

**RANCHO BERNARDO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT COMMITTEE
2007 YEAR IN REVIEW**

Welcome signs

In the prior fiscal year the committee discussed the desirability of using MAD funds to construct welcome signs at several entry points to Rancho Bernardo. At its July meeting the committee decided to recommend that MAD funds be used to refurbish the existing welcome sign on Rancho Bernardo Road and to construct new welcome signs at the northern and southern boundaries of Rancho Bernardo on Pomerado Road and on Bernardo Center Drive east of the I-15 exit. The signs were to be similar to the existing sign, with stucco pillars and tile roofs. It was suggested that the community could be invited to suggest a community motto that could be put on the welcome signs, a suggestion that was referred to the Public Relations Committee. Our District Manager determined that the total cost of the five signs would be in the range of \$130,000.

The committee's proposal was approved by the Community Council, and presented for approval to the Parks and Recreation Council, which approved it, and to the Rancho Bernardo Planning Board, which did not. After rejection of the proposal by the Planning Board, the committee learned that the city had raised several possible objections the construction of the new signs, not the least of which was uncertainty as to whether the construction of welcome signs is an appropriate use of MAD funds. In view of the problems raised by the proposal the committee decided to scale back the project to eliminate all four new signs and only to refurbish the existing sign. Work is in progress to determine what design and construction work will be required and to obtain contracts to perform it. \$10,000 has been allocated to this project in the fiscal 2009 budget.

The Westwood Sound Wall

Several times in the prior year the committee discussed what, if anything, MAD should do about the landscaping on the street side of the sound wall the runs along Rancho Bernardo Road as the southern boundary of Westwood. Originally that area was to be the responsibility of Westwood, but for various reasons, nothing was done to install irrigation or to improve it in a significant way. In the absence of irrigation, the area is currently planted with drought resistant shrubs. The shrubs have thus far survived, but their life expectancy is uncertain due to the lack of water. After numerous discussions and in view of the prominence of that area along Rancho Bernardo Road and the clear desirability of having it attractive and durably landscaped, the committee decided to recommend that MAD funds be used to provide irrigation. \$100,000 has been allocated for that purpose in the fiscal 2009 budget.

Pomerado Road Medians

The obvious esthetic benefit of landscaping the currently bare Pomerado Road medians north of Rancho Bernardo Road has been a frequent topic of discussion by the

committee in this as in prior years. While the esthetic value of landscaping those medians would be very great, so would the cost: several million dollars, substantially beyond the current budget capability of MAD. The committee has often discussed possible sources of funding, such as a grant of some sort, but is still searching for a viable funding plan. Most recently it was suggested that a part of the annual surplus in the MAD budget might be allocated to a segregated capital fund managed by the city which could be built up over the course of several years until sufficient to landscape a median. That suggestion will be pursued by the Committee in the future.

Because the landscaping of the medians is several years in the future, if it is ever to occur, the Committee decided that the medians, which are currently in very bad condition, will be coated with a slurry seal which will seal them and improve their appearance. The project will include repairing areas that need it with asphalt. \$20,000 is allocated for this purpose in the current budget and \$20,800 in the 1009 budget.

Trees in the Bernardo Center Drive Medians at High Country West

Several trees in these medians were dead or dying because they are of a type unsuitable for the surroundings. The Committee decided that they should be replaced with podocarpus trees, a more suitable species. That work has been completed.

The Chain-link Fence along Pomerado Road

In fiscal year 2007 MAD replaced the rusty chain-link fence along the east side of Pomerado road between the Shell station and Rios Road and installed irrigation and planted trees and bushes along the new fence. The improvement was great and immediate. However, a small section of rusty fence remained south of Rios Road. On two occasions the committee proposed to the adjacent homeowners' association that if it would provide water the MAD would replace the fence and landscape the area. The homeowners' association refused, so the Committee decided to merely replace the fence. This has been done, and, while not ideal, it removes an eyesore and makes the small area south of Rios Road more consistent with the new landscaping to the north.

Palm Tree Irrigation

There was no in-ground irrigation for the palm trees in the medians at the intersection of Pomerdo Road and Rancho Bernardo Road. Therefore those trees had to be watered by hand, which created a traffic hazard and a personal hazard for the workmen involved, especially because of the large rocks that constitute the ground cover. The Committee decided that water meters should be installed to eliminate the need for hand watering. This work has been done at a cost of approximately \$25,000.

Respectfully submitted,
Franklin P. Auwarter
MAD Committee Chairman