

LANDS CAPE COMMITEE UPDATE



SPRING UPDATE

In August of 2017, La Costa Valley changed its landscape company for two primary reasons:

- 1) Our Landscape costs in 2016 were rising uncontrollably under our former contractor, almost doubling our landscape budget.
- 2) Our community had lost its unique feel and a major change was necessary in order to keep and potentially increase LCV home values consistently.

I am happy to report landscape expenses are now under control and we are performing well within our operating budget. You likely have seen many small and some large improvements throughout the community including the plantings done along Calle Barcelona walkways, and the walkways leading to our exemplary elementary school, El Camino Creek. The monument at Rancho Santa Fe has been upgraded and the north slope (Area 1) leading up Calle Barcelona is presently under renovation. We are fortunate to have Jon Hatch from Green Horizons guiding our design. Jon received his degree in Horticulture from Cal Poly Pomona and has previously been the Project Manager and Landscape Director for LEGOLAND California, the Horticulturalist for the San Diego Wild Animal Park as well as landscape management for the Grand Del Mar Resort, Four Seasons Resort, Aviara and the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club.

As you know, it takes time for progress and for plants to grow. With this in mind, the following count will provide some insight into this multiyear process.

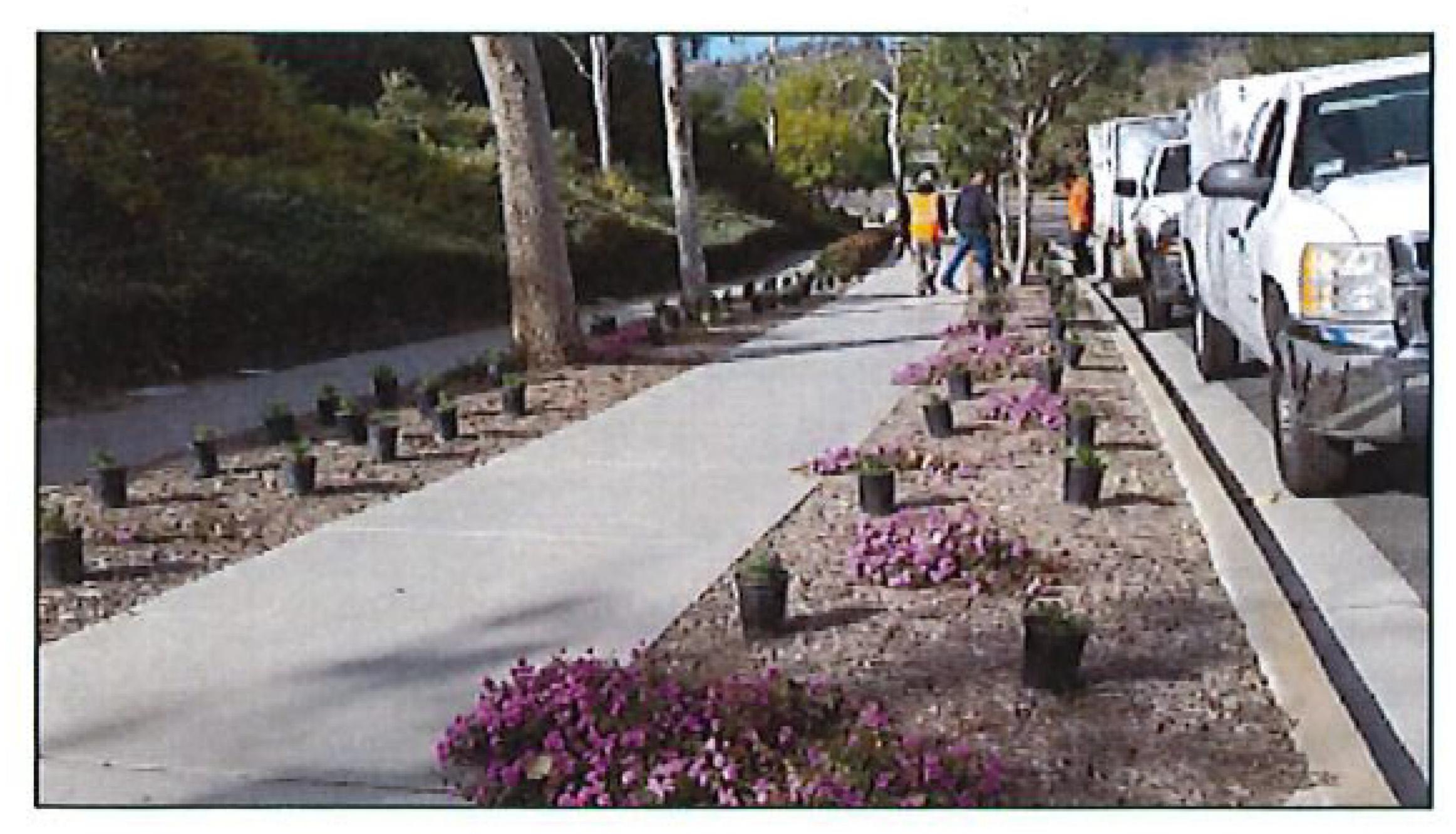
2017: 15 - 24' trees planted (California Pepper, Jacaranda, Tabebuia), 1,652 plants (mostly 1 gallon but some 5 gallon).

