



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 22, 2013

ITEM NUMBER: 9c

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 3050 MADISON AVENUE

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 three City-owned parkway trees located in the public right-of-way at 3050 Madison Avenue.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was initially contacted by the Applicant on March 26, 2013, requesting the City remove one tree located in front and two trees located on the side of the property, due to the nuisance of the year-round pine needles, lifting cement and sewer issues, for which the Applicant said they spent \$11,000 to repair. No previous complaint of sewer problems has been received and no documentation of any repairs was provided.

ANALYSIS

The City Arborist inspected the three trees; Canary Island Pines, *Pinus canariensis*, on April 2, 2013, and found them to be in good condition. They are growing in an irrigated parkway five and one half feet (5.5') in width.

Tree #1 (F1) located in the front of the property on Madison Avenue, is approximately sixty feet (60') in height with a trunk diameter of twenty-three inches (23"). Tree #2 (S1) located on the side of the property on Paularino Avenue is approximately sixty feet (60') in height with a trunk diameter of twenty-three inches (23"). Tree #3 (S2) also located on the side of the property on Paularino is approximately sixty (60') in height with a trunk diameter of nineteen inches (19").

All three trees have been pruned regularly, at a frequency exceeding that of other City trees. See Attachment 3. According to available trimming records, the City has pruned these trees every one to two years for the past eight years. All three trees have caused minor damage to the adjacent curb and gutter. Visible cracks in the sidewalk were observed, with evidence of sidewalk grinding in two locations (F1 and S2) and some displacement of the curb and gutter adjacent to the S1 tree. No root pruning has been completed or barriers installed at this location.

The Arborist determined the trees did not meet the criteria for a staff level authorization for removal (Category 1 or 2 removal), 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 July 11, 2013, requesting the City remove the three trees (two on Poularino Avenue and one on Madison Avenue). See Attachment 1 and 2. (A transcription was prepared of the handwritten letter for ease of reading) The Applicant's letter provided the following reasons for the removal request:

- The pine needles cause a mess that fill a large trash dumpster every week; and the needles may catch on fire.
- The trees are very large and concerned they will fall on the house.
- The pine trees cause the Applicant and family members allergies.
- The sidewalk and street are coming up (lifting).

The trees are tall, with heights exceeding sixty feet. Due to their size and good health, they do produce a large quantity of needles, cones, pollen and sap; all very normal for Canary Island Pines. Although challenging for a street sweeper and a nuisance to the adjacent property owner, the needles are not a problem that would typically support the removal of trees of this magnitude. The trees have never been root pruned and have been maintained frequently and appropriately dating back as far as City records could be found. There are no observable conditions that would indicate that these trees are at risk for failure. The sidewalks and streets are in satisfactory condition and may be repaired as needed should the tree roots cause any further damage.

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 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, fees must be paid, the trees 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 trees 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 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 trees would be \$1,300. The replanting costs for the mitigation trees (1 – 24" box size and 2 – 15 gallon size for each tree removed) would be \$1,275. Costs are based on current City contract prices. Total cost for removal and replacement would be \$2,575. The values of the trees are estimated to be approximately \$9,000 each.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The City-owned street trees that are being requested to be removed are located within the public right-of-way in the front and side of 3050 Madison Avenue. The trees are in good condition. The Applicant is requesting removal of three (3) parkway trees due to allergies, damage to the sidewalk and the inability to maintain the pine needles from the trees.

The three Canary Island Pine trees growing in the public right-of-way are causing minor damage to the sidewalk, curb and gutter. The trees do not meet criteria required to allow for staff approval. The City Arborist determined that the trees are 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. Hand Written Letter from Applicant
2. Transcribed Letter from Applicant
3. Tree Information Grouped by Tree

C: Suzann Cummins
3050 Madison Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

RECEIVED
JUL 11 2013

7-0-13

To: Bruce Whitley,

I have lived in Coon, Mass since January 1963. My husband who has now deceased we used to come out every week on his day off and watched our house being built in 1962. Our youngest son of three was born in this house December of 1963. Our middle son died in this house August of 2009. Our address is 3056 Madison Ave. Corner house on Parkhurst & Madison Ave. I was 28 yrs. old & John was 30.

