



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: JULY 25, 2013

ITEM NUMBER: 9b

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 3198 SICILY AVENUE

DATE: JULY 11, 2013

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MAINTENANCE SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: BRUCE A. HARTLEY, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER

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

RECOMMENDATION

Deny the request for the removal of two City-owned parkway trees located in the public right-of-way in front of 3198 Sicily Avenue.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was contacted by the Applicant on May 1, 2013, requesting removal and replacement of two parkway trees.

ANALYSIS

The City Arborist conducted a site inspection on May 2, 2013. The address is located on a corner lot at Sicily Avenue and Gisler Avenue. There are two parkway trees on each side of the property. The two parkway trees being considered for removal are American Sweet Gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, growing in the front of the property. The Arborist found them to be in fair condition. Tree #1 (F1) is approximately thirty feet (30') in height with a trunk diameter of eleven inches (11"). Tree #2 (F2) is approximately thirty feet (30') in height with a trunk diameter of eleven inches (11"). Both trees are growing in a five and one half foot (5.5') wide parkway adjacent to a four foot (4') wide sidewalk. All four of the trees at this address have caused cracking of the sidewalks adjacent to them. The F1 tree has cracked and lifted the sidewalk and has cracked the curb. The F2 tree has cracked and lifted the sidewalk one and one half inches (1.5") in the path of travel.

The Applicant initially contacted Maintenance Services in 2006 regarding extensive surface rooting of the four parkway trees. At that time the recommendation was for the homeowner to add soil to the parkway to cover the roots if desired. In July 2012, the Applicant again contacted the City regarding the roots. At that time, all four of the trees were root pruned ten to fifteen feet along the back of the sidewalk to stop any root intrusion under the sidewalks or into private property. Twelve inch deep root barriers were installed at that time.

The trees are pruned on a 3-4 year trimming cycle and were pruned last on August 5, 2010. Maintenance Services staff trimmed away dead shoots on May 3, 2013. See Attachment 2.

The trees do not meet the criteria for a staff level authorization for removal (Category 1 or 2 removal criteria), as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards. The Applicant was informed of that decision and was provided the removal criteria. The City Arborist evaluated the trees for possible relocation, but believes that due to the size and cost of relocating the trees, relocation is not recommended.

The City received a letter from the Applicant on May 15, 2013, requesting the City remove two trees. See Attachment 1. The Applicant's letter provided the following reasons for the removal request:

- The roots invaded the front lawn, to within a yard of the residence.
- Roots were exposed, and thus, re-sodding the front lawn was necessary.
- The sidewalk is heaved.
- Annually, these trees shower the sidewalks, lawn and street with pods.

The Applicant is requesting that two American Sweetgum trees in front of the residence be removed and replaced with a more suitable tree species. 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 trees, per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 – Discretionary Removals, which would require the replacement of *each* tree with one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree to be planted at the same address 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 trees 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 trees were either denied or approved as a Category 3; Discretionary Removal, as the applicant would pay all costs.

For the Commission's information, the cost for the removal of the two trees would be \$330. The replanting costs for the mitigation trees (1 – 24" box size and 2 – 15 gallon size) would be \$425 for each tree removed, for a total replacement cost of \$850. Total cost for removal and replacement would be \$1,180. Costs are based on current City contract prices.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The two City-owned street trees that are being requested to be removed are located in the public right-of-way in front of 3198 Sicily Avenue. The trees are in good condition. The Applicant is requesting removal and replacement of the parkway trees due to the problems created by the extensive roots of the tree and the impact of the large quantity of fruit from the trees.

The two American Sweetgum trees growing in the public right-of-way in front of 3198 Sicily Avenue are causing minor damage to the sidewalk, curb and gutter. The trees do not meet the criteria required to allow for staff to approval. The City Arborist determined that the trees are in good condition. Lacking any substantive reasons as a basis for removal, staff recommends that the Commission deny the request.


BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager


FOR: ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter from Applicant
2. Tree Information and Work Order
3. Photographs

C: Robert and Roberta Cowley
3198 Sicily Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-2333

May 15, 2012

Parks and Recreation Commission
Cota Mesa City Hall
Costa Mesa, CA

Subject: Request for removal of two trees at 3198 Sicily Ave.
These tree roots invaded the front lawn ~~to~~ within a yard of residence.
Roots were exposed to the extent that resoding the front lawn was
necessary and roots dug out to prepare the lawn for resoding, a
costly experience.

The sidewalk is heaved but the Pubic Service Director has ordered they
be fixed.

Annually these trees shower the sidewalks, the lawn and street
with PODS. For many years we could keep the sidewalks cleared but
as the trees got larger and we got older it is physically impossible.
Pods fall densely for a couple months and taper off for another
couple months.

Removal of these LIQUID AMBER trees and replacement of more suitable
trees would be MUCH APPRECIATED.

Sicerely,

Robert Cowley

Roberta Cowley

Mr & Mrs Robert Cowley

Telephone: 714 545 6768

**City of Costa Mesa
Maintenance Services Division
FIELD INSPECTION – TREE INFORMATION**

ATTACHMENT #2

Denial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Category	1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Category	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>

Date Request Received: **2013**

Name of Resident: **Mrs. Crowley** Requesting Party: _____

Address: **3198 Sicily Ave. F1** Address: _____

Home Phone: **714-545-6768** Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: **6/26/13**

Inspected By: **Daniel Dominguez III – Interim City Arborist**

Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: **Liquidambar styraciflua** Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)= **\$ 220.00**

Height: **30 Feet** Width of Sidewalk: **4 Feet**

Trunk Diameter: **11 Inches** Size of Right-of-Way: **10 Feet**

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: **8/5/2010**

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Will require a large root ball which will impact curb & gutter, asphalt street and sidewalk. Estimated value stated in Arbor Access is \$1,380.00.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: **Cracked and lifted sidewalk, cracked curb. No trip hazard.**

Can the Tree be Root Pruned: Yes No Date: _____

Root Pruning Comments: **The tree was root pruned on 7/30/2012 along the sidewalk. There is no new concrete damage.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: **6/26/2013**

Photo #1: **Street view looking east**

Photo #2: **Street view looking north**

Photo #3: **Street view looking south**

Photo #4: **Base of the tree**

**City of Costa Mesa
Maintenance Services Division
FIELD INSPECTION – TREE INFORMATION**

Denial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Category	1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/>	Category	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>

Date Request Received: **2013**

Name of Resident: **Mrs. Crowley** Requesting Party: _____

Address: **3198 Sicily Ave. F2** Address: _____

Home Phone: **714-545-6768** Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: **6/26/13**

Inspected By: **Daniel Dominguez III – Interim City Arborist**

Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: **Liquidambar styraciflua** Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)= \$ **240.00**

Height: **30 Feet** Width of Sidewalk: **4 Feet**

Trunk Diameter: **12 Inches** Size of Right-of-Way: **10 Feet**

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: **8/5/2010**

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Will require a large root ball which will impact curb & gutter, asphalt street, sidewalk, and private walk ways. Leaf size and color slightly off. Tree has lost a few limbs in the past. Estimated value stated in Arbor Access is \$1,380.00.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: **Cracked and lifted sidewalk, 1 ½” lift in the path of travel.**

Can the Tree be Root Pruned: Yes No Date: _____

Root Pruning Comments: **The tree was root pruned on 7/30/2012 along the sidewalk. Tree roots continue to lift sidewalk.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: **6/26/2013**

Photo #1: **Street view looking east**

Photo #2: **Street view looking north**

Photo #3: **Street view looking south**

Photo #4: **Base of the tree**

::: Costa Maintenance :::
View

Thursday, July 11, 2013

| [Home](#) | | [Submit a Request](#) | [List Open Records](#) | [List All Records](#) | [Search](#)

[Change Password](#) |
[Reports](#) |

Subject: Parkway tree has huge roots exposed above ground.

Detailed description:

Liquidambar tree has huge roots exposed above ground, causing difficulty in maintaining parkway.