2018: 10 trees planted, 352 plants (mostly 15 gallon but some 5 gallon), 52 flats of ground cover

These pictures tell a compelling story of change taking place within our community.



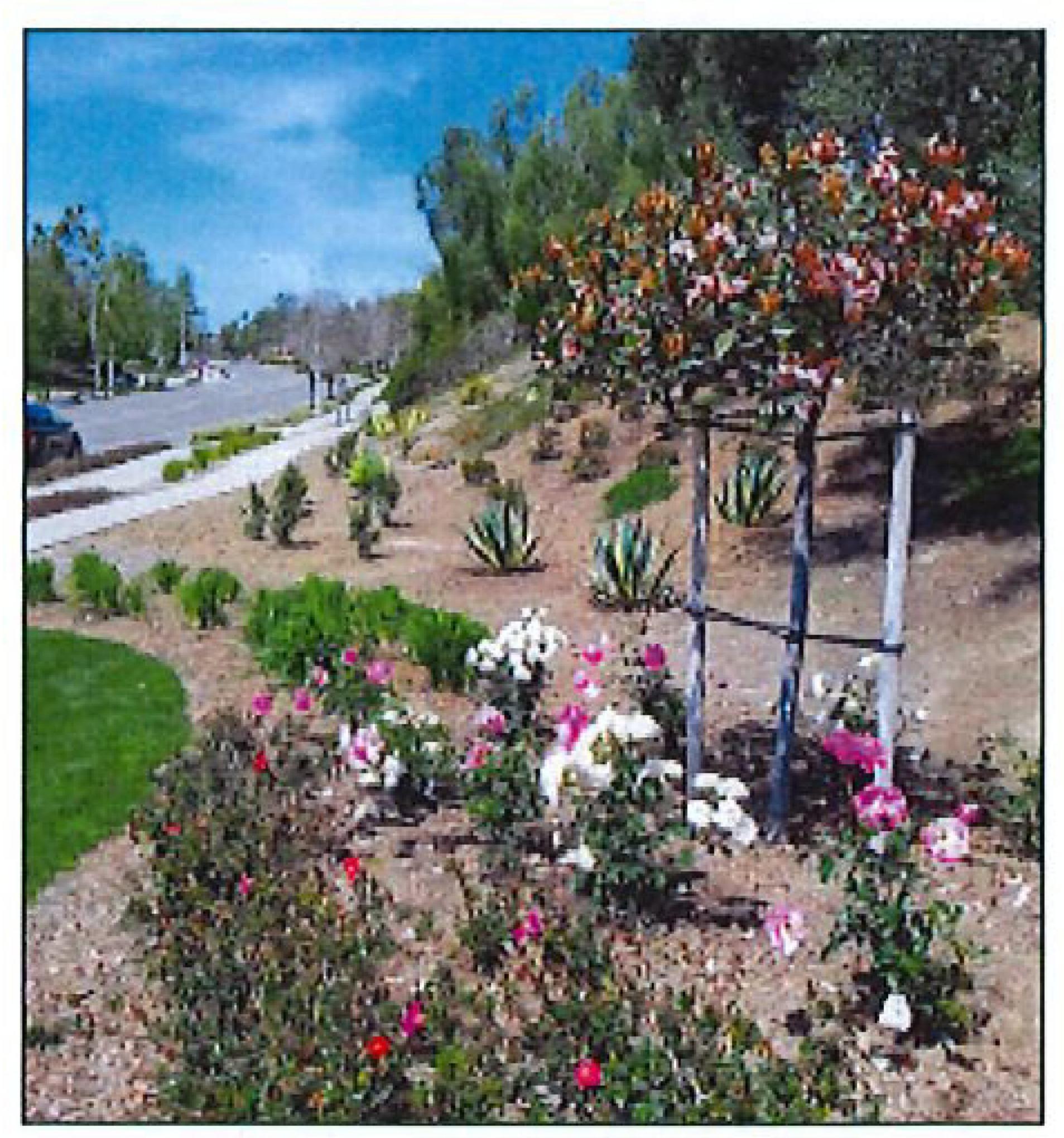
















You may have noticed our Sycamore trees look quite sickly. This is because they have a disease called "Anthracnose." Your landscape chair and committee has had three separate arborists evaluate tree health, report their findings, and suggest options.

La Costa Valley is not an isolated area with infected Sycamore trees. In fact, anthracnose is a major problem in all of Southern California and beyond. Individual trees can be treated but because the disease or spores from infected trees spread with the wind, individual treatment is considered costly and largely useless. Our neighbors to the north, La Costa Oaks, have removed 300 Sycamores for this very reason.

