

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 2, 2018

RE: **Key West Historic Seaport (permit application # T18-8977)**

FROM: Karen DeMaria, City of Key West Urban Forestry Manager

An application was received requesting the review of a conceptual landscape plan in association with the proposed renovations at the Key West Historic Seaport area. This review will be discussed in stages.

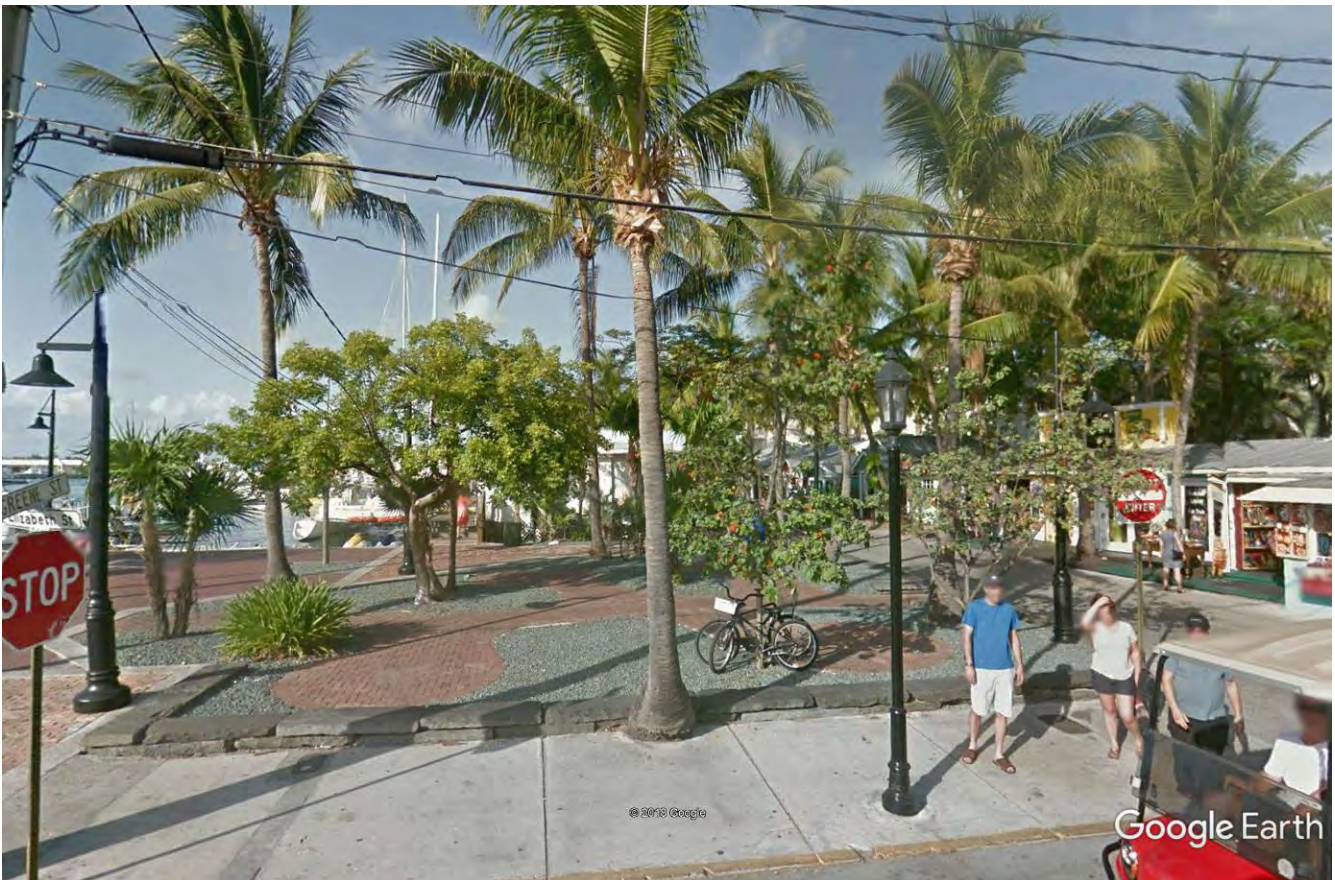
Area #1: Greene Street & Lazy Way

The City Port and Marine Services department is requesting to transplant/remove (7) Coconut Palms, transplant (5) Thatch Palms, and remove (4) Coconut Palms, (4) Orange Geiger trees, and (1) Gumbo Limbo tree from this area.