We planted three pine trees on Parkhurst. A little boy about 9 or 10 yrs. old broke the tree trunk of the middle tree, it never grew much bigger. It would be about 60-70 ft. now. So bad, he didn't break the other two, our neighbors said we must have been drunk because they are so big & heavy. We fill a large trash-dumpster provided by the City every week. The 3 trees, 2 on Parkhurst and 1 on Madison Ave. That's 52 loads & we would not be putting in

a land-fill. The street sweeper
picks up more waste of Madison
Ave. than he picks up on the
rest of our track. I have
found matches & cigarette butts
on the inside of my fence.
On this hot weather it would
not take much for the needles
on the ground to catch on fire.
About 3 or 4 years ago on Madison
Ave. we had a tree fall down
& crush 3 Automobiles, lucky
my son was killed. I live in
fear of this happening to my
house. I don't sleep in the
master bedroom because all the
trees are so tall & big they scare
me. I have custody of my great-
grandson, he is almost 7 yrs old
and I want to be able to get to
him fast. However, the trees
are so large I don't know where
we go in the house. I am
worried in a bad earthquake, they
would fall. I being scared wasn't
enough I am allergic to the trees.
The small orange blossom that
falls most of the year. Robert
my great-grandson is also allergic
to the trees. We are prisoners
in our house & can't not go

out in the back-yard. Robert
has a 12-foot enclosed trampoline
that he can't play on because
of the blossoms & moss inside
the trampoline. We also has a
battery operated car that he can
not ride. Robert is a special-
needs child so has more toys
and everything.

I realize the cost of
removing the trees (2 on
Paulina & 1 on Madison Ave.)
is my responsibility. Even
if Robert never didn't want
me to replace them, I would
want to do so. Something not
so tall & mossy. I think the
street would be in better balance
& look a lot better. The sidewalk
and street are coming up. In the
long run, I would be saving Costa
Mesa a lot of money with the
Trash & Street Sweeper.

I am 78 yrs. old & probably
as you are heading this letter
I am having heart-surgery on
Thursday the 11th. I just want to
enjoy the rest of my years in my
happy home. Thank-you for your
assistance.
Sincerely,
Suzanne Cummins



Gary Sugarman MD Inc

04/24/2013

Suzann Cummins
3050 Madison Ave
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

To Whom It May Concern:

Suzann is a current patient. She has an allergy to Pine Trees which causes moderate to severe nasal allergies.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Sugarman MD

25411 Cabot Road Ste 105 Laguna Hills, CA 92653-5517
Phone: (949)829-9333 Fax: (949)829-9210

Provider: Gary L. Sugarman MD 04/24/2013 12:07 PM

Document generated by: Gary Sugarman 04/24/2013 12:07 PM

Letter Transcription:

7/06/13

To Bruce Hartley,

I have lived in Costa Mesa since January 1963. My husband who is now deceased we used to come out every week on his day off and watch our house being built in 1962. Our youngest son of three was born in this house December of 1963. Our middle son died in this house August of 2009. Our address is 3050 Madison Avenue. Corner house on Paularino & Madison Avenue. I was 28 years old and John was 30. We planted three pine trees on Paularino. A little boy about 9 or 10 years old broke the tree trunk of the middle tree it never grew much bigger. He would be about 60 or 61 now. Too bad he didn't break the other two, our neighbors said we must have been drunk because they are so big & messy. We fill a large trash dumpster provided by the city every week. The 3 trees, 2 on Paularino and 1 on Madison Avenue. That's 52 loads, we would not be putting in a land fill. The street sweeper picks up more waste of Madison Avenue than he picks up on the rest of our track. I have found matches and cigarette butts on the inside of my fence. In this hot weather it would not take much for the needles on the ground to catch on fire. About 3 or 4 years ago on Madison Avenue, we had a tree fall down and crush 2 automobiles, lucky no one was killed. I live in fear of this happening to my house. I don't sleep in the master bedroom because all the trees are so tall and big they scare me. I have custody of my great grandson, he is almost 7 years old and I want to be able to get to him fast. However, the trees are so large I don't know where we go in the house. I am scared in a bad earthquake they would fall. If being scared wasn't enough I am allergic to the trees. The small orange blossom that falls most of the year. Robert, my great grandson is also allergic to the trees. We are prisoners in our house and can not go out in the backyard. Robert has a 12 foot enclosed trampoline that he can't play on because of the blossoms and mess inside the trampoline. He also has a battery operated car that he can not ride. Robert is a special needs child so his home toys are everything.

I realize the cost of removing the trees (2 on Paularino and 1 on Madison Avenue) is my responsibility. Even if Costa Mesa didn't want me to replace them, I would want to do so. Something not so tall and messy. I think the street would be in better balance and look a lot better. The sidewalk and street are coming up. In the long run I would be saving Costa Mesa a lot of money with the trash and street sweeper.