Until May we will not know which trees are alive and have a better chance than others of making it. No one likes to see a tree cut down so please know we are evaluating each individual Sycamore tree in this regard. Our goal is to plant two different species of tree for every one Sycamore removed. We are involved as your neighbors in a multiyear process of landscape evaluation, renovation, and revitalization. Please know we are fire wise, waterwise, and sensitive to slope soil erosion in our selections for this community.



CITY FIRE THREAT ASSESSMENT

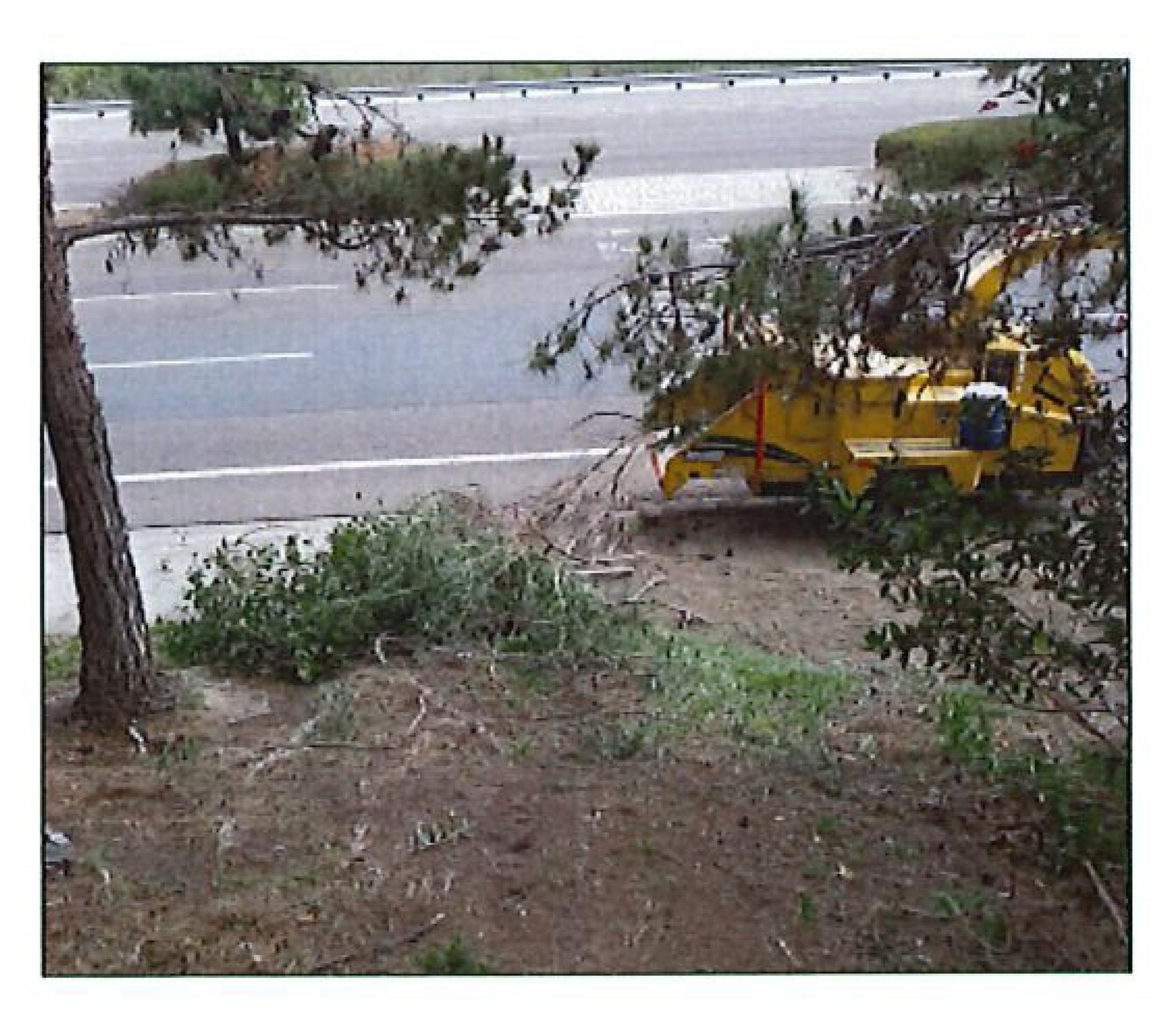
We have contacted the Fire Chief, and the City of Carlsbad Hazard Reduction Specialist, Monty Kalin, of the Fire Prevention Division, to conduct a threat assessment and fire abatement plan for our community in order to take action prior to wildfire season.

