

## **Landscape Committee Report to the Board – May 15, 2026**

### Irrigation to Oleander Trees along Dorado Boulevard

The committee has long been concerned about irrigation at the West Entrance due to its age and inability to provide sufficient water, especially to plants on both sides of the wall. The oleanders along Dorado Boulevard are struggling and we asked Santa Rita Landscaping to check out irrigation to these trees. An irrigation tech found that this section is no longer working. He is preparing a proposal, and I expect the cost will be under \$500.

### Arborist Evaluation and Recommendations

As part of our new landscape maintenance agreement, a certified arborist from Santa Rita Landscaping evaluated the condition of trees at both entrances the week of April 19 and presented his findings on April 28. Trees at the East Entrance are okay and no work is recommended at this time. At the West Entrance, the pine and oleander trees are not receiving adequate water. The pines especially need regular, deep watering. Santa Rita is currently evaluating the irrigation systems at both entrances and will make recommendations for improvements, to include getting more water to all the pines and oleanders.

The arborist flagged three trees at the West Entrance for immediate attention:

- The Acacia tree near the bus stop has three large trunks. At the base of the tree there is a large crack/void between the two trunks nearest the bench. The arborist recommends removing these two trunks since they could fail and break off during a monsoon storm.
- There is one dead pine and one dying pine on the west side of the entrance. These trees have been stressed by unusually hot and dry summers in recent years. They attract bark beetles and disease that could spread to other trees. The arborist recommends removing both trees.

Nicholas Tree Service was asked to check out the Acacia and pine trees. Their recommendation is that the crack in the Acacia is okay but the tree needs a crown thinning. The other pines at the West entrance are okay. One pine is dying but removal can be done at a later time.

Due to the differing recommendations for the Acacia tree, another certified arborist, Ignacio Arellano, was asked to check the tree. He formerly worked for Landtamers and now

works for Tucson Country Club. His recommendation is to remove the two trunks nearest the bus stop bench and remove dead wood/branches from the remaining trunk.

Acacia Tree Near Bus Stop



Crack/Void Between Two Trunks



Summary of Tree Work Proposals

The committee obtained three cost proposals for tree work:

Santa Rita Landscaping – Total \$5,575

- Acacia Tree – remove 2 large trunks and remove dead branches from the remaining trunk - \$1,595
- Pine Trees – remove 1 dead pine and 1 dying pine, no stump grinding - \$3,980

Q & T Services – Total \$4,000

- Acacia Tree – cut of 2 big tree limbs and trim of dead branches from the remaining trunk
- Pine Trees – remove 3 pine trees, no stump grinding (Note: The Q & T owner noted an additional dying tree near the dead tree during the estimate appointment. We have asked for a revised proposal with separate quotes for the Acacia and pine trees.)

Nicholas Tree Service – Total \$2,400

- Acacia Tree – Crown thinning only - \$600
- Pine Tree – remove 1 dead pine tree, no stump grinding - \$1,800

Committee Recommendations

The committee has considered safety concerns posed by the Acacia tree as well as the DCCE community's desire to save as many pine trees as possible. Removing both the dead and the dying pine trees will help control the spread of the beetle population to the remaining heat and drought-stressed trees.

The committee recommends moving forward with the Santa Rita Landscaping proposal to remove two large trunks from the Acacia tree near the bus stop at the West Entrance and to remove dead branches from the remaining trunk, for \$1,595.

In addition, the committee recommends that the board authorize the expenditure of up to \$4,000 to remove one dead and one to two dying pine trees on the west side of the West Entrance. The committee will seek additional bids for this work.

Motions

Acacia Tree Motion: I move to approve the proposal from Santa Rita Landscaping to remove two large trunks from the Acacia tree near the bus stop at the West Entrance and to remove dead branches from the remaining trunk for \$1,595.

Pine Trees Motion: I move to authorize expenditure of up to \$4,000 to remove one dead pine tree and one to two dying pine trees on the west side of the West Entrance.