I am 78 years and probably as you are reading this letter I am having heart surgery on Thursday, the 11th. I just want to enjoy the rest of my years in my home happy. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Suzann Cummins
3050 Madison Ave
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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

ATTACHMENT #3

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: **7/06/2013**

Name of Resident:	Suzann Cummins	Requesting Party:	_____
Address:	3050 Madison Ave F1	Address:	_____
Home Phone:	_____	Home Phone:	_____
Work Phone:	_____	Work Phone:	_____

Date Inspected: **7/18/13**

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

Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species:	Pinus canariensis F1	Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)=	\$ 460.00
Height:	60 Feet	Width of Sidewalk:	4 Feet
Trunk Diameter:	23 inches	Size of Right-of-Way:	10 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor

Date of Last Pruning: **4/19/2011**

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Tree size makes boxing prohibitive. Will require a large root ball impacting curb & gutter, asphalt street, sidewalk and private block wall. Estimated value stated in Arbor Access is \$9,110.00.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: **Cracked sidewalk, no trip hazard. Sidewalk has been shaved. Cracked curb & gutter.**

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

Root Pruning Comments: **Root pruning would not solve the complaint of allergies from the tree pollen or fear of the tree toppling over.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No

Date Photos Taken: **7/18/2013**

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

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

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

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



Site on 4 lists

[Edit Tree Site](#) - [Insert History](#) - [Calls](#) - [Street View](#) - [Photo Album](#) - [Notes](#)

Select a list



[Create a list](#) - [Add site to list](#)

Site Detail (33.682555607046,-117.90027032424)

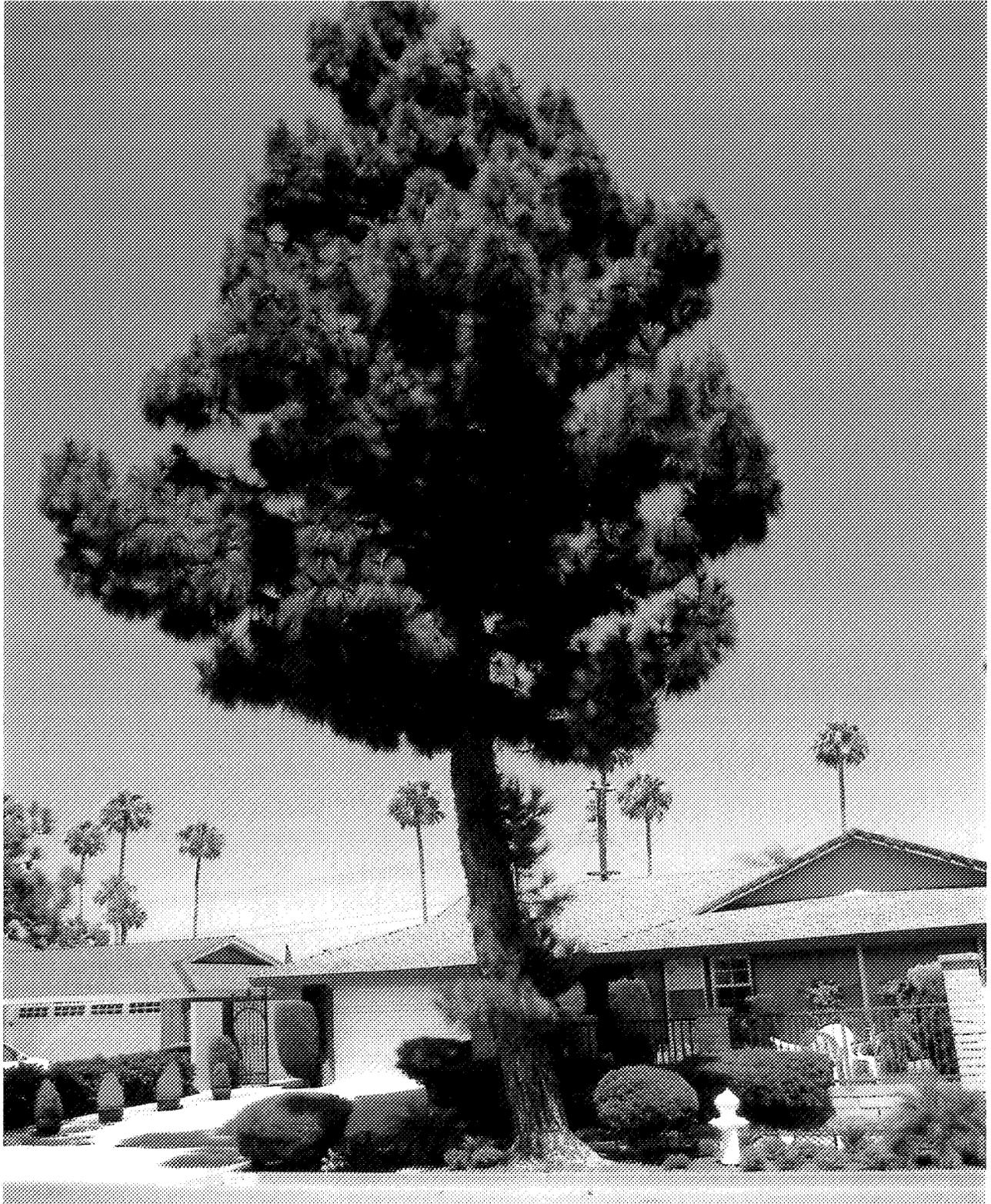
District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
7	3050 MADISON AV	Front-1	<i>Pinus canariensis</i> CANARY ISLAND PINE	19-24	60+
Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	\$9,110	Parkway	5
Utility	Valid				
No	Yes				