Based on their report, a defensible space on Rancho Santa Fe has been identified as the first most vulnerable area and the first most in need of attention for our community. The good news is we finished cutting back the Acacia providing that defensible space the evaluation recommends. A special thank you is in order to the Green Horizons Tree division, Thank you. Job well done!

While everything is "relative," the professionals at the City Fire department say our community is not considered to be in a vulnerable geographic area regarding fire. However, with the guidance of the professionals we will continue to move forward as per their evaluation. By being proactive, we are in front of the defense of our homes.

As you can see, coordinating a fire threat assessment and remediation plan, planting flowers and trees, weed abatement, slope renovation, re-establishing irrigation to numerous areas, repairing the severely disabled irrigation system, and continuing daily maintenance of La Costa Valley, Green Horizons has been the key to all improvements in our community.





MEETTHE GREEN HORIZONS ON-SITE CREW



Miguel Del la Cruz

- On-Site Supervisor
- 32 years with Green Horizons

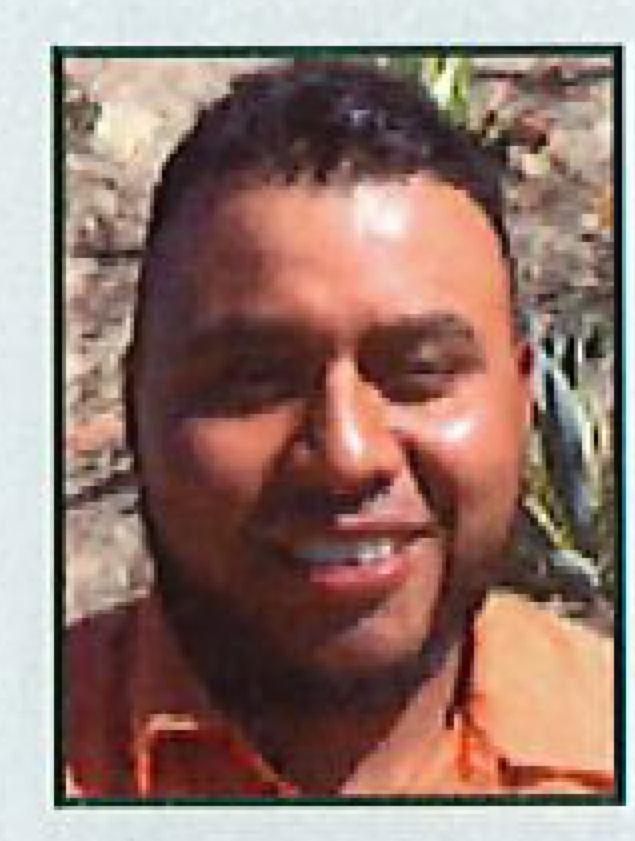
Miguel has been married for 30 years, has 2 daughters and loves to spend time with his family. He also takes care of his granddaughter. Miguel likes to travel to Mexico and visit family.



Jose Aguilar

- On-site irrigation technician
- 3 years with Green Horizons

Jose lives with his girlfriend and he likes to run, work out and spend time with his family. He is studying for his GED and someday wants to be a chef.