Req'd date:	2006-07-17	Req'd by:	Mrs. Cowley
Location:	3198 Sicily Avenue	Phone:	714- 545- 6768
Work Order Nr:	06070595	District:	5
Supervisor:	Dean Rodia	Employee:	Rodia, Dean
Call back needed:	Y	Contacted date:	2006-07-20
OSHA safety concern:	N	Status:	Closed
Completion date:	2006-07-20	Inspection date:	2006-07-17
Hours:	0 Minutes: 25	Material cost:	0.00

Action taken:

Liquidambar trees located around property. Two in the front and two on the side. The roots are surface bound and within the parkway. More soil could be placed over the exposed roots. Root pruning could take place if it is a problem below grade along the sidewalk or curb, but they are surface runners. This was conveyed to Mrs. Cowley in a message on her phone.

Password:



Costa Maintenance - © 2006 - 2013 - City of Costa Mesa

.: Costa Maintenance :.
View

Thursday, July 11, 2013

| [Home](#) | | [Submit a Request](#) | [List Open Records](#) | [List All Records](#) | [Search](#)

[Change Password](#) |
[Reports](#) |

Subject: Tree Roots

Detailed description:

The roots of 4 Sweetgum trees in the parkway are coming up in the lawn. What can be done?

Req'd date:	2012-07-12 (Request entered by: Daniel Dominguez III)	Req'd by:	Mrs. Robert Cowley
Location:	3198 Sicily	Phone:	714-545-6768
Work Order Nr:	12071204	District:	4
Supervisor:	City Arborist	Employee:	Dominguez, Dan
Call back needed:	N	Contacted date:	2012-07-17
OSHA safety concern:	N	Status:	Closed
Completion date:	2012-08-01	Inspection date:	2012-07-17
Hours:	0 Minutes: 25	Material cost:	0.00

Action taken:

07/17/2012 4 Liquidambar trees growing in 5 1/2' irrigated turf parkways. All trees lifting and cracking sidewalk. F1 11"dbh x 30' in good condition, root prune 15' sidewalk side. F2 11"dbh x 30' in fair condition, root prune 15' sidewalk side. S1 12"dbh x 30' in good condition, root prune 13' sidewalk side. S2 12"dbh x 30' in good condition, root prune 10' sidewalk side. Spoke to resident. WCA Inc. All sites have been marked. DD 07/31/2012 Verified work completed by WCA Inc. DD

Password:



Costa Maintenance - © 2006 - 2013 - City of Costa Mesa

:: Costa Maintenance ::
View

Thursday, July 11, 2013

| [Home](#) | | [Submit a Request](#) | [List Open Records](#) | [List All Records](#) | [Search](#)

[Change Password](#) |
[Reports](#) |

Subject: Tree Removal

Detailed description:

The trees on the side of the house are causing problems. Resident had to put in a new lawn, the tree roots are filling the parkway and always drop fruit. Requesting removal.

Req'd date:	2013-05-01 (Request entered by: Daniel Dominguez III)	Req'd by:	Mrs. Crowley
Location:	3198 Sicily Ave.	Phone:	714-545-6768
Work Order Nr:	13050702	District:	5
Supervisor:	City Arborist	Employee:	Dominguez, Dan
Call back needed:	N	Contacted date:	2013-05-02
OSHA safety concern:	N	Status:	Closed
Completion date:	2013-05-03	Inspection date:	2013-05-02
Hours:	1 Minutes: 15	Material cost:	0.00

Action taken:

5/2/13 F1 and F2 Liquidambar trees in fair condition. Trees were root pruned on 7/30/2012. Tree has leafed out and several shoots are dead. Remove deadwood, in house staff. Will require use of the tower. S1 and S2 trees are fine. DD Carlos and Eduardo trimmed away the dead growth on 5-3-13.GC

Password:





TREE #1 (F1) STREET VIEW EAST



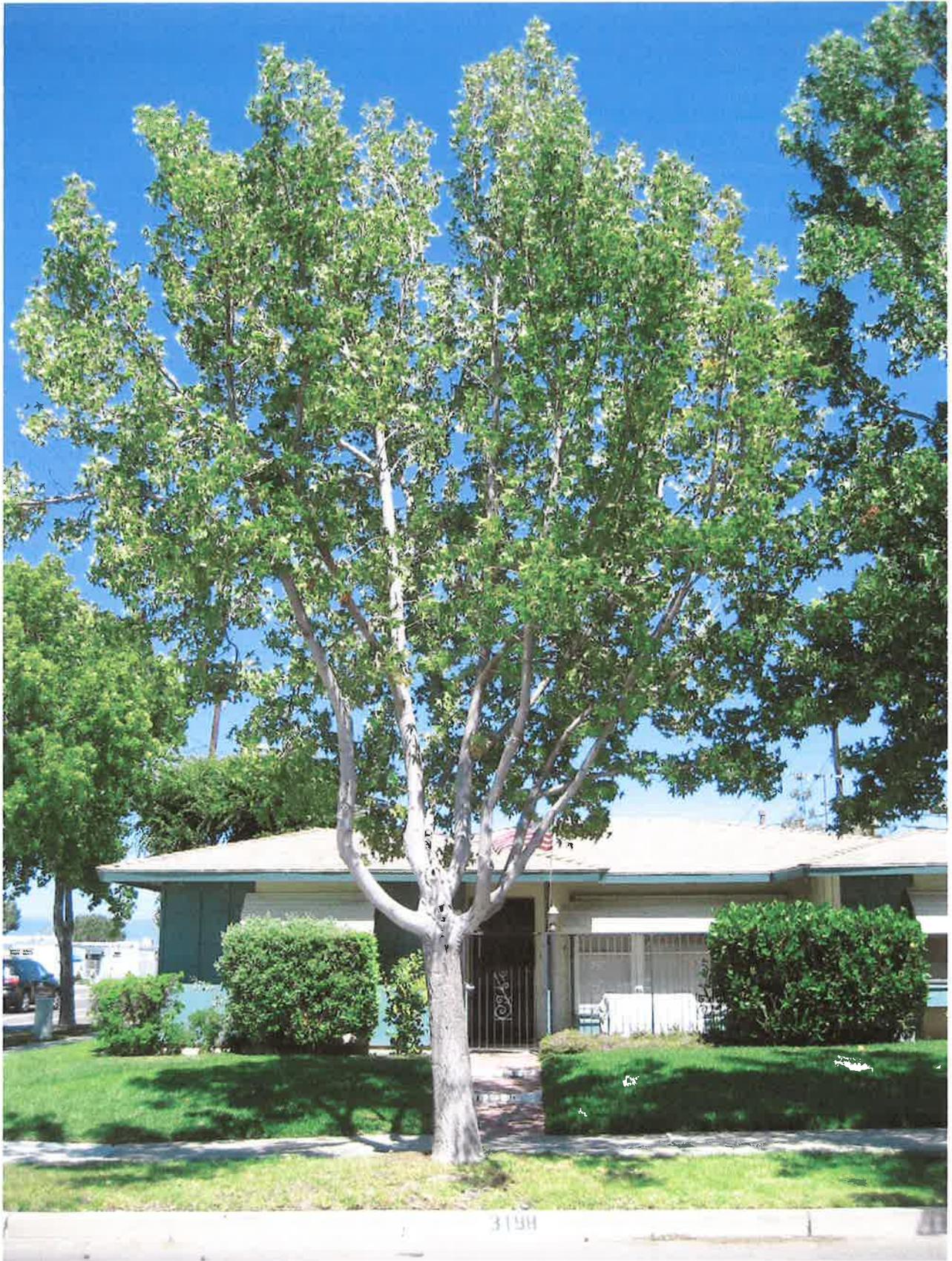
TREE #1 (F1) STREET VIEW NORTH



TREE #1 (F1) STREET VIEW SOUTH



TREE #1 (F1) BASE



TREE #2 (F2) STREET VIEW EAST



TREE #2 (F2) STREET VIEW NORTH



TREE #2 (F2) STREET VIEW SOUTH



TREE #2 (F2) BASE