



# *PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT*

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MEETING DATE: MARCH 28, 2012

ITEM NUMBER: 10a

**SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST AT 1805 PLACENTIA AVENUE**

**DATE: MARCH 21, 2012**

**FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT / MAINTENANCE SERVICES DIVISION**

**PRESENTATION BY: BRUCE A. HARTLEY, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BRUCE A. HARTLEY AT (714) 754-5123**

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## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Deny the removal of a Canary Island Pine tree growing in the public right-of-way at 1805 Placentia Avenue.

## **BACKGROUND**

On January 9, 2012, the Maintenance Services Division received a request from the owner's representative for the property located at 1805 Placentia Avenue (Applicant) to remove the parkway tree. See Attachment 1. The tree is located on 18<sup>th</sup> Street, just west of Placentia Avenue. Recently, the building was completely renovated and the landscape redesigned. The new business, Newport Beach Auto Gallery, will be opening shortly. The business specializes in the sales of 'high end', 'classic' and 'exotic' cars.

The existing parkway tree is being requested to be removed for the following reasons:

- The pine tree produces a significant amount of pine needles, sap, pine cones and pollen which may damage the cars on display or diminish the visual quality of the product they are trying to sell.
- The roots of the tree have grown well beyond the planter it is growing in, causing damage to the surrounding sidewalk. This makes it difficult for pedestrians and people in wheelchairs, and as the roots continue to grow they may result in additional concrete damage and quite likely cause similar damage to the parking lot of the business. Removal of the tree would reduce the potential for customers and the general public to trip on uneven sidewalks.
- Reduced future maintenance of sidewalk and increased cleanliness of the sidewalk and street.
- The pine tree does not compliment the new landscape design proposed for the property, which includes the addition of eight trees along 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Placentia Avenue. The renovation of this property will add to the beautification of the City and improve the experience of people visiting the area.

Attachment 1 includes the full text of the removal justifications. Attachment 2 includes the conceptual landscape design.

## **ANALYSIS**

The parkway tree is a Canary Island Pine tree. It is growing in an approximately four foot by four foot (4' x 4') cut-out in the ten foot (10') wide sidewalk. The cut-out is open on the north side adjacent to the private property landscape. The tree is approximately forty feet (40') in height and has a trunk diameter of seventeen inches (17"). It is in 'fair' condition, with observed tip dieback of the needles and a yellowing color of the foliage overall. Following a trip and fall accident, the tree has been root pruned and the uplifted sidewalk was replaced. The root pruning may be the cause of the poor appearance of the tree. Due to the decreased vigor of the tree, it is not a good candidate for transplanting.

The tree does not meet the criteria for a 'Health and Safety' removal and is not considered a 'problem tree species.' Therefore, staff cannot recommend removal of the subject tree.

The Applicant has been notified of the meeting and has been sent a copy of the agenda and this report.

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

The Commission could authorize the removal and replacement of the tree, per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 – Discretionary Removals, which would require the replacement of the tree with one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree and two (2) fifteen gallon-size trees to be planted elsewhere on City property. The applicant would pay all removal and replacement costs.

If approved by the Commission, the tree must be removed and mitigation trees provided to the City within one year from the date of final approval, after which the approval expires.

## **FISCAL REVIEW**

There would be no fiscal impact to the City if the request to remove the tree was either denied or if it is approved as a Discretionary Removal, as the applicant would pay all costs.

For the Commission's information, the cost for the removal of the tree would be \$263.50. The cost for the replacement (mitigation trees) would be \$306. These costs are based on current City contract prices.

## **LEGAL REVIEW**

No legal review is required for this item.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Canary Island Pine tree growing in the public right-of-way at 1805 Placentia Avenue has been root pruned, with all uplifted sidewalk replaced. The tree is not currently causing any observable damage to either public or private property. It does not meet the criteria required to allow for staff to approve its removal. The basis of the request is to allow the property owner to improve the landscape of a recently renovated business property and to eliminate the nuisance and potential damage caused by pine needles, cones and sap

which fall from the tree. Finding only aesthetic reasons as a basis for removal, staff recommends that the Commission deny the request.

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BRUCE A. HARTLEY  
Maintenance Services Manager

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RAJA SETHURAMAN  
Acting Director, Public Services Department

ATTACHMENTS:   1. [Letter from Applicant Requesting Tree Removal](#)  
                      2. [Conceptual Landscape Design](#)  
                      3. [Tree Information](#)  
                      4. [Photographs](#)

C:     Sarah Boyd, Marketing Director  
       Newport Beach Auto Gallery  
       729 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite B-7  
       Costa Mesa, CA 92627

File Name: Tree Removal 1805 Placentia Ave.

Date 3/12/12

Time 2:00 p.m.