Google aerial photo of proposed work area (December 2017).

The following photos are Google Streetview photos of the proposed work area (dated July 2015).





July
2015





Lazy Way



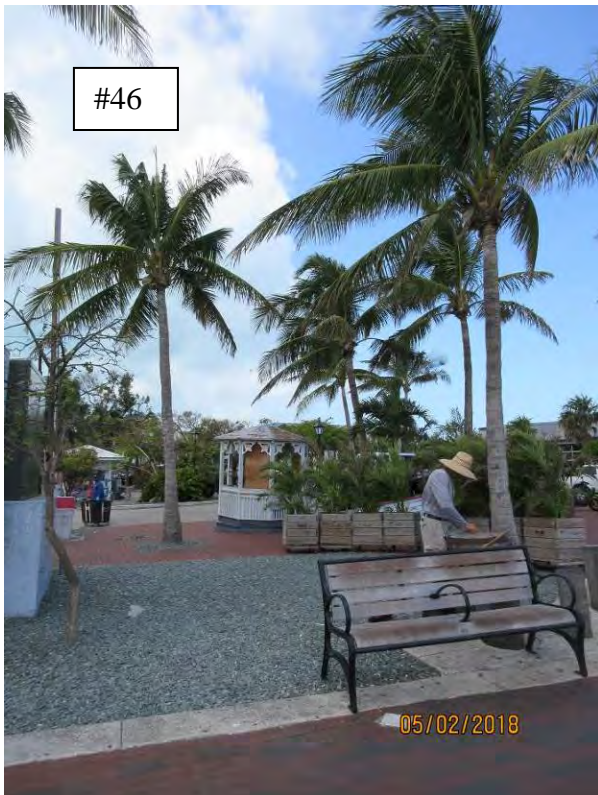


Elizabeth Street



Seven Coconut Palms are slated to be transplanted/removed. A specific evaluation and determination needs to be made with a reason as to why they can not remain. Below are some comments and photos of these palms:

#48



#38
Top and
bottom of
palm



#7 selected to
be removed





#3

Why do Palms #3, 4, 5, and 6 need to be removed? Transplanting may cause a mess and a great disturbance to the area.

Same for why palms #7 and 8 in that same line of palms, are slated for removal?

Palms #46 and #48 if they can not remain, should be transplanted.

Palm #38 is too tall to be transplanted and due to its condition, would be a candidate for removal.

Five Thatch Palms are slated to be transplanted:



#44



#42



The removal of (4) Coconut Palms, if approved, will require the replacement of (4) approved palms, 4 ft tall each palm, to be planted on site.





Agree with the recommendation to remove Coconut Palm #41 and #51B.

Four (4) Geiger trees and one (1) Gumbo Limbo tree are slated to be removed. Below are the replacement values for these trees if removal is approved:

Geiger tree #10





05/02/2018



Diameter: 4.7"

Location: 100%

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 50% (fair to poor-poor structure, tear in main trunk)

Total Average Value = 83%

Value x Diameter = 3.9 replacement caliper inches



Geiger tree #40









Diameter: 4.1"

Location: 100%

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 40% (poor)

Total Average Value = 80%

Value x Diameter = 3.2 replacement caliper inches

Geiger tree #47





05/02/2018



BICYCLE
IN RACK
BE REMO
THE CI
KEY W

05/02/2018





Diameter: 6.2"

Location: 70% (planted close to utility box)

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 50% (fair to poor, poor structure-decay)

Total Average Value = 73%

Value x Diameter = 4.5 replacement caliper inches

Geiger tree #49





05/02/2018



Diameter: 2.8"

