

Council Returns To Drawing Board With Changes In Livable Street Plan

California Street should return to its two-way flow of traffic at Laurel, but Lincoln Street should remain restricted to one-way traffic, according to a recommendation from City Manager Richard Wilson.

His recommendation will be considered by the City Council Tuesday evening when it re-examines parts of the Livable Street Plan.

The council begins its meeting at 7:30 p.m. in council chambers, 809 Center St., and the Livable Street item is second on the agenda.

Along with reconsideration of the changes made at California and Lincoln, the council is scheduled to decide if it will make changes in the plan for residential traffic islands.

Those plans include planting of

trees in "tree islands" at Laurel and Myrtle Streets, California and Taylor Streets, California and Rigg Streets, Rigg Street and Weeks Avenue, Taylor Street and Weeks Avenue, Locust and Mission Streets, Grove Lane, East Cliff Drive and Buena Vista Avenue, East Cliff Drive and Murray Street and at Trescony Street.

Erwin said, "It is public works opinion that the placement of some 25 new street trees, replacement of seven others and installation of 15 more trees in traffic islands all in one block of Walnut Avenue will be detrimental to existing utilities, sidewalk and street paving."

In prefacing Erwin's comments, City Manager Richard Wilson notes

the city attorney will comment Tuesday on the impact of the recent California Supreme Court decision which declared Berkeley's numerous street barricades an illegal barrier to traffic flows.

In December, the council put in the California Street diverter and changed Lincoln Street to one way in order to implement a part of the city's Livable Street Plan.

The road changes have received mixed reviews and taken some negative criticisms for messing up neighborhood parking.

The California semi-diverter is neither "safer or more efficient" than the roadway as it was, Erwin stated.

Slated on the the council's 4 p.m. agenda is a consideration of two resolutions by Mayor Michael Rotkin.

The first would prohibit city officials from purchasing office building materials which contain toxic asbestos if there are substitute products which contain no asbestos.

The second resolution states the city wants Lawrence Livermore Laboratory converted from any wartime research use to peaceful endeavors.

The council also will discuss a memo by Councilman John Laird on the water task force's deliberations on water, and consider a resolution urging progress in water studies during its afternoon meeting