Saul Perez

- On-Site Foremen
- 6 years with Green Horizons

Saul just got married in March. He loves to spend time with his wife and would like to start a family someday soon. He would also like to own his own business in the future.



Alberto Castellanos

• 1 year with Green Horizons

Alberto is married with a new born baby girl. He likes hiking and fishing and spending time with his family.



One cost saving area within our new landscape contract worth pointing out falls under irrigation repair. We now have a dedicated irrigation repair technician onsite 5 days a week in addition to the entire Green Horizons crew.

Irrigation repair costs rose by over 500% between 2014 and 2016. By working with Green Horizons to identify and repair the root causes of our irrigation issues, we are now on tract to be below our 2014 spend levels for irrigation repair. Jose, our dedicated specialist, also overseas 24 master valves, 39 irrigation control boxes, and every sprinkler head throughout our community. I call him my MVP! When you see him just say, MVP!!

We think it fair to say that the grass at the monuments on El Camino Real and Rancho Santa Fe have never looked so good. Do you see the pride with which Saul cuts our lawns in various patterns every Friday? Did you know that the lawn mower used at these two monuments is "dedicated" to only these areas? The reason for this is that other grass varieties and weeds from outside lawns can invade and ruin what we have established at our community entrances. I hope you take the time to wave hello when walking and thank the crew; they work very hard and it really means a lot to them.



(Y) COMING SOON!

- -New Monument at the Valley Club Entrance
- -Cul De Sac Entrance Enhancements
- -Continued Tree Trimming
- -Slope Enhancements



IN CLOSING

The volunteer landscape committee and Board Chair liaison provide input and guidance on a daily basis with one guiding principle in mind: to showcase this desirable community to current and future residents, and operate within a fiscally responsible budget.

We appreciate the time and input of all the residents who alert us when you see a leak that needs to be fixed or a tree that has fallen and needs to be removed. The recent heads up on spider egg sacks at the children's play structures is a good example of us all working together for positive change.

Our new community manager, Ms. Linda Anderson, has truly been a great help to the landscape committee and me in keeping us organized and moving forward. Thank you, Linda.

As a final, final note I would be remiss in not mentioning that our Green Horizons account manager, Mr. Robert Barela, is always on top of things and this community is so lucky to have him. Many homeowners have come to know Robert personally as a result of his actions. Robert typically is a same-day fix it kind of guy. Robert genuinely cares about this community, its residents, this property and his crew. I do not know of one thing we have ever asked that he has not taken on immediately with a smile on his face. When we had the spider issue at the children's play parks Robert offered to have his crew power wash all 22 parks that same day.

Thank You,

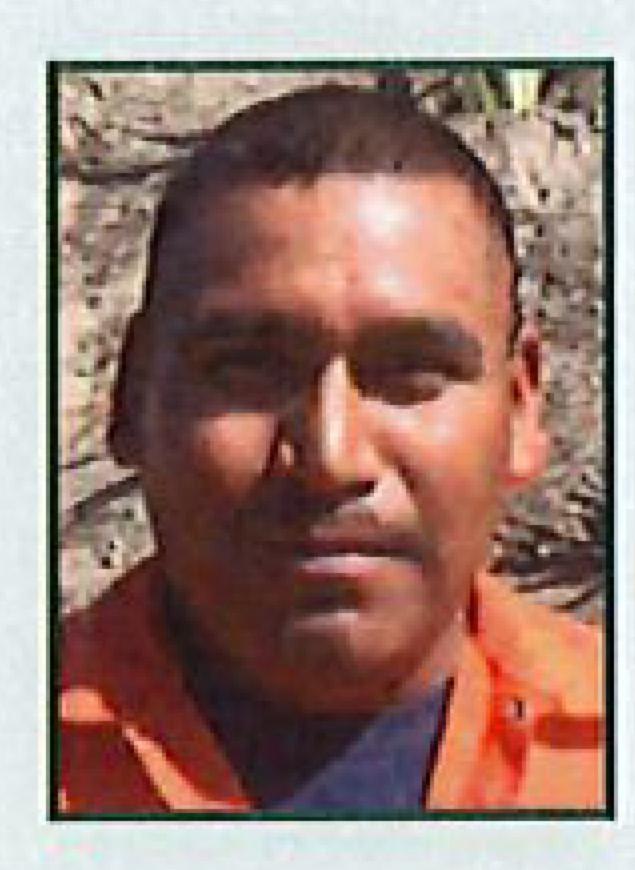
Jay Varon, Your Volunteer Landscape Chair & the Entire Volunteer Landscape Committee: Cheryl Dunbar • Cathy Nichols • Eleni Economus • Ebin Smith



