

FEMA will require more trees to be removed

Renata McLeod city minutes

LEVEE CERTIFICATION UPDATE– NORTHWEST BOULEVARD PRESENTATION: Engineering Services Director Gordon Dobler updated the Council on the last phase of the Levee Certification that included the need to remove trees on Northwest Boulevard in front of the North Idaho Museum. This came about due to the construction of the required FEMA wall near the Museum. The old FEMA wall was on the south side of the Museum and cannot be replaced across the road due to utilities in the street. Therefore, the new wall approved by FEMA will be behind the sidewalk in front of the Museum. He estimated 10 trees would have to be removed to accommodate the wall. They are working to retain a vegetative strip next to the sidewalk. Mr. Dobler expects the project to start in April or May and finish before Ironman. Once the wall is installed, the City can expect certification in the fall. Councilmember McEvers asked why the City could not use the same style fence as used along the seawall. Mr. Dobler explained that FEMA requirements are different from the Army Corp. Based on elevation of the area around the Museum, FEMA would not allow the old wall style. Councilmember Edinger expressed frustration with the requirement from FEMA without any additional funding. Councilmember Gookin said he was concerned about tree removal, but understands there are no other options due to FEMA requirements. Mr. Dobler explained that there will be a fee in lieu of replacing the trees and the Urban Forestry Committee will determine an appropriate location for the replanting of trees. Councilmember Miller requested Mr. Dobler to make additional efforts to inform the public regarding the tree removal.