

**Oak Park MAC CSA 4 Landscape Committee Report: November 2025**  
**Submitted by: Brian Trushinski, CSA 4 Landscape Committee Chair**

- The CSA 4 Landscape Committee met on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Attendees included Michelle Santucci (Oak Park MAC Vice-Chair), Supervisor Gorell's staff (Crystal Stratton), Ventura County Public Works Agency: Real Estate Services staff (George Andrade) and Mariposa Landscapes, Inc. (Alyssa Noriega). Mr. Eric Steiner (citizen) was invited and also attended as he wanted to address the MAC's 2025 priority landscaping project along Hawthorne Drive (between Bowfield Street and Kanan Road) which has been delayed for nine months by Ventura County Public Works Agency: Real Estate Services staff.
- **Kanan Road 'Welcome to Oak Park' monument sign & Tamarind Street community sign planting areas**
  - Michelle reviewed landscape options with Mariposa for these other 2025 Oak Park MAC priority projects.
  - Mariposa (Alyssa Noriega) agreed to respond via email with answers to Michelle's written questions which Michelle forwarded to Crystal prior to the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Alyssa said that she is aware that Michelle needs this information by 11/10/25 so that she can have time to review and prepare for the November 20<sup>th</sup> MAC meeting. Alyssa provided photos of the community sign with lantana that had been planted by the previous landscaper, and how it looked overtime.
- **Hawthorne Drive**
  - The group reviewed existing landscaping on Hawthorne Drive near Kanan Road with Mariposa, viewing some existing perennial shrubs and ground cover which are healthy and have been growing on the hillside for decades.
  - Discussed with Mariposa that soil samples are helpful, but identifying those plants which have been successfully growing on Hawthorne Drive hillsides near Kanan Road for decades may be a better way to determine which plants grow well in this soil and environment.
  - Reviewed an example of a current broken irrigation pipe issue at Hawthorne Drive and Rockfield Street, with slippery soil flowing onto the sidewalk. Crystal requested that Mr. Steiner open a PWA service ticket to report the broken irrigation head and Eric agreed to do that. Michelle took a video and photo of the mud flow along the sidewalk and the bare plant bed that is above the sidewalk. This represents a public safety issue as it is slippery when wet or dry. This should be a high priority for PWA Real Estate Services staff and Mariposa to resolve asap.

- The group walked along sections of the east hillside of Hawthorne Drive between Rockfield Street and Bowfield Street, observing a) bare hillsides, b) weeds, c) soil erosion, d) dead shrubs, e) dying plants. It was recommended to PWA staff that Mariposa plant a base of ground cover to a) stabilize the soil, b) decrease water flow speed down the hill to increase water absorption into the soil, c) decrease evaporation, d) reduce weeds, then add new long lasting perennial shrubs within the ground cover to provide landscape continuity similar to the nearby Hawthorne Drive landscaping.

- **Golden Eagle Drive & Kanan Road (north-east hillside)**

- Because Mariposa (Alyssa Noriega) arrived 20 minutes late to the meeting, the group was unable to visit this landscape site. Oak Park resident, Mr. Brian Mattson, informed the MAC at two meetings this year about landscaping problems on this publicly visible gateway hillside entrance to his neighborhood.
- This site will be toured by the Committee at its December meeting. Unfortunately, because the MAC does not meet in the month of December, reporting will occur at the January 29, 2026, MAC meeting.