Antony Gasper • 1 year with

Green Horizons

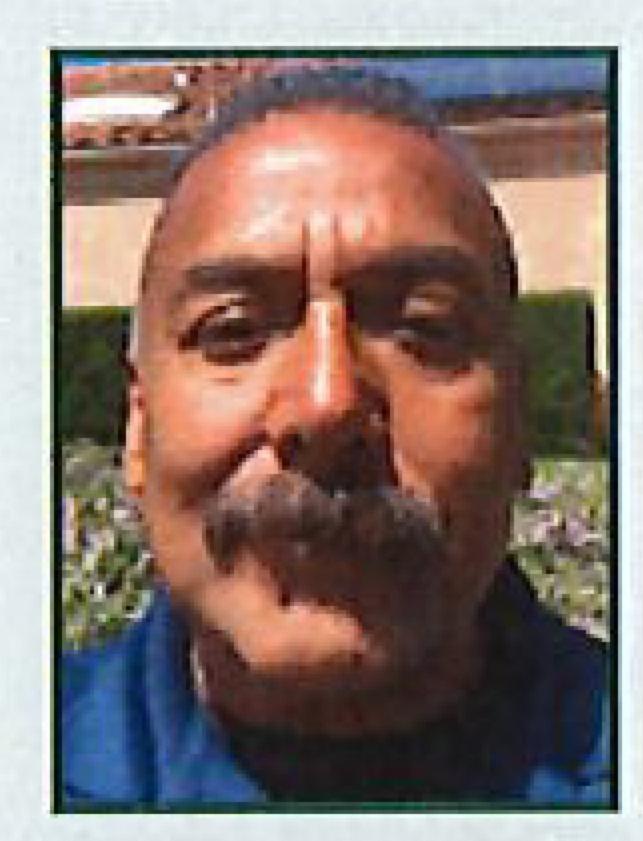
Antony is married and has 2 boys. He likes to spend time with family and friends and go to the movies.



Jaime Pancho

• 1 year with Green Horizons

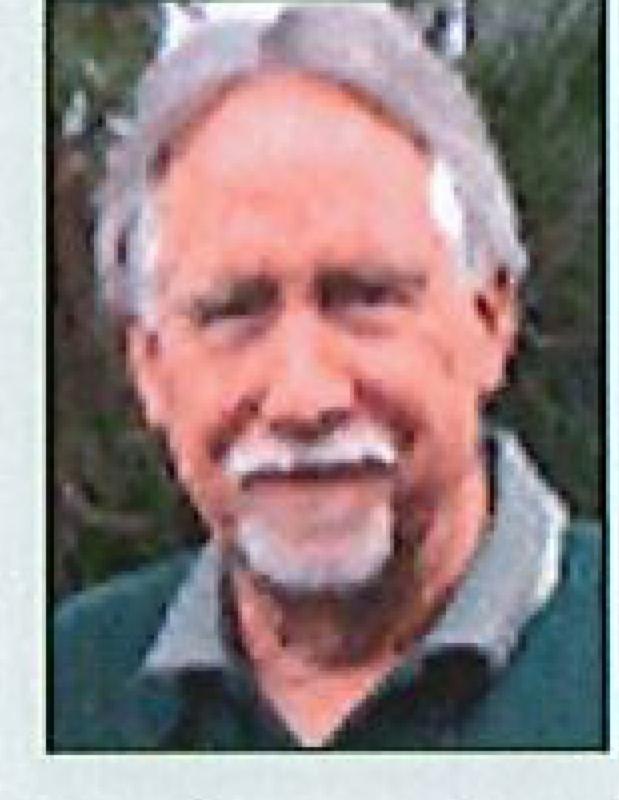
Jaime is married for 3 years and likes to spend time with family and go to the park and Bar-B-Q.



Robert Barela

- Account Manager
- 7 years with Green Horizons

Robert is married with 7 children (4 girls, 3 boys) and has 7 grandchildren. He lives in Carlsbad and enjoys classic cars and spending time with his wife, kids and family.



Jon Hatch

 Landscape and Horticultural Consultant

Jon's passion is working with nurseries on developing new material and incorporating them into landscapes. Jon is a native San Diegan and he loves to surf, golf and fish.

