



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: MARCH 28, 2012

ITEM NUMBER: 10b

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 2046 ANAHEIM AVENUE

DATE: MARCH 12, 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

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Deny the request for the removal and replacement of one City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way at 2046 Anaheim Avenue.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was contacted by the property owner on December 22, 2011, reporting her concern that a palm tree located on the Bay Street side of the property was starting to lean toward the property.

The City Arborist conducted a site visit and confirmed that the palm tree was safe and that it did not meet the established criteria for removal as outlined in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards (Standards). The property owner was informed that the request was denied and was provided information on how to proceed if they wished to request a review by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Maintenance Services Division received a letter from the property owner (Applicant) on March 5, 2012, formally requesting the removal of the palm tree in front of the home. See Attachment 1.

The Applicant provided the following justifications for the request in her letter:

1. The tree is leaning heavily as it is top heavy and has a very skinny trunk.
2. The adjacent Brazilian Pepper tree has roots that are affecting the palm tree.
3. Her fear is that the palm tree will fall on her home and cause severe damage to her property, her home and herself.

ANALYSIS

The City Arborist evaluated the tree, a Mexican Fan Palm, *Washingtonia robusta*, and found it to be healthy and in good condition. The tree is approximately fifty-five feet (55') in height, with a trunk diameter of sixteen inches (16"). The tree is located in a ten foot (10') wide public right-of-way with no sidewalk. The aerial portion of the tree was last pruned on September 28, 2010, by the City's tree maintenance contractor (Attachment 2).

The tree has a slight lean at approximately twenty feet in height, with no visible signs of decay or other abnormalities. This lean is consistent with other palm trees in the area. The growth habit of this palm tree is typical for the species. Mexican Fan Palms may grow in excess of 70-80' in height and have a narrow, flexible stem, with a very low incidence of failure. The subject tree does not appear to be unsafe or pose any significant hazard. The roots of the adjacent Brazilian Pepper tree do not appear to be having any effect on the stability or safety of the palm.

The tree does not meet the criteria for a staff level authorization for removal, as stated in the Standards. The City Arborist evaluated the tree for possible relocation. However, this option is not recommended due to the age and large size of the tree. Relocation would cause damage to the tree, the private property, and City's infrastructure.

Root pruning was deemed to be a viable maintenance action to protect City's infrastructure, but is not necessary at this time.

The Applicant has been notified of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and has been sent a copy of this staff report.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Commission could authorize the removal and replacement of the palm tree, per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 – Discretionary Removals, which would require the replacement of the palm 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 approved as a Discretionary Removal, as the Applicant would pay all costs.

For the Commission's information, the cost for the removal of the palm tree would be \$248. The replanting costs for the three mitigation trees (2 – 24" box size and 1 – 15 gallon size) would be \$306. These costs are based on current City contract prices. Total cost for removal and replacement would be \$554.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The parkway tree that has been requested to be removed is located within the public right-of-way on the Bay Street side of 2046 Anaheim Avenue. The tree does not meet the

removal criteria as outlined in the Standards. The tree is safe and free of any visible hazards or defects. It is recommended that the Commission deny the request for removal of the City parkway tree.

BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager

RAJA SETHURAMAN
Acting Director of Public Services

ATTACHMENTS: 1. [Letter received March 2, 2012 from Applicant Requesting Removal of City Parkway Tree](#)
2. [Tree Information](#)
3. [Photographs](#)

C: Shirlee McDaniels
2046 Anaheim Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

File Name - Staff Report - Tree Removal 2046 Anaheim Avenue

Date 3/13/12

Time 4:00 p.m.