

## ARCHITECTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 18, 2020

SUBJECT: REQUEST BY PALO FIERRO ESTATES FOR MINOR ARCHITECTURAL

REVIEW APPROVAL TO CONVERT 3,600 SQUARE FEET OF THE EXISTING LANDSCAPE AND INSTALL LANDSCAPE LIGHTING ON THE EAST LA VERNE WAY FRONTAGE AT 2082 LAGARTO WAY, ZONE

RMHP, SECTION 26 (CASE NO. 3.700 MAA). (NK)

FROM: Department of Planning Services

#### SUMMARY:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Minor Architectural Review application (MAA) to alter the existing 3,600-square-foot landscape and install landscape lighting on the East La Verne Way frontage at Palo Fierro Estates. Pursuant to a Planning Services Department policy, a landscape conversion project which involves less than 5,000 square feet in area is subject to staff-level review. Based on the submitted landscape plan, however, staff determined that seeking consultation by the Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) would be appropriate in accordance with Palm Springs Zoning Code Section 94.04.00(E)(2)(a)(2).

#### ISSUES:

- 1. The proposed design lacks strong composition.
- 2. According to the information provided on the landscape plan, the total plant coverage area is 3,744 square feet. However, this is inconsistent with the information depicted on the plan as the coverage exceeds the total project area of 3,600 square feet.
- 3. The driveway entrance landscape treatment appears detached from the rest of the project area.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the AAC recommends approval subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Rearrange and regroup Gopher Plant and Variegated Fountain Agave to create stronger composition by increasing the contrast between the open space and the plants.
- 2. Rearrange Gopher Plant and Variegated Fountain Agave in the corner areas for consistency.
- 3. Soften the edge of the driveway entrance landscape treatment so that it can be incorporated into the overall landscape design.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

History											
03/12/1964	Recorded Date of Construction										
Site Visit											
05/11/2020	Staff conducted a site visit to confirm the condition of the project site.										
Notification	Notification										
Not required	. However, Neighborhood Organizations located within one (1) mile from the										
project site h	as been notified of the public meeting										



IMAGE 1.1 PALO FIERRO ESTATES ( PROPERTY BOUNDARY)



IMAGE 1.2 PROJECT AREA
( ==== PROJECT AREA BOUNDARY)

#### **EXISTING CONDITIONS:**

Originally constructed in 1964, the Palo Fierro Estates condominium complex is located at the northwest corner of East La Verne Way and South Calle Palo Fierro. The complex is designed with two (2) rows of residential units, which are accessible from a private driveway (Lagarto Way) and South Calle Palo Fierro. There are two (2) residential units between the two (2) residential rows on the south frontage, which are accessible from East La Verne Way. The complex's only viable landscaping area is the project site, which is located on East La Verne Way. The project area is currently landscaped with several Mexican Fan Palms and one (1) Olive tree. The pre-existing turf has been removed, and the condition of the site is exposed soil and boulders. A monument sign for the complex is located at the southeast corner of the complex.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The project proposes the installation of Gopher Plant (*Euphorbia rigida*), Mexican Grass Tree (*Dasylirion longissima*), Night Blooming Cereus (*Cereus hildmannianus*), Variegated Fountain Agave (*Agave desmetiana* 'Variegata'), Mexican Petunia (*Ruellia brittoniana*), Gaura (*Gaura lindheimeri*), Angelita Daisy (*Tetraneuris acaulis*), Desert Gold boulders in various sizes (the size of the boulders to range from 12" to 30"), Desert Gold decomposed granite, and Copper Canyon crushed rocks. In addition to the installation of new plants, the scope of work includes the installation of landscape lighting fixtures. Two (2) types of lighting fixtures are proposed: well lights and directional lights both manufactured by FOCUS INDUSTRIES. The exterior lighting fixture specifications are attached to this report (Attachment #3).

