

Project #3: UCLA Entry Re-Design

Intersection of Westwood Blvd & Le Conte Ave, Los Angeles

UCLAx

Landscape Design 5

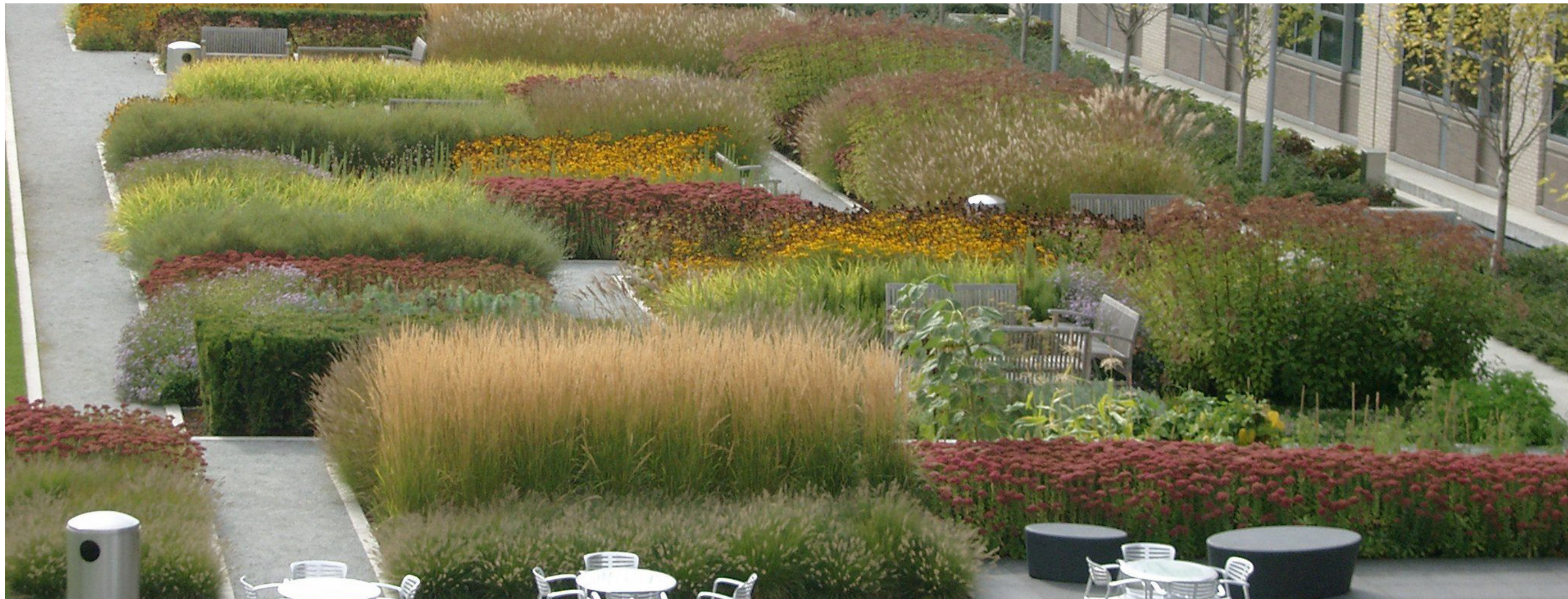
Pamela Brief

Grace Pan







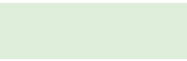

Design Narrative

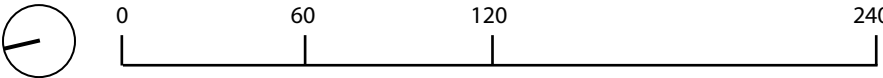
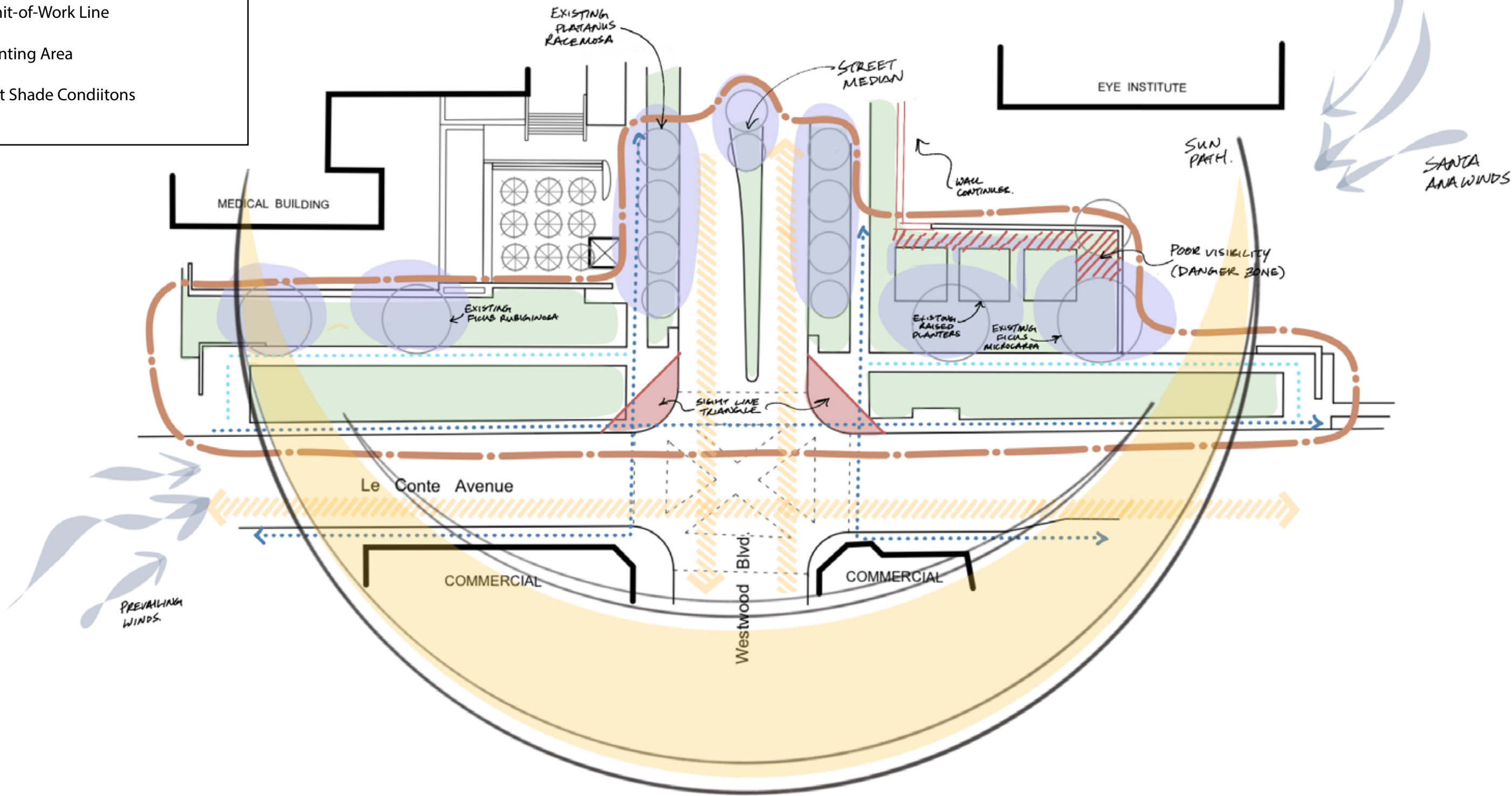
This design seeks to connect with existing forms and geometry of the Westwood Blvd and Le Conte Ave intersection. The existing planters and square and paving patterns lend themselves well to creative interpretation. Inspired by the Amgen Headquarters located in Thousand Oaks, CA (pictured below), the design features directional, contrasting, and lush qualities, but without the rigidity that comes with traditional linear planting designs, such as boxwood hedges and parterres. Rather, plants are organized in massed rows and staggered based on their height, color, and texture, while still being allowed to grow into their natural forms. The intentionality in the planting design creates an identity for the UCLA entrance, making it an instantaneously recognizable marker and place maker. The planting areas also serve a functional purpose as low, decorative buffers between the street, sidewalk, and seating areas.