Location: 100%

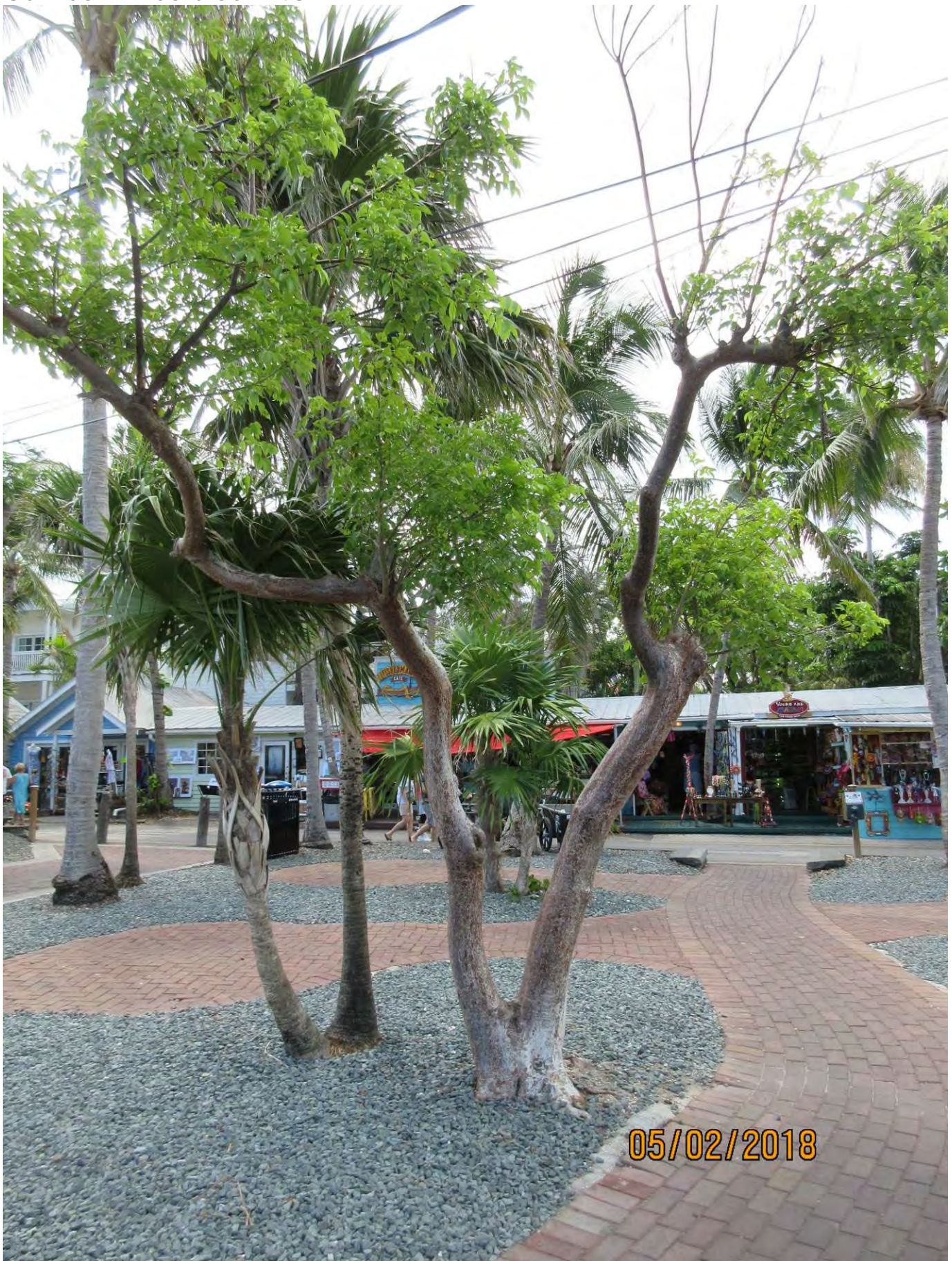
Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 50% (fair to poor, poor structure, tear into main trunk of tree)

Total Average Value = 83%

Value x Diameter = 2.3 replacement caliper inches

Gumbo Limbo tree #43













Diameter: 14.9" (two trunks)

Location: 60% (canopy impacted by utility lines)

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 50% (fair to poor, old canopy cuts have resprouted, poor canopy structure)

