



**DATE:** February 11, 2014

**CATEGORY:** Consent

**DEPT.:** Public Works

**TITLE:** **Well No. 9 Abandonment, Project 13-04 – Approve Plans and Heritage Tree Removal**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Approve plans and specifications for the Well No. 9 Abandonment, a project funded by the annual Water System Improvements, Project 13-04, and authorize staff to advertise the project for bids.
2. Authorize the City Manager to award the construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder if the low bid is within the project budget.
3. Approve the removal of and mitigation for one Heritage tree.

### **BACKGROUND**

The City of Mountain View's Well No. 9 (Well 9) was constructed in 1956. The well is located on a 260 square foot City-owned parcel on the northwest corner of Cuesta Drive and Miramonte Avenue. Well 9 is situated below grade in a locked vault immediately adjacent to the sidewalk and within a few feet of an existing medical building. The well has been inactive for several years and has reached the end of its useful life.

The Public Works Department is analyzing all City-owned wells and determined that Well 9 is no longer productive, is difficult to access, and provides no room for fluoridation equipment or a back-up generator. Mountain View receives fluoridated water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission system and adds fluoride to water received from the Santa Clara Valley Water District. To maintain consistent fluoride levels throughout the system, the City is required to fluoridate all water produced from the City's wells, and operating Well 9 without fluoridation facilities would violate water quality regulations. Additionally, all groundwater wells have either on-site backup generators or the capability to accept a portable generator. Because the Well 9 site is too small to accommodate a permanent or portable generator, the usefulness of this well as an emergency supply is significantly reduced. For these

reasons, staff recommends abandoning Well 9. The City has seven other active groundwater wells that meet the City's needs. These wells serve primarily as a back-up supply or for emergencies and supply approximately 3 percent of the City's water usage.

### ANALYSIS

When an existing well is no longer needed, it is necessary to properly abandon the well to prevent possible contamination of the nearby groundwater basin. An old well can act as a conduit for pollutants to lower portions of the aquifer where potable water is obtained. The abandonment of Well 9 will include removing all of the existing piping near the surface and filling the old well with grout to seal it.

The work will also include landscaping the site, reestablishing the landscaping and fence along the medical building frontage, and installing a concrete pad for storage of refuse bins used by the medical buildings. These measures will have a positive impact on the appearance of the site from Cuesta Drive (see picture below). The property owner of the medical building will maintain the landscaping along with the other landscaping on the site.

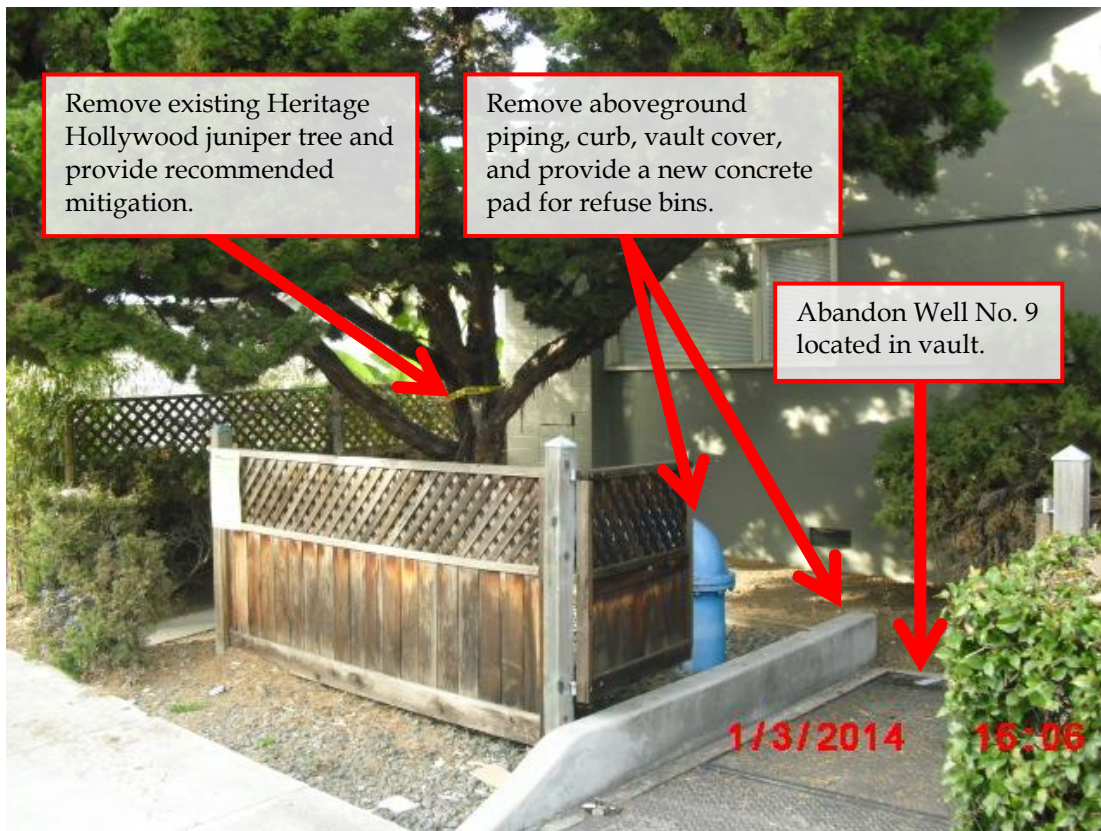


Photo of Site

Plans and specifications for the project are substantially complete and ready to bid, and are available for viewing in the Public Works Department.

The estimated project cost is as follows:

Construction	\$ 85,000
Construction Contingency (10%)	9,000
Engineering Construction Services	5,000
City Project Management and City Inspection	8,000
Printing, Permits, etc.	<u>1,000</u>
Subtotal	108,000
City Administration @ 6.5% (of \$108,000)	<u>7,000</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST	<u>\$115,000</u>

If the recommended actions are approved, construction is expected to start in May 2014 and be completed in June 2014.

### **Heritage Tree**

There is a Heritage Hollywood juniper tree located on private property next to the well. In order to access the site to properly abandon the well, extensive pruning of the canopy and root removal will be required. This will severely impact the health and aesthetics of the tree. City staff, including the Parks and Open Space Manager, met with the property manager for the site to discuss this situation. The Parks and Open Space Manager explained the impacts of the project, and the site property manager stated a preference to remove rather than retain the tree after major pruning.

On January 15, 2014, the Urban Forestry Board recommended a mitigation ratio of 2:1 with 15-gallon or larger shade trees. The Parks and Open Space Manager will meet with the site property manager to select two appropriate trees for the site.

### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

In accordance with CEQA, this project has been determined to be categorically exempt under Section 15301(b) as it involves modification of existing publicly owned utility with no expansion of use.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The plans and specifications for the Well No. 9 Abandonment project were prepared and funded through the 2012 Water System Improvements, Project 12-04. Construction funding is from Water System Improvements, Project 13-04. Water System Improvements, Project 13-04, is funded in the amount of \$320,000 from the Water Fund of which an estimated \$152,000 is currently remaining. The project cost of the Well No. 9 Abandonment project is estimated at \$115,000 and is within the remaining funds of Project 13-04.

**ALTERNATIVES** – Abandon Well 9 at a later date.

**PUBLIC NOTICING** – Agenda posting.

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Approved by:

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JM/5/CAM/929-02-11-14CR-E

Attachment: 1. [Urban Forestry Board Memorandum, January 15, 2014 – Well No. 9 Abandonment, Project 13-04 – Removal of Heritage Tree](#)

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SCE – Muench, AAI – Bloomquist, EI – Lim, F/c