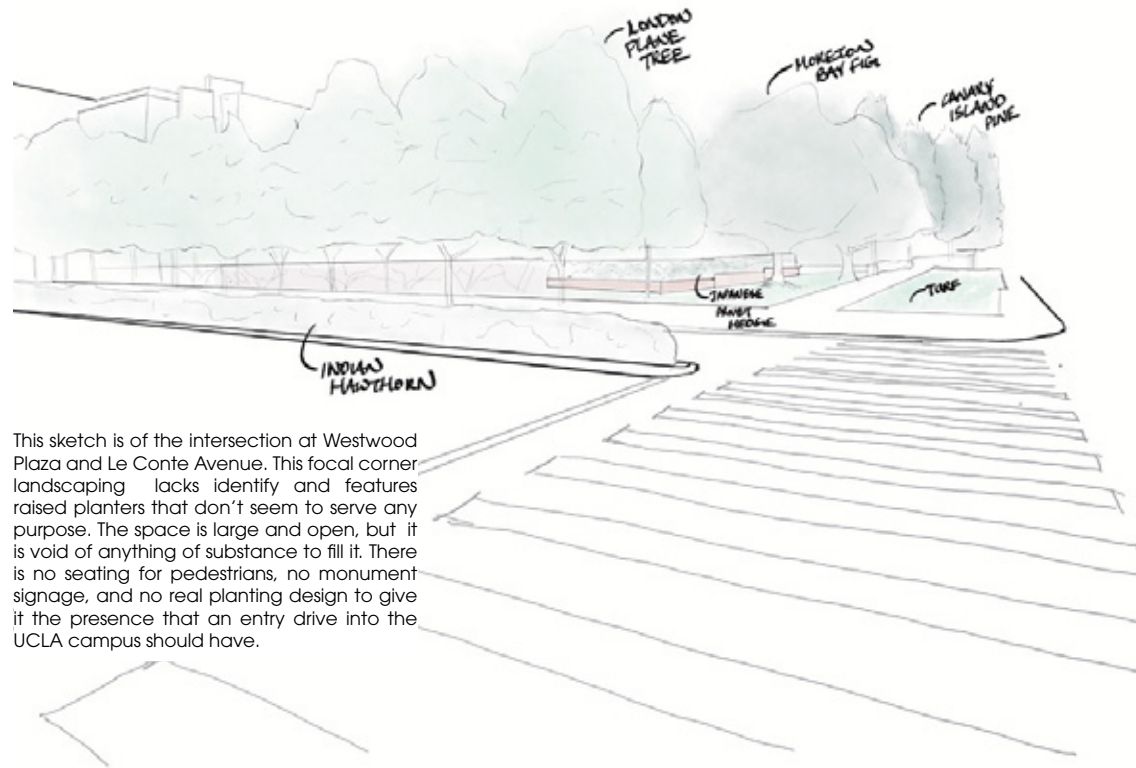


Amgen headquarters in Thousand Oaks, CA

Legend

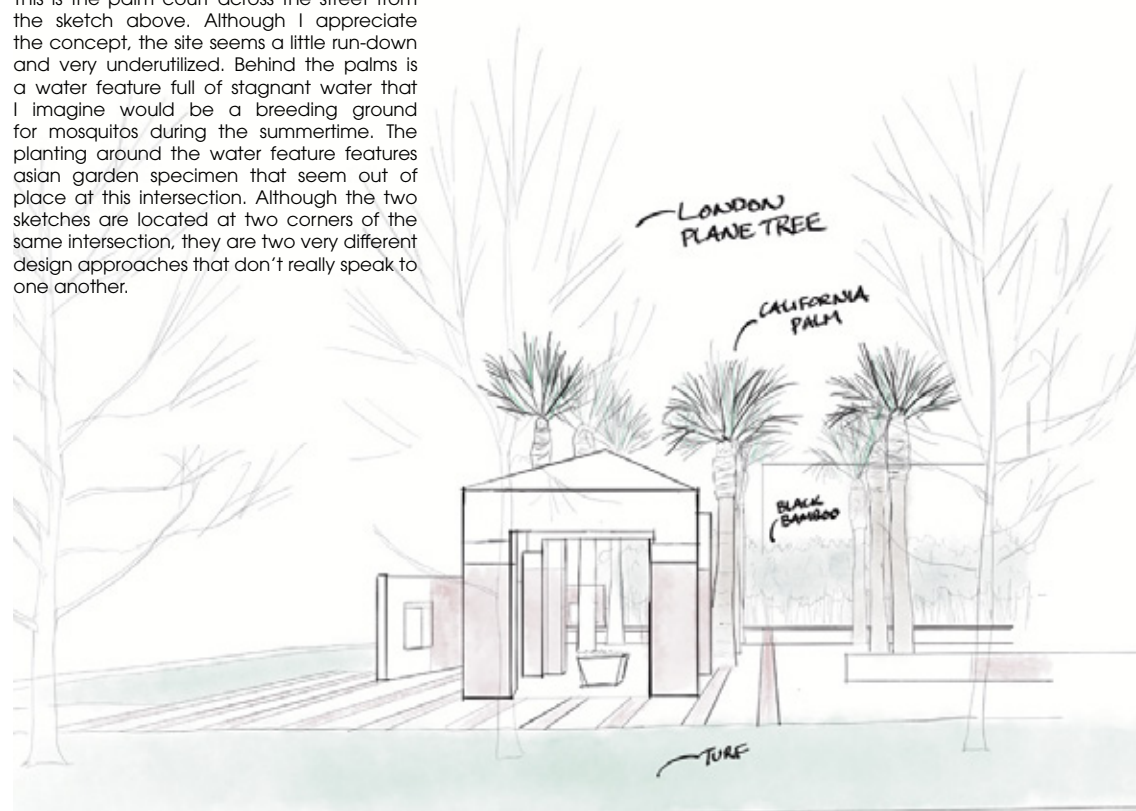
-  Vehicular Circulation
-  Primary Pedestrian Circulation
-  Secondary Pedestrian Circulation
-  Limit-of-Work Line
-  Planting Area
-  Part Shade Condiitons





This sketch is of the intersection at Westwood Plaza and Le Conte Avenue. This focal corner landscaping lacks identity and features raised planters that don't seem to serve any purpose. The space is large and open, but it is void of anything of substance to fill it. There is no seating for pedestrians, no monument signage, and no real planting design to give it the presence that an entry drive into the UCLA campus should have.

This is the palm court across the street from the sketch above. Although I appreciate the concept, the site seems a little run-down and very underutilized. Behind the palms is a water feature full of stagnant water that I imagine would be a breeding ground for mosquitos during the summertime. The planting around the water feature features asian garden specimen that seem out of place at this intersection. Although the two sketches are located at two corners of the same intersection, they are two very different design approaches that don't really speak to one another.



Variegated Mock Orange
Pittosporum tobira 'Variegata'



Canary Island Pine
Pinus canariensis



Black Bamboo
Phyllostachys nigra



Indian Hawthorn
Raphiolepis indica



Variegated Tasmanian Flax Lily
Dianella tasmanica 'Variegata'



Arctic Frost Mat Rush
Lomandra longifolia 'Arctic Frost'

Adjacent Sites - Existing Vegetation 03



Mexican Feather Grass
Stipa tenuissima



Basket Grass
Lomandra longifolia



River Birch
Betula nigra



Chinese Fringe Flower
Lorapetalum chinense



Japanese Pittosporum
Pittosporum tobira



Moreton Bay Fig
Ficus macrophylla



Common Boxwood
Buxus sempervirens



Atlas Fescue?
Festuca mairei?



Blue Ice Yellowwood
Podocarpus elongatus 'Monmal'



Weeping Fig
Ficus benjamina



Turf (Tall Fescue?)
Festuca arundinacea (?)



English Ivy
Hedera helix

Adjacent Sites - Existing Vegetation 04



Mexican Fan Palm
Washingtonia robusta



California Palm
Washingtonia filifera



Southern Magnolia
Magnolia grandiflora



Day Lily
Hemerocallis ssp.