Total Average Value = 70%

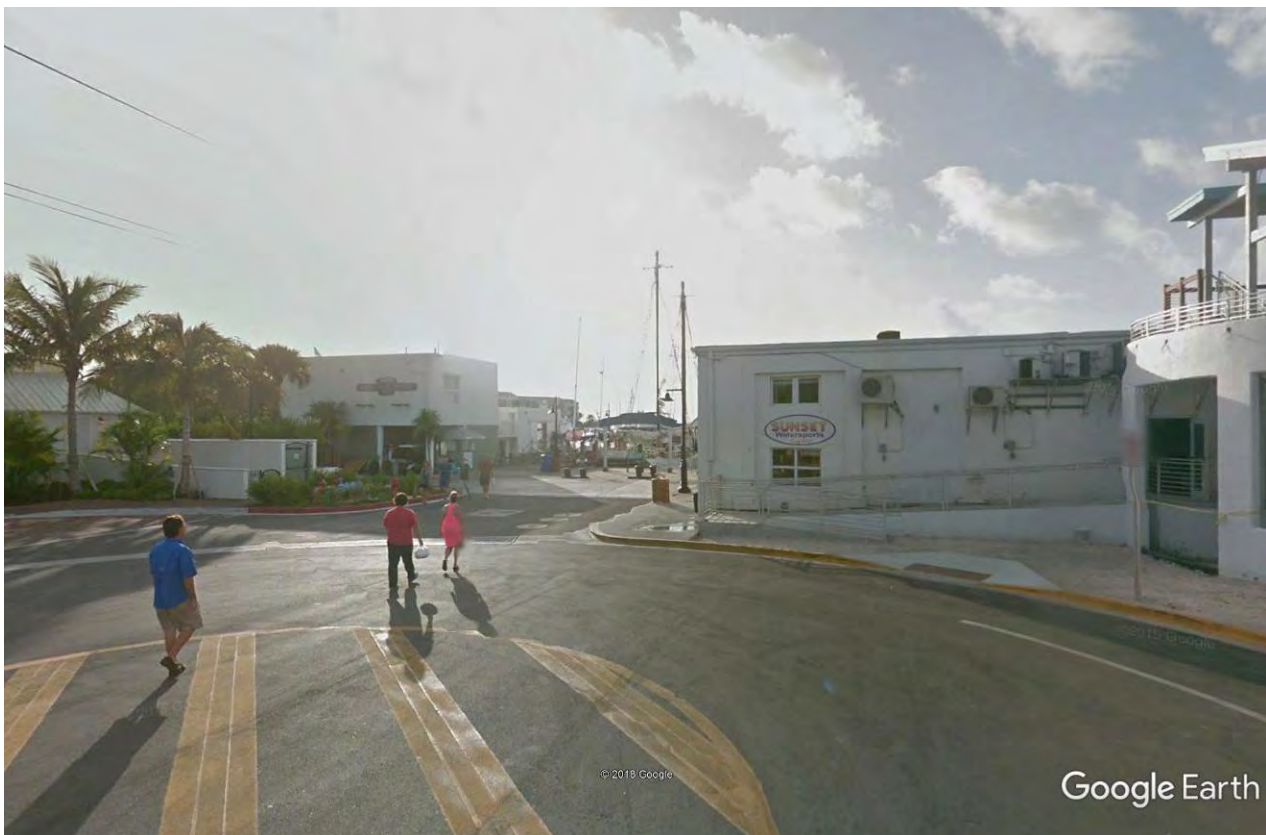
Value x Diameter = 10.4 replacement caliper inches

If permits were approved today, the proposed landscaping does not incorporate the required tree replacements. It appears to incorporate most if not all the required palm replacements for this area and does incorporate the Thatch palm transplants. Where will the coconut palm transplants be planted?

Do not recommend the planting of saw palmetto in the area as it has a low traveling growth and thorny type structures along the petiole of the frond.

Area #2 William Street Plaza

The following photos are of the proposed work area dated July 2015.



Proposed work in this area includes the removal of three (3) Christmas Palms and the transplanting of three (3) young Thatch palms. The following photos are recent photos of the area.



These are some of the Thatch palms that are to be transplanted (where to?).



These Christmas Palms are proposed to be removed. It appears that shrubs will be replanted in this area. Do not recommend removal of these palms. Why do they need to be moved from this area? At the very least, transplant these trees to another location, either in the area or a street planter in old town.



This area to be enhanced with additional landscaping.