#### <u>APPLICANT'S DESIGN INTENT:</u>

In the Justification Letter submitted to the Department of Planning Services on April 9, 2020, the applicant states that the implementation of the design techniques recommended in the Turf Removal and Water Efficient Landscape design guidelines would not allow the community to achieve landscape design that is compatible with the overall design of the condominium complex including architecture. The applicant adds that the incorporation of the design techniques may result in a "cookie cutter" appearance. A copy of the Justification Letter is attached to this report (Attachment #2).

## WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPING (PALM SPRINGS MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.60):

The proposed plant materials are generally consistent with the materials recommended in the Lush and Efficient Landscape Guidelines published by the Coachella Valley Water District and meet the material selection requirement stated in Section 8.60.060(b) of the Palm Springs Municipal Code (Water Efficient Landscaping – Landscape Design Plan). Irrigation to the project area will be provided via drip for individual plant and deep root watering system for the existing tree and palms.

#### ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW GUIDELINES:

The Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) shall review the proposed project in accordance with the guidelines stated in Section 94.04.00(D) of the Palm Springs Zoning Code:

Tal	Table 2.1 Architectural Review (Section 94.04)											
	Guidelines	Compliance	Staff Evaluation									
1	Does the proposed development provide a desirable environment for its occupants?	Yes	The project proposes the installation of new desert landscape. The site was previously landscaped with turf, and the implementation of the project will reduce the site's water demand for landscape maintenance.									

Tal	ble 2.1 Architectural Review (	Section 94.04	
	Guidelines	Compliance	Staff Evaluation
2	Is the proposed development compatible with the character of adjacent and surrounding developments?	Yes	The project proposes the installation of desert landscape, which is compatible with other existing desert landscape on East La Verne Way. The project proposes to retain the existing Mexican Fan Palms, which will help preserve the character of the streetscape on East La Verne Way.
3	Is the proposed development of good composition, materials, textures, and colors?	No	The proposed design lacks strong composition which is caused by loosely grouped plant materials (particularly Gopher Plants and Variegated Fountain Agaves). Without any order or form in the plant placement, the new plant materials fade into the Desert Gold decomposed granite background. The spatial relationship amongst the plant groupings is weak, and the concentration of the plant materials in the east planting area creates a disorderly appearance.
4	Harmonious relationship with existing and proposed adjoining developments and in the context of the immediate neighborhood / community, avoiding both excessive variety and monotonous repetition, but allowing similarity of style, if warranted.	Yes	The retention of the existing Mexican Fan Palms will ensure the visual connection between the site and the East La Verne Way streetscape. The volume, shape, and form of the proposed Night Blooming Cereus will add unique character to the site.
5	Consistency of composition and treatment	Yes	The project proposes the use of identical plant materials and similar landscape treatment throughout the site.

Ta	Table 2.1 Architectural Review (Section 94.04)											
	Guidelines	Compliance	Staff Evaluation									
6	Location and type of planting, with regard for desert climate conditions. Preservation of specimen and landmark trees upon a site, with proper irrigation to insure maintenance of all plant materials	Yes	The project proposes desert plant materials recommended in the Lush and Efficient landscape book, and the project does not propose the removal of any specimen or character-defining trees on the site.									

#### **CONCLUSION:**

In the submitted Justification Letter, the applicant states that the implementation of the design elements and techniques recommended in the Technical Assistance for Water Efficient Landscape guidelines will contribute to a landscape design that lacks originality. The intent of the Technical Assistance for Water Efficient Landscape Guidelines is to provide guidance to property owners and designers during design synthesis process. The site's character-defining landscape element is the existing Mexican Fan Palms, and the proposed Night Blooming Cereus and Mexican Grass Tree, which are characterized by their bold shape and form, will add interest and uniqueness to the site. Staff finds that rearranging Gopher Plant and Mexican Grass Tree and softening the edge of the driveway entrance landscape will improve the composition of the site without negatively affecting the originality of the design as uniqueness and composition are two (2) completely different facets of landscape design principles. Therefore, staff recommends the Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC) approve the project subject to the conditions of approval stated above.