London Plane Tree
Platanus acerifolia



California Ash
Fraxinus dipetala



Snakeroot
Algeratina altissima



Rainbow Eucalyptus
Eucalyptus deglupta



Gold Medallion Tree
Cassia leptophylla



Baby Sun Rose
Aptenia cordifolia



Oleander
Nerium oleander



Paperbark Tree
Melaleuca quinquenervia

Adjacent Streets - Planting Analysis 05



Broxton Avenue & Weyburn Avenue Intersection

Street frontage planting along Broxton Avenue and Weyburn Avenue consists mainly of trees in grates, void of any understory planting (except at focal points, such as the corner landscaping shown in the photo). This makes sense, as this is mainly a commercial/retail street, and the sidewalk facilitates a lot of foot traffic and sometimes even outdoor dining. This makes every inch of space valuable, and is most likely the reason for a lack of continuous parkway landscaping. Tree species here are more diverse than other streets, featuring palms as accents, Chinese Flame Tree and Red Flowering Gum as climate-adaptive, shade canopy trees, and different species of ficus, which are also found along almost all of the adjacent streets. Ficus are definitely a re-occurring theme in the area. However, at ground-level, the planting feels lackluster and inconsistent.

The absence of shrubs and groundcover planting cuts down on the amount of maintenance required, thus reducing green waste, but leaves the ground hard and uninviting in some areas, with no low-level softscape visual relief for the storefronts and hardscape walks.



Tiverton Avenue

Tiverton Avenue is a completely different experience from Broxton Avenue and Weyburn Avenue. It feels much more lush and secluded, with a lot of traditional landscaping techniques being utilized. This includes long strips of turf, immaculately manicured hedgerows, boxwood parterres, and formal front lawns. The secluded and tranquil mood of this street is perfect for its residential context, but feels out of place and isolated from the other streets. There is also a lot of shade along this street, which sets this street apart from the other areas that I analyzed. This may reduce some of the turf's water requirements. The pittosporum and boxwood used in conjunction with the turf are both well-adapted to both full sun and part shade and will probably also require less water in this shaded area. However, whatever one saves on the water bill will be spent on maintenance. The hedges and boxwoods have to be constantly maintained -- this produces a lot of undesirable greenwaste.

Although the planting along Tiverton is better maintained than other streets and is lush and tranquil, I do not think that the heavily manicured look, paired with a thirsty lawn, is appropriate or a responsible choice for the current climate, nor is it the most responsible and sustainable approach for our LD5 Westwood Entry Redesign Project.



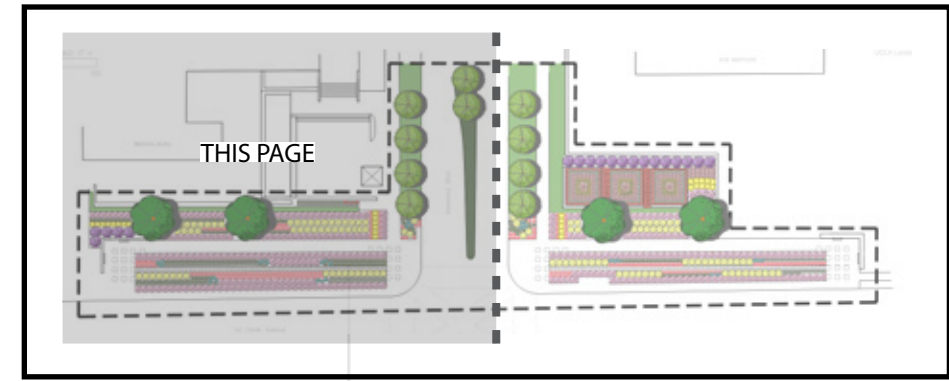
Stein Eye Center Street Frontage (Along Westwood Plaza)

The Stein Eye center features a very distinctive planting style. The river birch trees feel like they are planted on a grid, and the "monocultural" approach brings a sense of unity to the site. The two grasses used were *Lomandra longifolia* and *Nassella tenuissima*. Although the *Lomandra longifolia* is a great, drought-tolerant choice, the *Nassella tenuissima* is considered invasive. Furthermore, the *Lomandra* still looks lovely, but the *Nassella* has degraded and been cut back by maintenance. Unfortunately, the *Nassella* will not grow back properly, so in order to revive the planting scheme, the only option would be to replace the plants with new ones. This produces a massive amount of green waste, which could have been prevented with proper plant selection.

Another issue with this site is its improper hydrozoning. River birch need a lot of water, but they are paired with drought-tolerant grasses that do not require as much water. In a climate trending towards drought, the choice to plant River Birch in a hot, exposed area is a poor choice to begin with, but when paired with plants of another hydrozone, the situation is even worse.

