew Ruesch** <drewmarvista@gmail.com>

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:43 PM

To: Gabriela Medina; Cc: Ashley Lozada; Star Parsamyan

Hi Gaby,

Thanks so much for this. I recently had a conversation with FD #65's Chief Ryan Penrod as they would like to do some landscaping. Perhaps we could pair the FD & Conservation corps together to complete this project?

Do you have a contact for them?

Thanks,

**Drew Ruesch**

Mar Vista Community Council

Zone 5 Director | Treasurer | PLUM Chair

T: 310.467.2382





## BACKGROUND: Site Visit

- I conducted a site visit with Carlos of Community Corps. & Captain Ryan Penrod regarding a potential NPG for the beautification of the parkway.





## BACKGROUND: CD11 Coordination

- Traci Park's office is working in coordination with the Conservation Corp, the MVCC, and the LAFD.
- CD11 will lend their monthly labor allocation from the Conservation Corp to assist in keeping labor costs low for this project.
- The project will be announced and marketed through Traci Park's weekly newsletter, where we will also solicit community volunteers.
- LAFD is obtaining free mulch from LADWP

Monday, May 8, 2023 at 09:05:16 Pacific Daylight Time

**Subject:** Re: Budget Update | Mar Vista Community Council  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 10:35:23 AM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** Gabriela Medina  
**To:** Drew Ruesch  
**CC:** Ashley Lozada, Star Parsamyan  
**Attachments:** image001.png, image002.png

Yes, yes, and yes!

This is the type of work we love having LACC conduct, so yes, they can use our allocation. How many days do you anticipate needing?

As for the newsletter, we'd love to feature this project. We'd love to see before/ after/ and action shots of the project as it's happening! We can then feature you in our newsletter and social media.

Thank you!

On Mon, Mar 27, 2023 at 9:33 PM Drew Ruesch <[drewmarvista@gmail.com](mailto:drewmarvista@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Gaby,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to update you on a project that I am working on with Carlos. We recently conducted a site visit with his team and Captain Ryan Penrod at the Mar Vista Fire Station, and we have identified an opportunity to beautify the landscaping on the side of Fire Station #62.

While we are excited about this project, the cost is larger than the 5K that we can allocate through an NPG. However, Carlos mentioned that the fire department is looking into obtaining free supplies through LADWP. Additionally, we were wondering if it would be possible to utilize a few of the days that are allocated to CD11 from Carlos's team each month for weed removal to help stretch the budget further?

Assuming everything gets approved, we were also hoping that Traci would consider mentioning us in her weekly newsletter to help gather community volunteers for the installation and to keep labor costs down.

Please let me know your thoughts on this project and if you have any suggestions for how we can move forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



## PROJECT PLANS

- The project will include a walkway and seating area in the parkway.





# PROJECT PLANS Con't

**STEP 1** Purchase • 2x4x8's  
 9 pieces → 2 benches  
 • 2in deck screws  
 • 2 1/2in deck screws

**STEP 2** Use chop saw to cut (in inches) the following:  
 2x4x8: 13.5 | 13.5 | 11.5 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 11.5 | 13.5 | 13.5  
 half 2x4x8: 13.5 | 13.5 | 11.5 | 9.5

**STEP 3** Use table saw (or router) to cut <sup>1/2 in</sup> ~~1/4 in~~ deep groove in leg posts.  
 How high from ground?  
 \* By running over the table saw multiple times and then using a chisel to break off and smooth out you can create a groove a 2x4 piece can slide into

**STEP 4** Connect the leg pieces using wood glue and deck screws  
 \* drill pilot holes to prevent the wood from splitting

**STEP 5** Space out top pieces using ~ 0.25in spacers along length (scrap wood) and clamp together

**STEP 6** Place legs on top and attach using wood glue and deck screws.  
 IMPORTANT: ONLY SCREW FROM BOTTOM EXCEPT AT END TO HOLD EDGES IN PLACE  
 \* drill pilot holes  
 \* remove spacers when all legs are in place

**FINAL PRODUCT:**





## PROJECT PLANS Con't

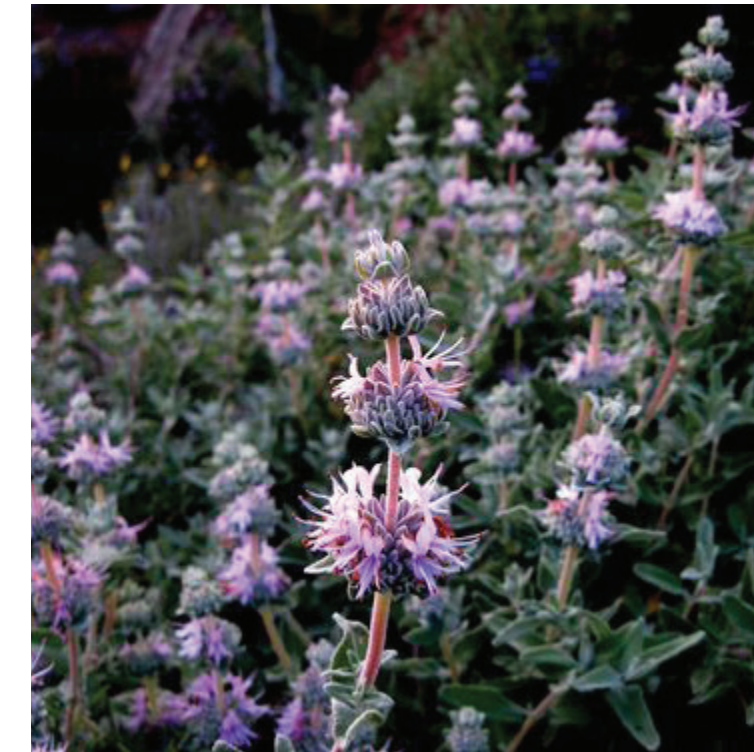
- For plants, LA CC is proposing Ca. native plants, which include:



California Sunflower  
(*Encelia californica*)



Cleveland Sage  
(*salvia clevelandii*)



Salvia leucophylla  
(purple sage)



California wild rose  
(*rosa californica*)



Menzies Goldenbush  
(sage *Isocoma menziesii*)



white sage  
(*salvia apiana*)



## PROJECT PLANS Con't

- LA CC will install shade trees with color
- Trees will be donated from City Plants



**Pink Trumpet**



**Australian Willow**



**THANK YOU**