<--Prev [Next-->](#)

Work History

Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job #/Acct #	Amount
WCA	4/19/2011	Grid Pruning	16780	\$46.60
WCA	3/30/2009	Grid Pruning	12656	\$46.60
WCA	1/9/2008	Service Request Pruning	11049	\$45.10
WCA	5/4/2006	Prune Backup - Crew	8470	
WCA	7/1/2005	Grid Pruning	8470	\$41.50
WCA	3/26/2002	Grid Trimming	4219	\$41.50

FRONT PARKWAY TREE



FRONT PARKWAY TREE



FRONT PARKWAY TREE



FRONT PARKWAY TREE BASE



**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: 7/06/2013

Name of Resident: Suzann Cummins Requesting Party: _____

Address: 3050 Madison Ave S1 Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: 7/18/13

Inspected By: Daniel Dominguez III – Interim City Arborist

Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: Pinus canariensis S1 Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)= \$ 460.00

Height: 60 Feet Width of Sidewalk: 4 Feet

Trunk Diameter: 23 inches Size of Right-of-Way: 10 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: 4/20/2011

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Tree size makes boxing prohibitive. Will require a large root ball impacting curb & gutter, asphalt street, sidewalk, private block wall and house foundation. Estimated value stated in Arbor Access is \$9,110.00.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: **Cracked sidewalk, no trip hazard. Displaced curb & gutter.**

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

Root Pruning Comments: **Root pruning would not solve the complaint of allergies from the tree pollen or fear of the tree toppling over.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: 7/18/2013

- Photo #1: **Street view looking north**
- Photo #2: **Street view looking west**
- Photo #3: **Street view looking east**
- Photo #4: **Base of the tree**



[Edit Tree Site](#) - [Insert History](#) - [Calls](#) - [Street View](#) - [Photo Album](#) - [Notes](#)

Select a list



Site Detail (33.682481295914,-117.89999621663)

[Create a list](#) - [Add site to list](#)

