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PUBLIC WORKS
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Standards Update Transmittal

Reference Number: 2024v-02
Standards: Standard Construction Specifications, Section 20-4.06, 20-4.07, 20-4.08

Update:

1. Modification to Standard Construction Specifications:
 - a. Section 20-4.08, Inspection for Plant Establishment Work, has been moved to Section 20-4.06 and renamed Inspection to Start Plant Establishment Period. New text was added.
 - b. Section 20-4.06, Plant Replacement and Section 20-04.07 Plant Establishment Work have new titles and are revised as follows:
 - i. Section 20-4.06, Plant Replacement, is now Section 20-4.07 and renamed to Plant Establishment Period. The original text from Section 20-4.07 has been revised and a table for the Plant Establishment Period.
 - ii. Section 20-4.08, Inspection for Plant Establishment Work is renamed Landscape Warranty Period. This Section has been rewritten but incorporates text from the original Section 20-4.06.

Effect of Update:

1. Modifications are as follows to Standard Construction Specifications:
 - a. Added Plant Establishment Period.
 - b. Updated contract language to conform to current language in the Standard Construction Specification.
 - c. Section 20-4.07:
 - i. Added a table to clarify the Plant Establishment Period.
 - ii. Engineer to provide written notice starting the Plant Establishment Period once the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Certificate of Completion has been accepted.
 - iii. Engineer to provide written notice of failed plants.
 - iv. Contractor to provide a Maintenance Inventory Form.
 - v. Contractor responsibility to maintain the site during the Plant Establishment Period.
 - vi. Contractor to notify the Engineer and meet with Maintenance staff.
 - d. Section 20-4.08:
 - e. Updated section to clarify warranty period.

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Request for Update Initiated By: Standard Review Committee 09/30/2023

Update Reviewed for Conformity and Consistency to Standards:

Shoab Ahrary 9/24/2024 | 2:27 PM PDT
Shoab Ahrary, PE, ESD Manager Date

Update to Standards Approved:

Kristin Parsons 9/25/2024 | 3:03 PM PDT
Kristin Parsons, PE, City Engineer Date

20-4.05 Watering

Trees, shrubs, and vines shall be watered immediately after planting. Water shall be applied until the backfill soil around and below the roots or ball of earth around the roots of each plant is thoroughly saturated.

Where watering is done with a hose, a water disbursement device or pressure-reducing device shall be used. Under no circumstances shall the full force of the water from the open end of a hose be allowed to fall within the basin around any plant.

Sprinklers shall water ground cover plants in areas provided with an irrigation system. Several consecutive waterings may be necessary to thoroughly saturate the soil around each plant.

Water shall be applied to plants as often and in sufficient amount to keep the plants in a healthy, growing condition during the life of the Contract.

Precautions shall be taken to prevent water from wetting vehicles, pedestrians, and pavement. The Contractor, at the Contractor's expense, shall repair any erosion or slippage of the soil caused by watering.

Compliance with the provisions in this Section does not relieve the Contractor of responsibility for the replacement of plants. The Contractor, at the Contractor's expense, shall furnish any additional watering required to maintain the plants in a growing condition.

20-4.06 Inspection to Start Plant Establishment Period

Upon completion of the planting work and irrigation installation, the Contractor shall notify the Engineer in writing that the contract work is substantially complete. The Engineer will schedule a field acceptance walk-through inspection and will notify the Contractor and the Landscape Architect of the time and date. During the field acceptance walk through, the Contractor shall be present. Upon inspection, if the Engineer and the Landscape Architect find the irrigation, turf, and planting work complete and in compliance with the Contract, the Engineer will issue a field acceptance letter to authorize the start of the Plant Establishment Period. Written notice will be given to the Contractor by the Engineer as to the starting date of the Plant Establishment Period per Section 20-4.07 "Plant Establishment Period."

20-4.07 Plant Establishment Period

The Plant Establishment Period and warranty period per Section 20-4.08 "Landscape Warranty Period" shall begin when the Engineer provides the Contractor written notification of Field Acceptance of the landscape work per the contract, and the acceptance of the City of Elk Grove Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (COEG WELO) Certificate of Completion. The notification shall state the month and day the Plant Establishment Period has officially started.

The Plant Establishment Period will be as shown in Table 20-1 below, unless specified otherwise or the Engineer reduces the Plant Establishment Period in writing.

Table 20.1
Plant Establishment Period

Month Plant Establishment Starts	Planned Plant Establishment Completion Month
January	September
February	September
March	September
April	October
May	November
June	March
July	March
August	March
September	March
October	April
November	May
December	September

During the Plant Establishment Period, if more than ten percent (10%) of the plant materials fail, the Engineer will provide the Contractor written notification of the failure and can extend the end of the Plant Establishment Period up to thirty (30) days, unless the Engineer determines the remaining Plant Establishment Period is sufficient. Any extended Plant Establishment Period will be at the Contractor's expense.

Prior to the start of the Plant Establishment Period, the Contractor shall provide in writing to the Engineer two (2) twenty-four (24) hour emergency points of contact that shall respond to the project site within ninety (90) minutes. Both contacts shall be qualified to manage emergencies, and one must be a Contractor's employee. The contact information shall include name, 24-hour cell phone number, and address.

Sixty (60) days prior to the end of the Plant Establishment Period the Contractor shall provide to the Engineer a completed maintenance inventory form for review and acceptance. A sample maintenance inventory form will be provided by the Engineer to the Contractor. The maintenance inventory form shall identify the types and quantities of landscaping, hardscaping, irrigation, and amenities.