Noriko Kikuchi Associate Planner

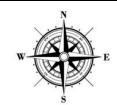
David Newell, AICP Principal Planner

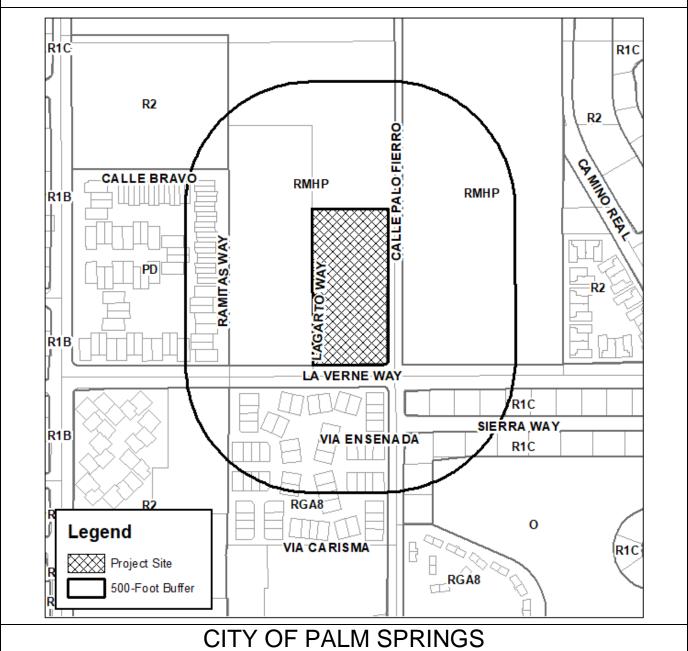
#### **ATTACHMENTS**:

- 1. 500-foot vicinity maps
- 2. Justification Letter
- 3. Exterior Lighting Fixture Information
- 4. Landscape Plan
- 5. Site Photographs



## Department of Planning Services Vicinity Map





#### 3.700 MAA

2082 Lagarto Way Palo Fierro Estates (APN: 511-171-035) April 1, 2020

City of Palm Springs Planning Department Attn Noriko Kikuchi RE: APN: 511-171-035 2082 Lagarto Way

Hi Noriko,

Thanks for your letter dated February 13, 2020. We have some responses for you, we very much want to keep this upgrade project on track, our approval from the Water District is set to expire soon.

Here are our comments on the items of concern from the group of the first 3 issues:

- 1. Application not signed by the Owner's representative: **Submitted with this correspondence**
- 2. Letter to authorize the project: **Submitted with this correspondence.**
- 3. Specifications for Outdoor lighting fixtures: Submitted with this correspondence.

Following are comments on the remaining section of concerns:

- 1. 1 Gallon Plants. We have a mixture of plants specified in our overall plan, including 15, 10, 5, and 1 Gal. Plants. Our use of 1 Gal plants is minimal, and is based on the fact that these particular plants are not commercially available as 5 Gal (or larger) plants. In addition, these particular plants that are 1 Gal, in less than 1 year will be at or above the size of a 5 Gal plant, so under the circumstances of no commercial availability of those particular plants in other than 1 Gal, we are comfortable with the current plan, and would like to keep the plants as specified.
- 2. Square Footage. We do apologize; we did make a mistake when calculating our overall square footage's. We have corrected this on the included updated Plan, we failed to calculate in some planter areas that were not included in the turf replacement totals.
- 3. We've carefully reviewed the design techniques documented in Attachment 4, and we are not fully in agreement with everything that document specifically promotes. Although we agree the items in that document are good recommendations and practices, we feel that following those recommendations specifically would not result in an optimal design that is congruent and most compatible with our complex's overall design and architecture, while still staying consistent with "desert" landscape in replacing grass. The Board of Directors of our community, along with our Landscape Committee have put a lot of thought and work into the overall design of our project working together with our contracted Landscape Architect, as well as our Landscape Maintenance professional. For lack of a better term, we feel if we implemented the specifics of Attachment 4, we would have "cookie cutter look" that is not specific to our complex. We want a beautiful, unique, functional, and economic design that works in unison with the architecture, and functionality of our complex. We respectfully submit that we have implemented the standards, principles and overall recommendations of Attachment 4, in our own unique plan, and it provides a beautiful landscape that is fully

consistent with and meets all requirements for removing turf/ grass, utility and natural resource savings and conservation, and overall beauty to the landscape.

