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City Manager's Report
September 10, 2024 City Council Meeting
Prepared by: Nick Stone, Director of Public Works
Item #: 12.1

Subject: Consider approving installation of an inground Christmas Tree stand located to the east of the Bell Tower.

Recommendation: Staff is recommending the installation of an inground Christmas tree stand in the same location as the 2023 temporary Christmas tree stand location. The installation would be done by the City of Placerville Public Works Department

Purpose: The purpose of this action is to provide a more efficient and aesthetically appealing method for displaying the City of Placerville Christmas tree.

Strategic Plan Strategy: Health and Public Safety-No. 4 Update and maintain City owned infrastructure.

Background: At the November 14, 2023 Placerville City Council meeting, the City Council approved a location directly east of the Bell Tower for the installation of the Christmas Tree for the 2023 holiday season. Immediately following the approval of that location, the Public Works Department began construction on the above ground temporary Christmas tree stand.

Discussion: Staff is proposing installing an inground tree holder in the same location as the 2023 temp location. Prior to installation staff will USA the area for potential utility conflicts as well as use the Public Works Departments ground penetration radar to avoid any concrete filled cisterns in the area. Staff will utilize last year's temporary stand by setting it in concrete after excavating the area. The stand will be topped off with a standard manhole ring and cover to allow for easy access.

This location seemed to be very popular with the public last year and allows the tree to be more centrally located in the historic downtown area. The process of installing the tree and setting up the stand last year required some extra work and creativity by the PW staff to make it work. By installing the permanent stand in the ground, the process will be much easier and faster and avoid excessive traffic disruptions downtown.

Options:

1. Approve the location as presented.
2. Direct staff to utilize an alternative location.

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Environmental: This project was determined to be Categorical Exempt according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 because the project involves the rehabilitation and replacement of existing facilities and negligible expansion of use of the public roadway and utilities

Cost: The installation cost will be absorbed by the Public Works Department operating budget.

Budget Impact: This project was not included in the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 operation budget. Staff believe that any costs associated with this project can be absorbed by this budget.



M. Cleve Morris, City Manager



Nick Stone, Director of Public Works

Attachments:

Att. A: 2023 Location Pictures