Despite the faults of the planting, I quite enjoy the minimalistic planting approach. It is very modern and complements the building well. This mass-planting design approach is very affective and could be utilized to bring a sense of harmony and consistency to the adjacent streets.

Key Map (Scale: 1:50)



THIS PAGE

MEDICAL BLDG.

EXISTING LEDGE
USED AS SEATING

FICUS TREE DRIPLINE -
NO-PLANTING ZONE

SIGN

EXISTING
BENCHES (TYP)

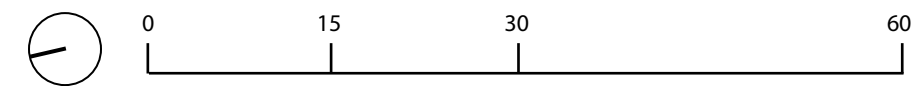
EXISTING PAVING
PATTERN (TYP)

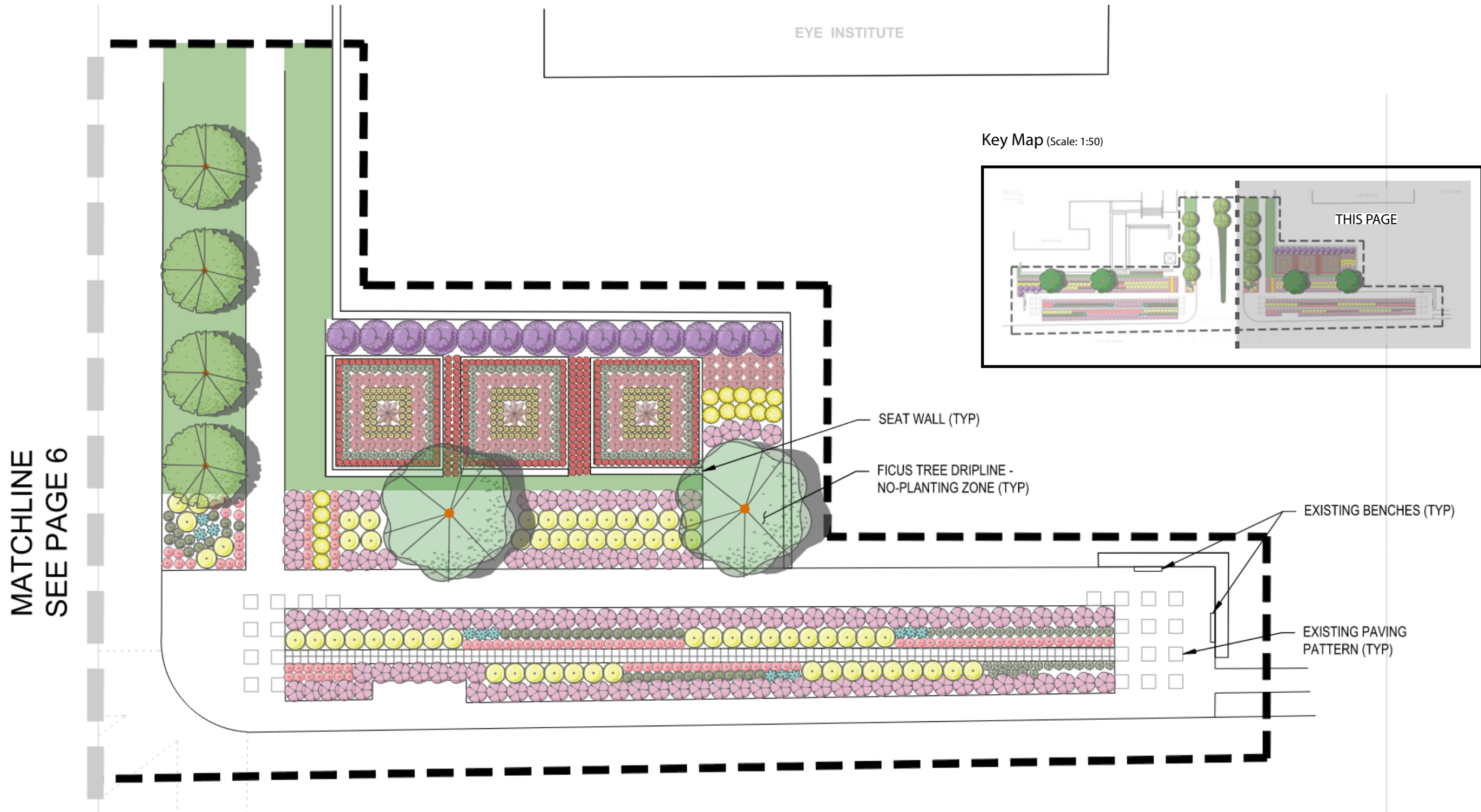
LANDSCAPE LOW

Le Conte Avenue


Westwood Blvd.

