



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 22, 2013

ITEM NUMBER: 9b

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 3164 YELLOWSTONE DRIVE
DATE: AUGUST 15, 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 one City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way at 3164 Yellowstone Drive.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was initially contacted by the Applicant on June 27, 2013, requesting removal of the parkway tree.

ANALYSIS

The City Arborist inspected the tree, a Canary Island Pine, *Pinus canariensis*, and found it to be in good condition. The tree is approximately fifty feet (50') in height with a trunk diameter of seventeen inches (17"). The tree is growing in a five and one half foot (5.5') irrigated parkway adjacent to a four foot (4') sidewalk. The tree has been trimmed every two years for the past eight years, a very aggressive trimming schedule compared to the typical three to five year cycle for most City trees. It was pruned last on May 19, 2011. No record of root pruning or root barrier installation was found. See Attachments 2 and 3.

The tree has a bacterial gall growing on the trunk approximately eight feet (8') above the ground. This growth exudes a significant amount of sap, as shown in photographs provided by the Applicant in Attachment 1. Although the gall is fairly large, it is not a decay causing structure, and other than the nuisance of the sap, does not cause any problems with the health and safety of the tree. There was some evidence of termites in the gall. Surrounding wood was determined to be sound and free of termites or decay.

Due to the large size and the vigorous condition of this tree, it does generate a significant amount of pine needles. Although pine trees drop needles to some degree year around, the heavy needle drop is primarily seasonal, coming after the trees have established a new set of needles each year. This tree has a growth habit typical of the species.

The City received a letter from the Applicant dated, July 31, 2013, requesting the City remove the tree. See Attachment 1. The Applicant's letter provided the following reasons for the removal request:

- The tree is a nuisance, exceptionally dirty and drops an excessive amount of pine needles and constantly drips sap.
- It drops so many pine needles that the street sweeper has to stop and shovel them up manually.
- The pine needles get into the grill and windshield wipers of his car.
- The tree constantly drips sap and is killing his lawn, and destroying the paint on his car.

The tree drops cones, needles and sap, typical for Canary Island Pine trees. The pine needles on turf and vehicles may be a nuisance and require some additional effort by the Applicant to remove. The needles in the street are removed by the City street sweeper, which is a normal operation throughout the City, wherever there are parkway trees that create litter. The tree has caused minor cracking and lifting of the sidewalk, which was ground smooth. The tree does not meet 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 tree for possible relocation, but believes that due to the size and cost of relocating the tree, relocation is not recommended.

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

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

1. 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 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 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.

2. The Commission could authorize the removal of the tree as a Category 1 – ‘Health and Safety’ removal with all removal and replacement costs paid for by the City.

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 Category 3; Discretionary Removal, as the Applicant would pay all costs.

For the Commission’s information, the cost for the removal of the tree would be \$340. The replanting costs for the mitigation trees (1 – 24” box size and 2 – 15 gallon size) would be \$425. Costs are based on current City contract prices. Total cost for removal and replacement would be \$765. The value of the tree is estimated to be \$4,890.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The City-owned street tree that is being requested to be removed is located within the public right-of-way at 3164 Yellowstone Drive. The tree is in good condition. The Applicant is requesting removal of the tree, as he believes the pine needles and sap are a nuisance and causing damage to his lawn and the paint on his car.

The tree does not meet criteria required to allow for staff approval. The City Arborist determined that the tree is in good condition, and therefore, it is recommended that the Commission deny the request.



BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager



ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

- ATTACHMENTS:
- 1. Letter from Applicant
 - 2. Tree Information
 - 3. Photographs

C: Ray Cullen
3164 Yellowstone Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

RAY CULLEN
3164 YELLOWSTONE DR
COSTA MESA, CA. 92626

July 31, 2013

Bruce Hartley
Maintenance Service Manager
City of Costa Mesa Public Services
Maintenance Service Division
P.O. Box 1200
Costa Mesa, 92628-1200

Re: Removal of Tree at 3164 Yellowstone Dr.