- 4. We have modified the plan to show the required 30' corner cutback in accordance with Attachment #2. Relative to the corner cutback area, visual obstructions are defined as any object that may block the view of motorists including utility vents, hills, walls, signs, street furniture or landscaping which exceeds a height of two and one-half (2 ½) feet above the nearest street pavement surface. The expected height of the one plant this would apply to in that area (Fountain Agaves) specified for that area would not exceed the 2 ½ ft limit. Please note that the corner on Lagarto Way and Laverne does not apply, as Lagarto is a private street, owned by the complex.
- 5. We don't completely understand what is being asked for in this item. Our plan does show the ground cover, as well as the plants, and the proposed location of both. We need some clarification as to how we would identify the "transition" on our plans. We think our plan as submitted clearly shows where the groundcover is, as well as the plant materials.

Thanks very much, let me know if you need any other information.

Best regards,

Rod Stolk Palo Fierro HOA



# SL-01 SERIES WELL LIGHTS

landscape · entertainment · architectural · hospitality · illumination







## WELL LIGHTS SL-01 SERIES

#### **SPECIFICATIONS**

#### CONSTRUCTION:

SL-01: Black extruded ABS housing; aluminum lamp holder/aiming bracket SL-01-SP: Black extruded ABS housing; aluminum lamp holder/aiming bracket

LENS: None. Optional high impact clear tempered convex glass available

LAMP SUPPLIED: See ordering information below for PAR36 lamp model (50w max)

LAMP OPTIONS: We recommend 10w ARROW PAR36 LED; 50,000 hours average rating

SOCKET: None, PAR36 lamp supplies connection via 1/4" quick connect or stud terminal

WIRING: Black 3 foot 18/2 zip cord from base of fixture (12v only) For 25 foot 16/2 fixture lead wire add -25F to catalog number.

CONNECTION: FA-05 Quick Connector (not supplied) from fixture to main cable

(12/2, 10/2 or 8/2 only)

FINISH: Aluminum - Black texture polyester powder coat. Optional finishes available

ORDERING INFORMATION													
CATALOG NO.	DESCRIPTION	LAMP SUPPLIED	SHIP WEIGHT										
SL-01	Well Light, aluminum lamp holder	36w PAR36 (QWFL)	2.0 lbs.										
SL-01-4414 SL-01-25W-VWFL	Well Light, aluminum lamp holder Well Light, aluminum lamp holder	18w PAR36 (MFL)	2.0 lbs.										
3L-01-23W-VWFL	weil Light, aluminum lamp holder	25w PAR36 (VWFL)	2.0 lbs.										
SL-01-LEDP3624	Well Light, aluminum lamp holder	10w PAR36 LED (24°)	2.0 lbs.										
SL-01-LEDP3640	Well Light, aluminum lamp holder	10w PAR36 LED (40°)	2.0 lbs.										
SL-01-LEDP3660	Well Light, aluminum lamp holder	10w PAR36 LED (60°)	2.0 lbs.										

SL-01SP-LEDP3624 Well Light, 30° Cut, aluminum lamp holder 10w PAR36 LED (24')

SL-01SP-LEDP3640 Well Light, 30° Cut, aluminum lamp holder 10w PAR36 LED (40°)

SL-01SP-LEDP3660 Well Light, 30° Cut, aluminum lamp holder 10w PAR36 LED (60°)



