

Wildfires delay tree planting project

By Justina Ly
Staff Writer

Plans to plant more than 40 trees along Pacific Avenue last Saturday were postponed after organizers decided wildfires had made the air too smoky for volunteers to breathe.

The project has been rescheduled for early December, said Laurie Kaufman, the director of communications at the nonprofit organization TreePeople.

The group has several other tree planting and maintenance projects scheduled this fall and can't determine the exact date for the Pacific Avenue planting.

Nearly 26 blocks of Pacific Avenue stretching from Oliver to West 22nd Street were to have been planted with four types of trees as part of the Great Clean Air Tree Planting Project, which was initiated by the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Also postponed until later this year were plantings scheduled the same day in Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and other areas of Los Angeles County.

Concrete cutting had already begun along Pacific Avenue, one of San Pedro's busiest streets.

The holes that have already been cut will be covered with plywood, cones and sandbags, so they are not a hazard to pedestrians, Kaufman said.

The rest of the concrete cuts will be completed one week prior to the rescheduled planting date next month.

Four types of trees, sweetshade, Brisbane box, golden trumpet and purple orchid, which are provided by the Port of Los Angeles, will be used in the project. They are expected to grow to approximately 25 to 35 feet.

But for now the more than 40 trees designated for the Pacific Avenue project will sit in a nursery before they are moved to San Pedro.

The Pacific Avenue project is sponsored by the Central and Coastal San Pedro neighborhood councils and jointly funded by TreePeople, the United Voices for Healthier Communities, a coalition that advocates tree canopy, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

For more information, visit www.sanpedrotrees.org or www.sanpedrocity.org or call Sue Castillo at 310-389-3026.