Dear Mr. Hartley,

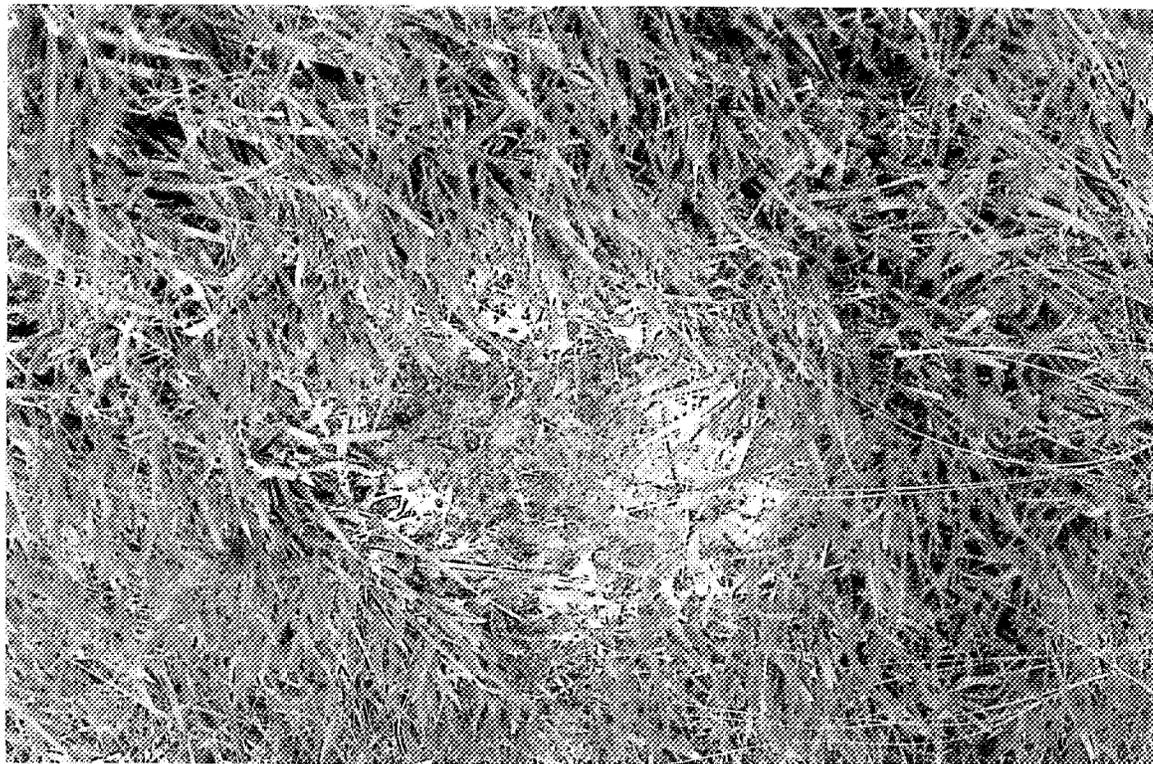
I am requesting the city remove the tree at 3164 Yellowstone Drive as it is a nuisance. This is an exceptionally dirty tree. It drops an excessive amount of pine needles and constantly drips sap. It drops so many pine needles that the street sweeper has to stop and shovel them up manually (photos). The pine needles get into grill and windshield wipers of my car. I constantly have to dig them out, so my windshield wipers will work.

