

Implementation on Key Tree Task Force Recommendations Update

August 24, 2006

Tree Trimming Contract Terms

- Contracts are 36 months with 2-12 month extensions
- Longer contract term intended to encourage better pricing
- Contracts are requirements only, contractors are not guaranteed the total funding assigned to the contractors
- Spending authority exceeds expected need as tree trimming is a major necessity of outage response during big storms
- Contracts include time and material and unit pricing and are performance based. Contractor that delivers services of higher quality at lower cost may receive additional work

Increase City Funding for Street & Park Trees

City Manager recommends two new funding initiatives totaling \$1,100,000

- Increase AE budget \$1M for Street & Park tree maintenance
- Add \$100,000 for tree planting from GF Strategic Adds

Review of Austin Energy Vegetation Management

AE will reduce clearances while completing a Vegetation Growth Rate Study:

- Fast growing species from 11–13 ft. to 8 ft.
- Slow growing species from 7–9 ft. to 4 ft.

AE will complete a growth rate study to provide scientific evidence to establish and support minimum pruning requirements, species by species, for a trim cycle of up to 5 years. Study to be completed within 18 months.

Tree Trimming Maintenance Alternatives



Offer redesign of AE infrastructure or annual trimming at customer expense

- Establish a \$100 fee for consultation and preliminary cost estimates of customer requested design alternatives that may reduce trimming. Fee will be credited for any work customer opts to do.
- Establish customer-directed alternative of one-year maintenance cycle paid for by property owner. This option will be implemented after the growth rate study is complete.

Alternative Construction Pilots for Existing Overhead

Single phase URD cable installed overhead to replace standard conductor, Single phase installation completed on West Cow Path

- OH URD Solution - \$4400 per lot for average 60' lot

Pilot of raising lines above trees proposed on E. 46th St.

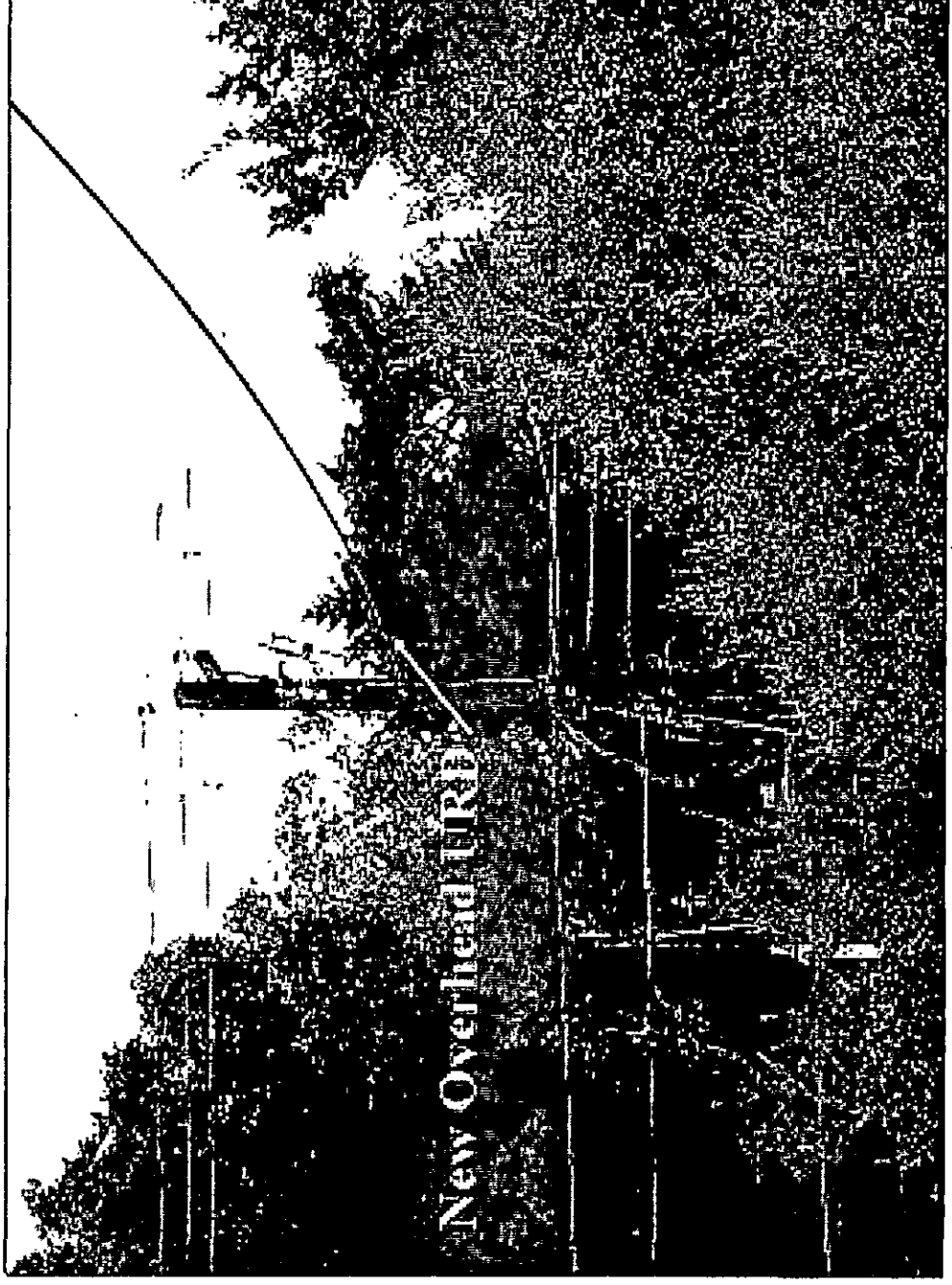
- Costs to be determined

Placing lines underground (Not to be piloted)

- \$12,000/lot for average 60' lot widths + an estimated \$5,000/lot paid by customer to convert customer's side for a total of approximately \$17,000 per lot

New URD Installation

URD Cable – first span from the take-off pole



Lines Raised Over Trees Paid for by Property Owner



Increase the Size and Types of Trees Used in Mitigation

Increase size of specimens on mitigation trees

- Currently offer 5-10 gallon trees, will increase to 15 gallon trees on request of property owner

Where appropriate we will provide larger tree species
for COA property



Notification Process

Notify Neighborhood Associations

- Certified letter sent to neighborhood president, as listed on the ANC website, for routine vegetation maintenance projects and CIP projects that effect 2 or more poles.
- Every effort will be made to notify 5 business days prior to work initiation on CIP projects, 30 days prior to the start of routine vegetation maintenance or 10 days before the preplanning starts.
- Customer Options information is included on the door hanger that is distributed with the vegetation work plan for each property.