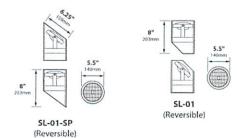


SL-01-LEDP3640



SL-01-SP





JOB INFORMATION	
Туре:	Date:
Job Name:	
Cat. No.:	
Lamp(s):	
Specifier:	
Contractor:	
Notes:	
FOCUS INDUSTRIES INC. 25301 COMMERCENTRE DRIVE LAKE FOREST, CA 92630	www.focusindustries.com sales@focusindustries.com (949) 830-1350 • FAX (949) 830-3390

Black Texture (Standard)	Antique Verde	Bronze Texture	Camel	White Texture	Hunter Texture	Rust	Weathered Iron	Weathered Brown	Stucco	Rubbed Verde	Chrome Powder	Acid Rust	Acid Verde	Black Acid Treatment
-BLT	-ATV	-BRT	-CAM	-WTX	-HTX	-RST	-WIR	-WBR	-STU	-RBV	-CPR	-BAR/CA	R -BAV/CAV	
SI-01 Cut Shee	et 03	2818										DD	ASS & CODDED ON	TV-

2.0 lbs.

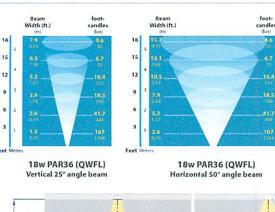
2.0 lbs.

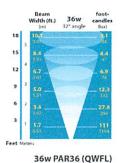
2.0 lbs.

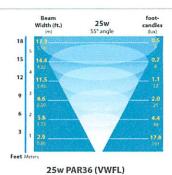


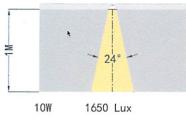
### **WELL LIGHTS SL-01 SERIES**

#### LIGHT DISTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOMETRICS

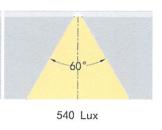












FL-LED-PAR36-1024

FL-LED-PAR36-1040

FL-LED-PAR36-1060

#### **ACCESSORIES**

#### **RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS FOR SL-01 SERIES ONLY:**

Not For SL-01-SP or SL-01-SP7

FA-14-CLEAR FA-14-BLUE FA-14-GREEN Clear Convex Tempered Glass Lens, Cast Alum. Holder Set Blue Convex Tempered Glass Lens, Cast Alum. Holder Set Green Convex Tempered Glass Lens, Cast Alum. Holder Set

FA-14-BRS-CLEAR FA-14-BRS-BLUE FA-14-BRS-GREEN

Clear Convex Tempered Glass Lens, Cast Brass Holder Set Blue Convex Tempered Glass Lens, Cast Brass Holder Set Green Convex Tempered Glass Lens, Brass Cast Holder Set Cast Aluminum Lens Holder only