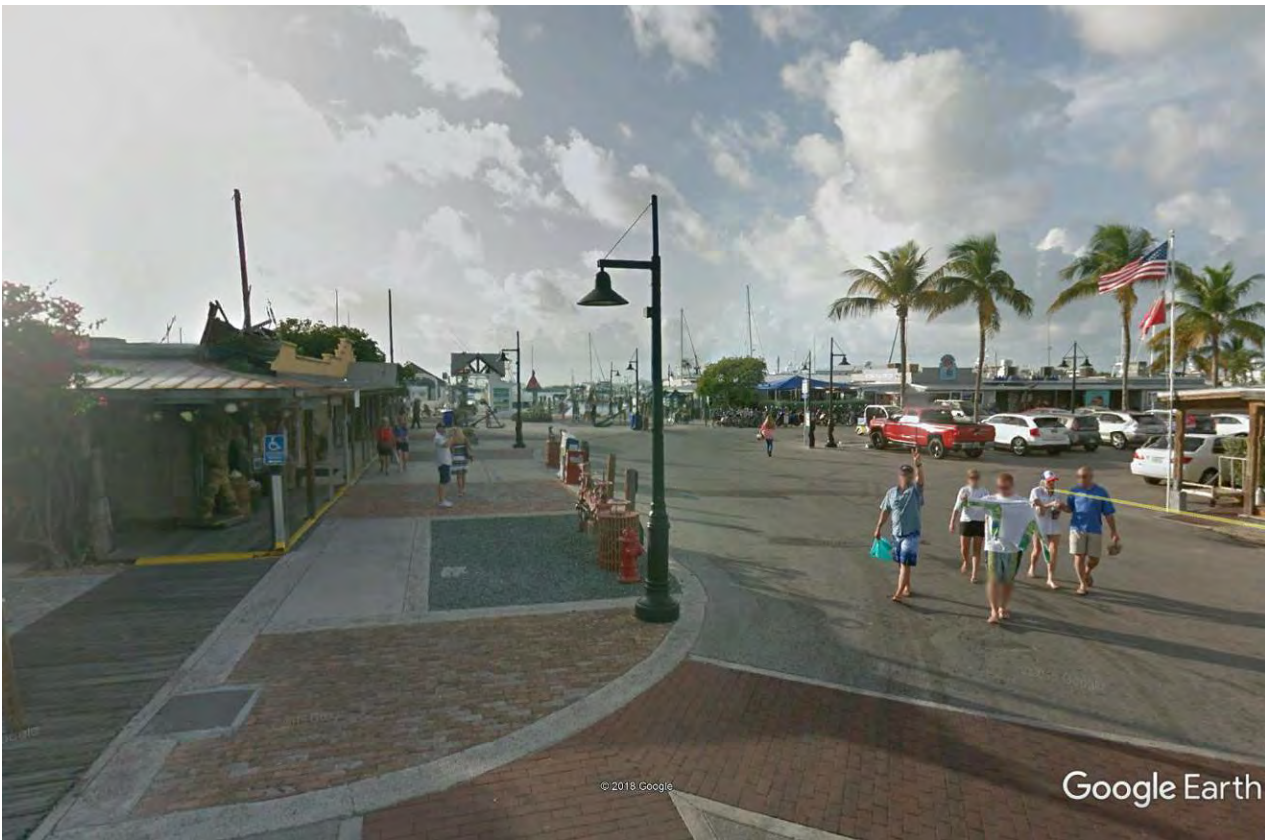
This Thatch Palm is not noted on the plans but is in the project boundaries.

Only shrubs and groundcover are to be added to this proposed work area. Do not recommend the planting of saw palmetto.

Area #3 Margaret Street Plaza



July 2017



July 2017

Below are recent photos of the proposed work areas. All existing palms and trees are to remain and the area enhanced with additional landscaping.







The landscape plan proposes to add tree planters with Pigeon Plum trees along the Margaret Street store front area. Would possibly like to see two or three different species of trees instead of all seven new trees being the same species or is there a certain look for the area that is being developed? The landscape plan says Thatch palms will be transplanted into this area. Where from and where on the plans?

Recommendation: There are still a number of questions that need to be answered before this plan can move forward for approval. Recommend postponing any permit decisions until plan has been reviewed by HARC and tree questions have been answered.

Also, final plans need to include a tree protection plan for proposed work near the trees and palms.