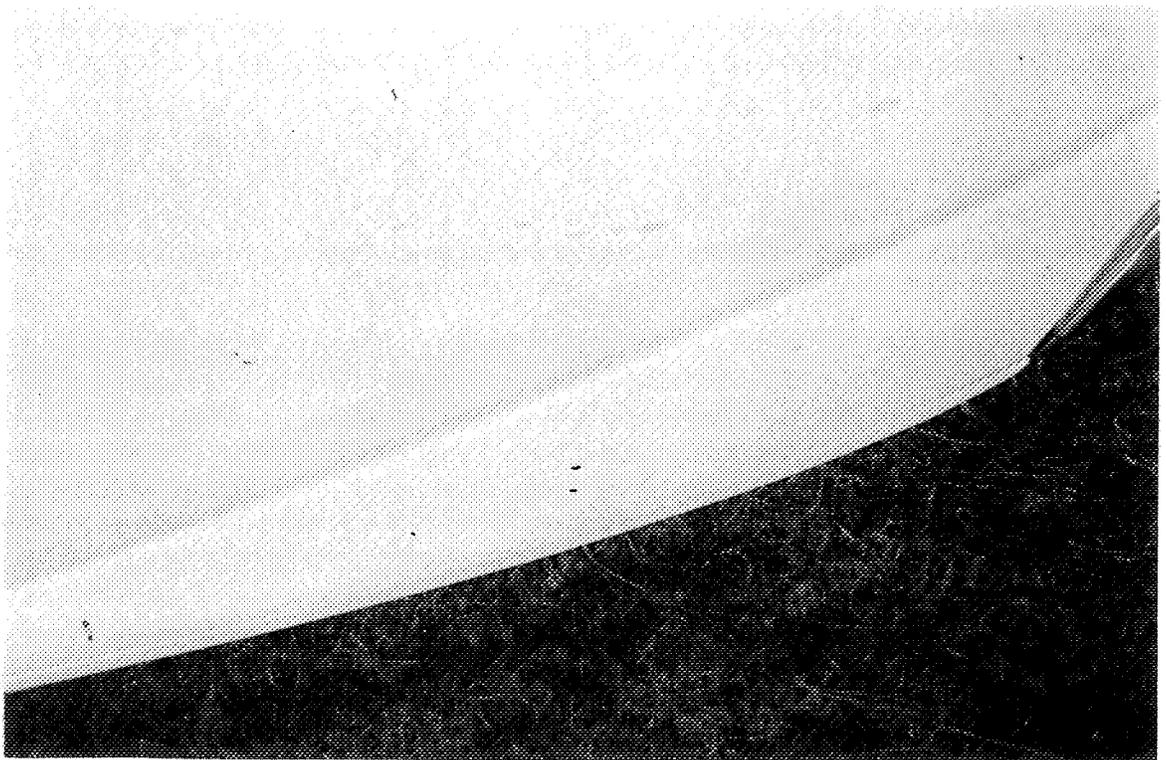
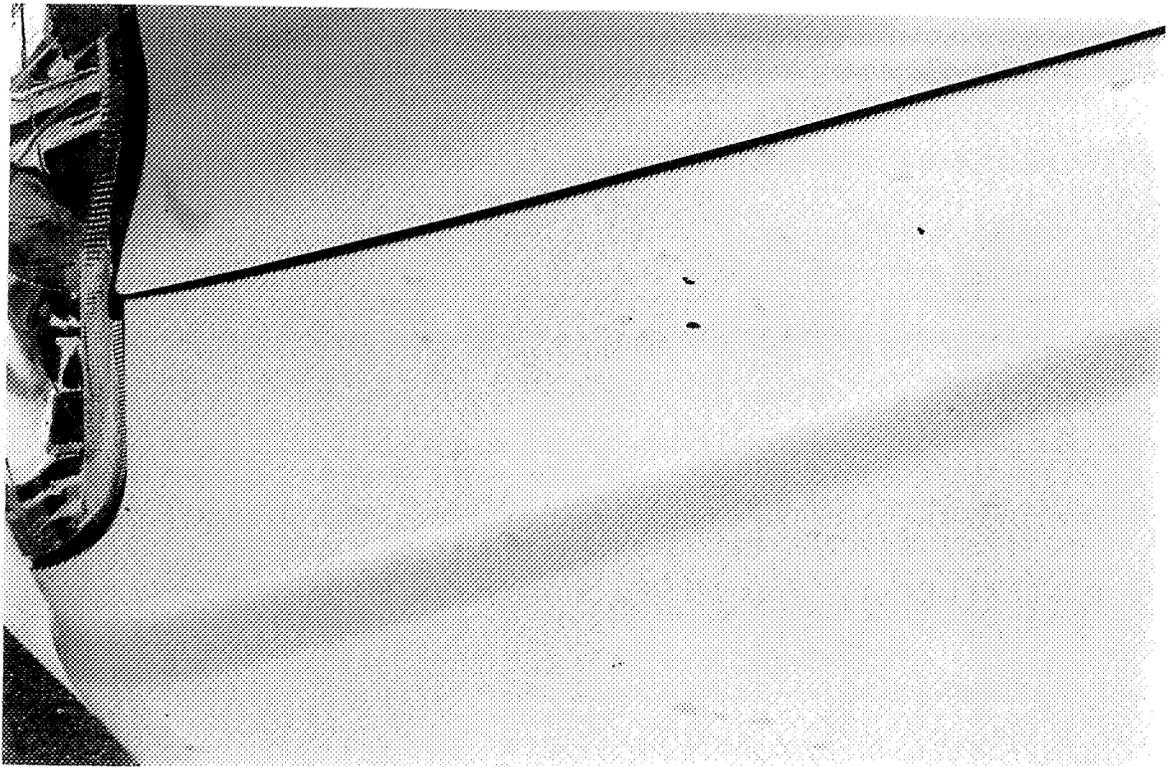
In addition to the pine needle problem, the tree also constantly drips sap. The Arborist informed me that this was because the tree is infested with boring insects. When I asked him if there was a remedy for the problem, he said there was not (photos of dripping sap). This dripping sap is killing my lawn (photo) and destroying the paint on my car (photos). Please have this tree removed.

Regards


RAY CULLEN







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:

Name of Resident:	Raymond Cullen	Requesting Party:	_____
Address:	3164 Yellowstone Dr. F1	Address:	_____
Home Phone:	[REDACTED]	Home Phone:	_____
Work Phone:	_____	Work Phone:	_____

Date Inspected: **8/01/13**

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

Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species:	Pinus canariensis	Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)=	\$ 340.00
Height:	50 Feet	Width of Sidewalk:	4 Feet
Trunk Diameter:	17 inches	Size of Right-of-Way:	10 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: **5/19/2011**

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 \$4,890.00.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: **Cracked and lifted sidewalk. No trip hazard, sidewalk has been shaved.**

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

Root Pruning Comments: **There is no new concrete damage, root pruning would not solve the complaint.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: **8/01/2013**

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

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

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

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