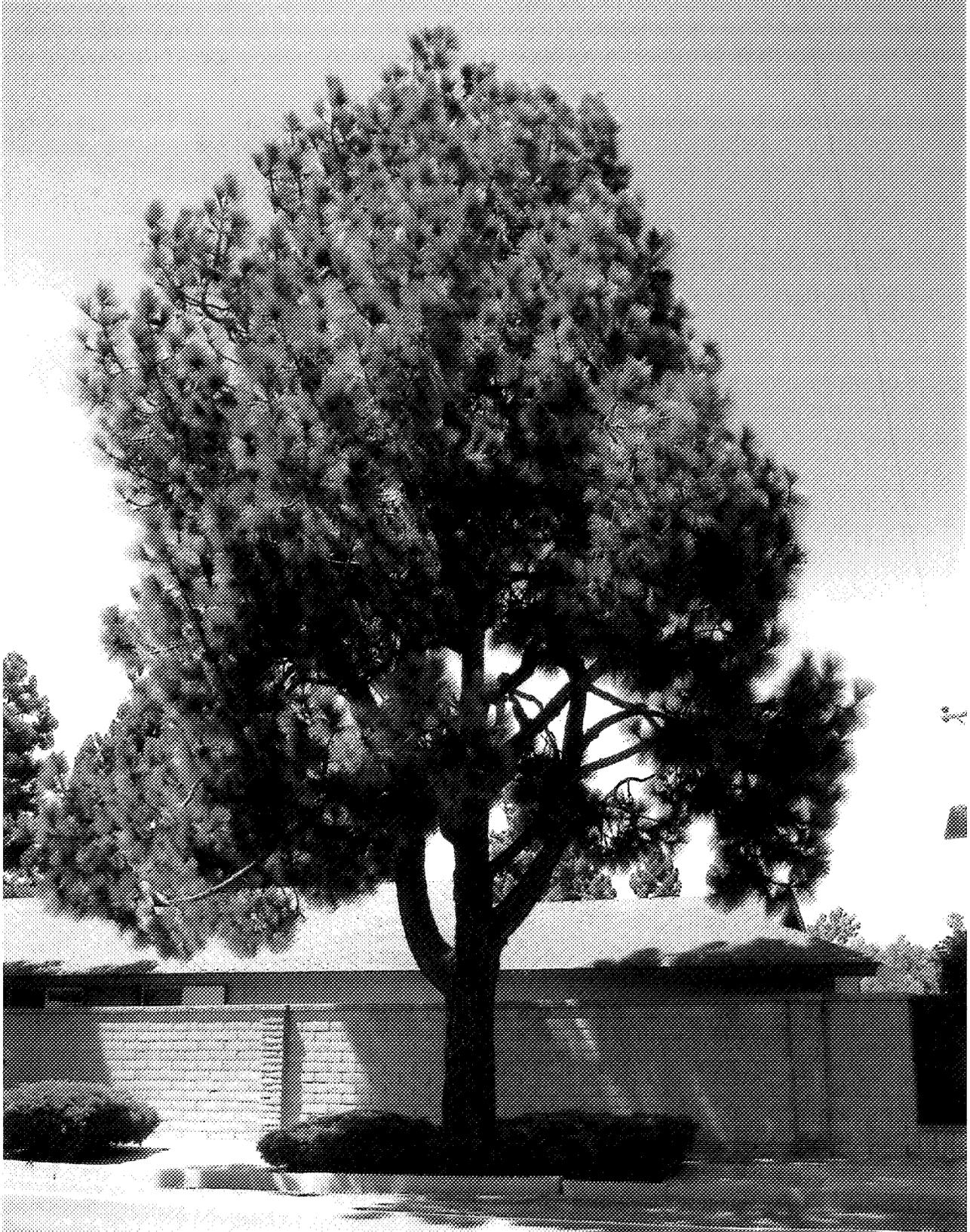
District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
7	3050 MADISON AV On: 1022 PAULARINO AV	Side-1	<i>Pinus canariensis</i> CANARY ISLAND PINE	19-24	60+
Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	\$9,110	Parkway	5
Utility	Valid				
No	Yes				