At the completion of the Plant Establishment Period, and acceptance of any revised maintenance inventory form, the Engineer shall provide written notification to the Contractor stating the Plant Establishment Period has ended.

During the Plant Establishment Period, the Contractor is responsible, at a minimum, for maintaining the planted materials by performing the following: watering, weeding, edging,

mowing, trash and debris removal, fertilizing, cultivation, spraying, cutting, and pruning as necessary to keep the plant material in a healthy growing condition. The Contractor is responsible for keeping the planted areas neat and attractive throughout the Plant Establishment Period. The Contractor shall keep the area free of weeds and litter and perform these tasks at a minimum of once a week.

The Contractor shall immediately remove and replace any dead or dying plants and notify the Engineer of any such plant replacement work. This is in addition to the requirements of Section 20-4.05 "Watering" when plants are showing failure or died as identified by the Engineer.

During the Plant Establishment Period, trees, shrubs, vines, and ground cover plants, planted as part of the Contract, shall be pruned by the Contractor at the Contractor's expense.

Vines next to walls and fences shall be kept staked and tied. Contractor shall re-stake and re-tie vines, shrubs, and trees as needed. Reset to grade or up-right any plants that are not in their proper growing position.

Hedges are to be pruned and trained as a hedge. Informal shrub masses, groundcovers, and grass-like plants are not to be formally pruned into individual balls or boxes. Pruning is to be done in relation to the growth pattern of the individual plant species. The Contractor will notify the Engineer prior to pruning.

During the Plant Establishment Period, electric automatic irrigation systems shall be operated in the automatic mode, unless otherwise permitted by the Engineer. All irrigation programming will be set to meet any restrictions put in place by the water purveyor for the area. During the plant establishment period, the Contractor shall not water between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise approved by Engineer in writing.

Plants shall be watered to provide optimum growth conditions. The Contractor shall provide equipment and means for the proper applications of water to planted areas not provided with an irrigation system and shall make the necessary changes and additions to the irrigation system when coverage is not adequate to assist in the plant establishment. The irrigation system shall be checked bi-weekly for proper operation. Lateral lines and filters shall be flushed out when needed.

The Contractor shall notify the Engineer at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to applying each application of commercial fertilizer. Commercial fertilizer shall be applied to trees, shrubs, vines, turf, and ground cover areas by the Contractor to maintain plant material. Fertilizer shall be watered into the soil after each application.

Should the Contractor fail, be neglectful, or negligent in this work, the City may elect to perform plant establishment work. The City will charge the Contractor the cost for performing the required work by deducting this cost from the payments due the Contractor.

The Contractor shall submit to the Engineer for approval a plan for maintaining turf, including mowing, watering, and fertilizing prior to starting the planting of turf.

At a minimum, turf shall be watered, reseeded, edged, weeded, and mowed as required to assure a neat appearance and a healthy and vigorous growth from the day of seeding to the end of Plant Establishment Period. The first mowing shall not be done until the grass is generally at least two inches (2") high but less than three inches (3") high. The Contractor shall adjust the cutting height so that no more than one third (1/3) of the grass height is removed in a single mowing. Subsequent mowings shall be done before the grass is three

inches (3") high.

Lawns shall be fertilized immediately following the first mowing. A written plan that includes the number of applications the Contractor is planning to apply based on the Plant Establishment Period, the type of nitrogen, and the application rate, shall be provided to the Engineer for approval thirty (30) days prior to the first mowing. The number of applications and type of nitrogen used will depend on appropriate fertilizer formulation based on individual site and seasonal conditions. The minimum application shall be three (3.0) pounds of nitrogen per one thousand (1,000) square feet during a 180-day Plant Establishment Period, unless otherwise specified or a different amount is accepted by the Engineer based on the Contractor's written plan. Reapplication of fertilizer shall take place as directed by the Engineer during the Plant Establishment Period.

Just prior to the end of the Plant Establishment Period, the Contractor shall cut all turf, weed all planting areas, and leave the work area in a neat and attractive condition. Turf damage caused by vandalism or premature use shall be repaired and reseeded before the end of the Plant Establishment Period. This will not cause an extension of the Plant Establishment Period. Turf failure caused by improper maintenance practices shall be replanted and the Plant Establishment Period extended up to thirty (30) additional calendar days after the replanting as determined by the Engineer. Prior to the end of the Plant Establishment Period, all trash and debris shall be removed and disposed of off-site.

A final field inspection shall be requested by the Contractor in writing sixty (60) days prior to the end of the Plant Establishment Period. The final field inspection time will be agreed upon by the Engineer and the Contractor but not less than thirty (30) days before the end of the Plant Establishment period. During the final field inspection or within seven (7) days prior to completion of the Plant Establishment Period, instructions shall be given to the designated City maintenance personnel by the Contractor's qualified person on the use and adjustment of the irrigation controllers installed.

The Plant Establishment Period may be extended due to poor establishment of all or a portion of the plant material at the sole discretion of the Engineer. At the end of the Plant Establishment Period, all plant material shall be in a healthy, growing condition.

The Contractor shall guarantee a weed free, even stand of the turf, with ninety-five percent (95%) coverage of the varieties specified. If such a stand does not develop as a result of the first seeding, the Contractor shall reseed and care for thin spots until an even stand with ninety-five percent (95%) coverage is produced. The Plant Establishment Period is not complete until the Engineer confirms the ninety-five percent (95%) coverage requirement has been met.

20-4-0.8 Landscape Warranty Period

The contractor shall provide a warranty that guarantees all trees for one (1) year from the date of Field Acceptance and the start of the Plant Establishment Period. The contractor shall replace any tree that dies during the warranty period and the replacement shall be same size container as originally specified in the Contract.