MATCHLINE





Planting Schedule 08

PLANT SCHEDULE						
TREES	CODE	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME	CONT	HEIGHT/SPREAD	CAL.	WUCOLS
	EF	EXISTING FICUS TREE / TO REMAIN	-	-	-	MODERATE
	ES	EXISTING SYCAMORE / TO REMAIN	-	-	-	MODERATE
SHRUBS	CODE	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME	CONT.	SPACING	WUCOLS	SIZE
	AP	ABUTILON PALMERI / INDIAN MALLOW	5 GAL.	60" O.C.	LOW	4'-5' HT. X 4'-5' SPR.
	AJ	AEONIUM X 'JACK CATLIN' / JACK CATLIN AEONIUM	1 GAL.	24" O.C.	LOW	1'-2' HT. X 1'-2' SPR.
	AA	AGAVE ATTENUATA 'BOUTIN BLUE' / BOUTIN BLUE FOXTAIL AGAVE	5 GAL.	48" O.C.	LOW	3'-4' HT. X 3'-4' SPR.
	AY	ANIGOZANTHOS X 'YELLOW' / YELLOW KANGAROO PAW	5 GAL.	18" O.C.	MODERATE	4'-6' HT. X 1-1.5' SPR.
	CT	CAREX TUMULICOLA / FOOTHILL SEDGE	1 GAL.	30" O.C.	LOW	1'-2' HT. X 2'-3' SPR.
	CC	CEANOTHUS X 'CENTENNIAL' / CENTENNIAL WILD LILAC	5 GAL.	72" O.C.	LOW	<1' HT. X 4'-6' SPR.
	CF	CEANOTHUS X 'FROSTY BLUE' / FROSTY BLUE WILD LILAC	5 GAL.	AS SHOWN	LOW	8'-12' HT. X 10'-15' SPR.
	CP	COLEONEMA PULCHELLUM 'SUNSET GOLD' / SUNSET GOLD BREATH OF HEAVEN	5 GAL.	72" O.C.	LOW	2'-4' HT. X 4'-6' SPR.
	EG	ERIOGONUM GRANDE RUBESCENS / RED BUCKWHEAT	5 GAL.	36" O.C.	VERY LOW	1' HT. X 3' SPR.
	LA	LOMANDRA LONGIFOLIA 'ARCTIC FROST' / ARCTIC FROST RUSH	5 GAL.	36" O.C.	LOW	2'-3' HT. X 2'-3' SPR.
	MC	MUHLENBERGIA CAPILLARIS 'PINK FLAMINGO' / PINK FLAMINGO MUHLY GRASS	5 GAL.	48" O.C.	MODERATE	3'-4' HT. X 3'-4' SPR.
	MD	MUHLENBERGIA DUBIA / PINE MUHLY	5 GAL.	36" O.C.	LOW	2'-3' HT. X 2'-3' SPR.
	PV	PHORMIUM TENAX 'VARIEGATUM' / VARIEGATED NEW ZEALAND FLAX	5 GAL.	96" O.C.	LOW	8' HT. X 8' SPR.
GROUND COVERS	CODE	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME	CONT.	SPACING	WUCOLS	
	XE	TURF BLOCK	5 GAL.	N/A	MODERATE	-
	BP	BACCHARIS PILULARIS 'PIGEON POINT' / PIGEON POINT COYOTE BUSH	1 GAL.	96" O.C.	LOW	1'-1.5' HT. X 10'-12' SPR.
	BD	BUCHLOE DACTYLOIDES 'UC VERDE' / UC VERDE BUFFALO GRASS	PLUGS	4" O.C.	LOW	4" HT. X SPREADING





Thank you!