FA-14-HOLDER FA-14-HOLDER-BLT FA-14-HOLDER-BRS

Cast Brass Lens Holder only Cast Aluminum Grate with set screws

Cast Aluminum Lens Holder only

FA-20-BLT FA-20-BRS Cast Brass Grate with set screws

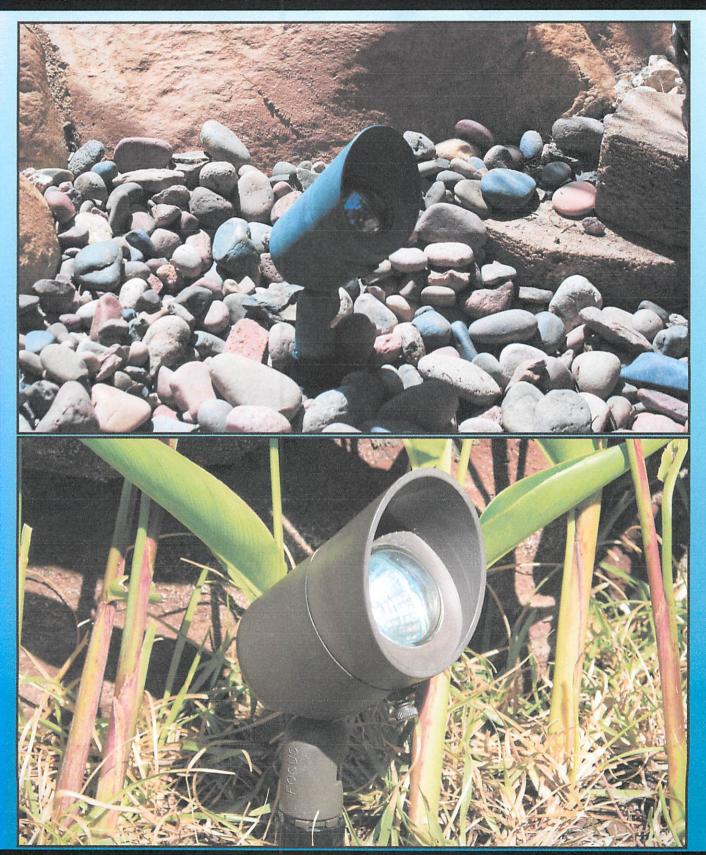
Type:	Date:
Type.	Date:
Job Name:	
Cat. No.:	
Lamp(s):	
Specifier:	
Contractor:	
Notes:	
FOCUS INDUSTRIES INC. 25301 COMMERCENTRE DRIVE	www.focusindustries.com
LAKE FOREST, CA 92630	sales@focusindustries.com (949) 830-1350 • FAX (949) 830-3390

Black Texture (Standard)	Antique Verde	Bronze Texture	Camel	White Texture	Hunter Texture	Rust	Weathered Iron	Weathered Brown	Stucco	Rubbed Verde	Chrome Powder	Acid Rust	Acid Verde	Black Acid Treatment
-BLT	-ATV	-BRT	-CAM	-WTX	-HTX	-RST	-WIR	-WBR	-STU	-RBV	-CPR	-BAR/CAI	-BAV/CAV	
SL-01 Cut She	et 03	2818										BRA	SS & COPPER ON	Υ



# DL-21 SERIES DIRECTIONAL LIGHTS

landscape · entertainment · architectural · hospitality · illumination





### **DIRECTIONAL LIGHTS DL-21 SERIES**



TYPE

#### **SPECIFICATIONS**

CONSTRUCTION: Cast aluminum, brass or composite Bullet; matching cast aluminum, brass or composite adjustable swivel

LENS: High impact clear tempered convex glass

O-RING: High temperature red silicone

LAMP SUPPLIED: 40,000 hour 3w ARROW Super Saver MR16 LED (-LED3)

LAMP OPTIONS: We recommend 40,000 hour 5w (-LED5) or 7w (-LED7) ARROW Super Saver

MR16 LED, or 5,000 hour 20w MR16 FL(BAB) Halogen

NOTE: ARROW MR16 LED must be factory installed to fit properly

SOCKET: High temperature ceramic GU5.3 bi-pin with 250°C silicone lead wires

WIRING: Black 3 foot 18/2 zip cord from base of fixture (12v only) For 25 foot 16/2 fixture lead wire add -25F to catalog number.

CONNECTION: FA-05 Quick Connector (not supplied) from fixture to main cable

(12/2, 10/2 or 8/2 only)

MOUNTING: FA-03 black 9" ABS stake threaded 1/2" NPS

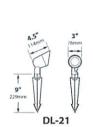
FINISH: Aluminum-Black texture polyester powder coat. Optional finishes available

Brass-Unfinished brass. Optional finishes available

#### ORDERING INFORMATION DESCRIPTION CATALOG NO.

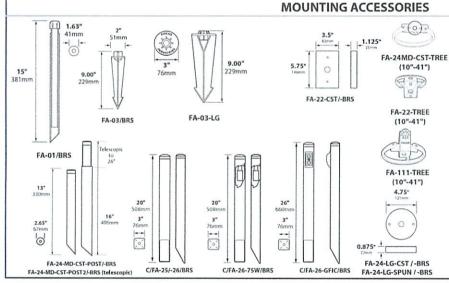
SHIP WEIGHT LAMP DL-21-LED3-BLT Cast Aluminum Bullet 3w MR16 LED 36° FL 2.0 lbs. DL-21-LED3-BRS Cast Brass Bullet 3w MR16 LED 36° FL 3.0 lbs. CDL-21-LED3 Composite Bullet 3w MR16 LED 36° FL 2.0 lbs.

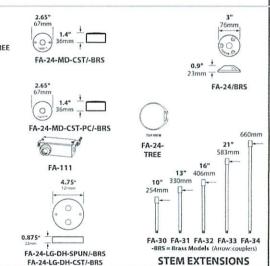












#### BEAM/GLARE CONTROL ACCESSORIES

FA-08-21 FA-11-BLUE FA-11-GREEN

FA-98

FA-99

FA-104

Round 1/8" Hex Cell Louver Blue Tempered Glass Lens Green Tempered Glass Lens Linear Spread Tempered Glass Lens High Impact Clear Tempered Convex Glass Wide Spread Tempered Glass Lens Softener JOB INFORMATION Type: Date Job Name: Cat. No.: Lamp(s): Specifier: Contractor: Notes: FOCUS INDUSTRIES INC. www.focusindustries.com sales@focusindustries.com (949) 830-1350 • FAX (949) 830-3390

25301 COMMERCENTRE DRIVE LAKE FOREST, CA 92630

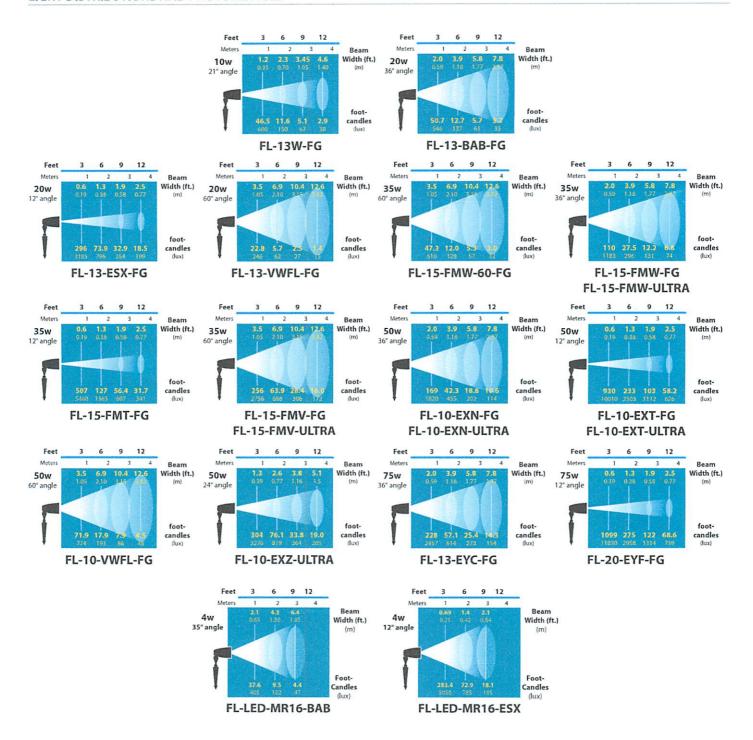
Black Texture (Standard)	Antique Verde	Bronze Texture	Camel	White Texture	Hunter Texture	Rust	Weathered Iron	Weathered Brown	Stucco	Rubbed Verde	Chrome Powder	Acid Rust	Acid Verde	Black Acid Treatment
-BLT	-ATV	-BRT	-CAM	-WTX	-НТХ	-RST	-WIR	-WBR	-STU	-RBV	-CPR			

DL-21 Cut Sheet 092717 BRASS & COPPER ONLY



## DIRECTIONAL LIGHTS DL-21-SERIES

#### LIGHT DISTRIBUTIONS AND PHOTOMETRICS



Black Texture (Standard)	Antique Verde	Bronze Texture	Camel	White Texture	Hunter Texture	Rust	Weathered Iron	Weathered Brown	Stucco	Rubbed Verde	Chrome Powder	Acid Rust	Acid Verde	Black Acid Treatment
-BLT	-ATV	-BRT	-CAM	-WTX	-НТХ	-RST	-WIR	-WBR	-STU	-RBV	-CPR	-BAR/CAR	-BAV/CAV	-BAT
DL-21 Cut Shee	et 092717	7					.1					BRAS	S & COPPER ON	Y

## East La-Verne Way

Key:

## <u>Trees</u>

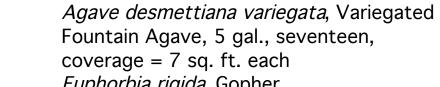
Existing Mexican Fan Palm, eight, coverage = 177 sq. ft. each



Existing Olive, one, coverage = 707 sq. ft. each

## <u>Accents</u>

Cereus hildmannianus, Nightblooming Cereus, 15 gal., nine, coverage = 79 sq. ft. eachDasylirion longissimum, Mexican Grass Tree, 10 gal., fourteen, coverage = 20 sq. ft. each



Euphorbia rigida, Gopher Plant, one gal., thirty-one, coverage = 13 sq. ft. each

## <u>Color</u>

Ruellia brittoniana, Mexican Petunia, one gal., six, coverage = 13 sq. ft. each

Gaura lindheimeri, Gaura, one gal., six, coverage = 3 sq. ft.

Tetraneuris acaulis, Angelita Daisy, one gal., twelve, coverage = 1 sq. ft. each

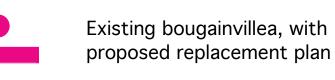
## <u>Other</u>

'Desert Gold' 24"x 30" boulder, six

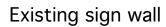
'Desert Gold' 18"x18" boulder, nine

'Desert Gold' 12"x12",

'Desert Gold' decomposed granite, 37 tons



<u>Other</u>



Landscape LED accent light, Focus Industries, DL-21-LED3-BLT, eleven Landscape LED uplight, Focus Industries, SL-01-4414, nine

## <u>Notes</u>

footage is approximately 5,200 sq. ft.

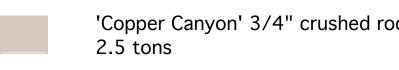
1/Serpentine berm for central planting areas (west and east), with summit at 15" 2/Desert Water Agency turf buy back rebate program (3,679 sq. ft.). Total area















Mexican Fan Palm Washingtonia robusta



Olive Olea europaea



Gopher Plant Euphorbia rigida



Cereus hildmannianus

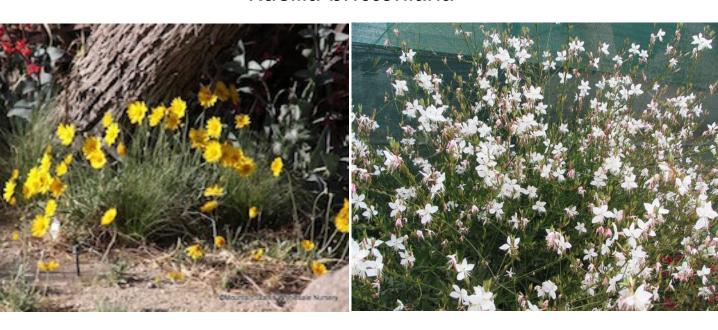
Variegated Fountain Agave Agave desmettiana variegata



Mexican Grass Tree Dasylirion longissimum



Mexican Petunia Ruellia brittoniana



Angelita Daisy Tetraneuris acaulis



Gaura Gaura lindheimeri



'Desert Gold' decomposed granite



'Copper Canyon' crushed rock



'Desert Gold' boulders

Palo Fierro Estates HOA Palm Springs, CA Section: 26-T4S-R4E APN: 511-171-035 Prepared by Paul Ortega, 760-409-4833

revised 4-7-20

LANDSCAPE PLAN 1" = 10'-0"

Landscape contractors and installers should always verify quantities and when preparing bids.

This document is intended as a conceptual design plan only and is not intended in any

way as a contruction drawing or document, nor

should it be construed as such.