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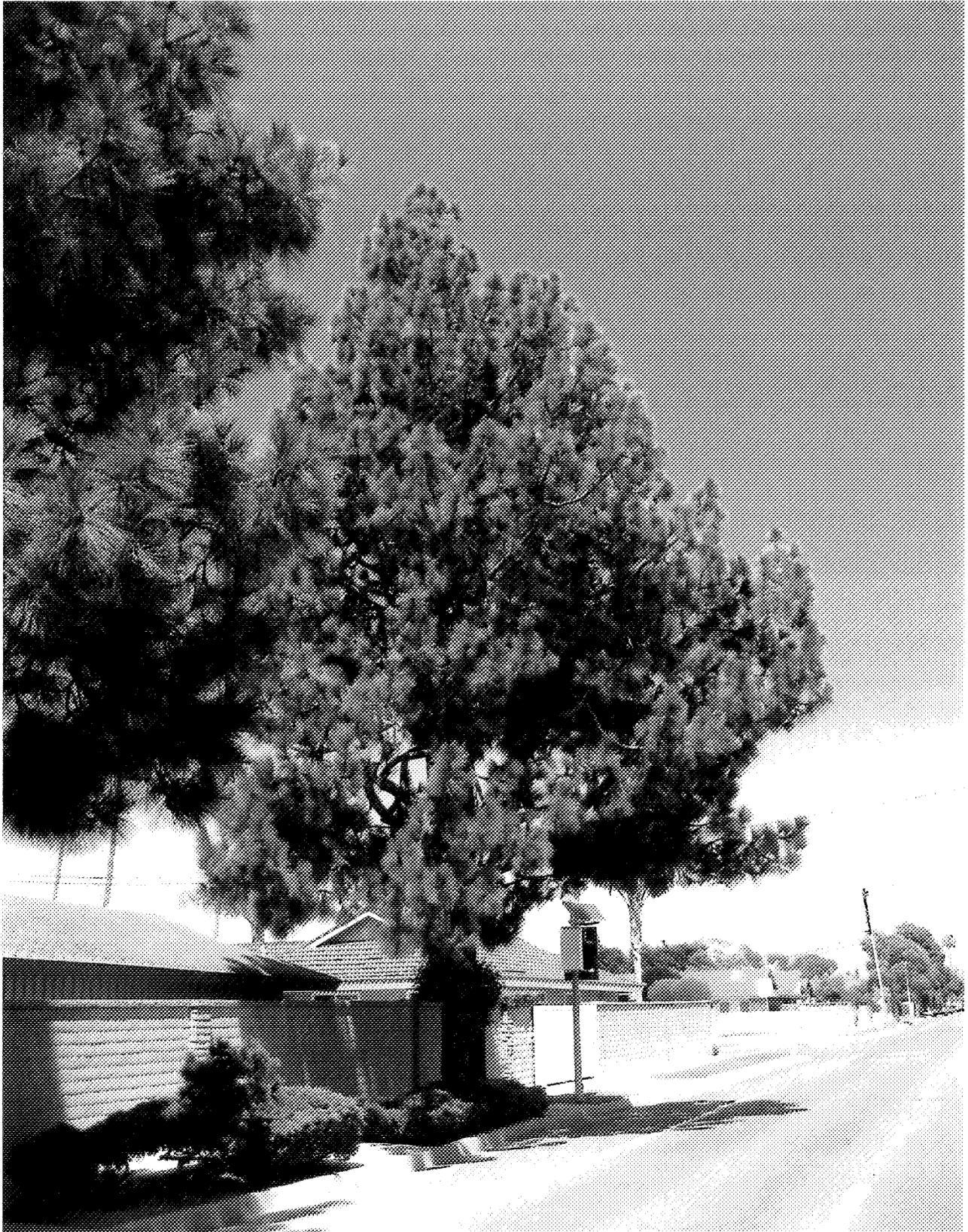
Work History

Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job #/Acct #	Amount
WCA	4/20/2011	Grid Pruning	16780	\$46.60
WCA	3/30/2009	Grid Pruning	12656	\$46.60
WCA	5/5/2006	Prune Backup - Crew	8470	
WCA	7/7/2005	Grid Pruning	8470	\$41.50
WCA	3/21/2002	Grid Trimming	4219	\$41.50

SIDE PARKWAY TREE #1 (S1)



SIDE PARKWAY TREE #1 (S1)



SIDE PARKWAY TREE #1 (S1)



SIDE PARKWAY TREE #1 (S1) BASE



**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: **7/06/2013**

Name of Resident:	Suzann Cummins	Requesting Party:	_____
Address:	3050 Madison Ave S2	Address:	_____
Home Phone:	_____	Home Phone:	_____
Work Phone:	_____	Work Phone:	_____

Date Inspected: **7/18/13**

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

Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species:	Pinus canariensis S2	Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)=	\$ 380.00
Height:	60 Feet	Width of Sidewalk:	4 Feet
Trunk Diameter:	19 inches	Size of Right-of-Way:	10 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: **4/20/2011**

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments: **Tree size makes boxing prohibitive. Will require a large root ball impacting curb & gutter, asphalt street, sidewalk, private block wall and house foundation. Estimated value stated in Arbor Access is \$9,110.00.**

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: **Cracked sidewalk, no trip hazard. Sidewalk has been shaved. Cracked curb & gutter.**

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

Root Pruning Comments: **Root pruning would not solve the complaint of allergies from the tree pollen or fear of the tree toppling over.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

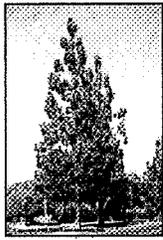
Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: **7/18/2013**

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

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

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

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



[Edit Tree Site](#) - [Insert History](#) - [Calls](#) - [Street View](#) - [Photo Album](#) - [Notes](#)

[Select a list](#)



Site Detail (33.682476471103,-117.90019329269)

[Create a list](#) - [Add site to list](#)

District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
7	3050 MADISON AV On: 1022 PAULARINO AV	Side-2	<i>Pinus canariensis</i> CANARY ISLAND PINE	19-24	60+
Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	\$9,110	Parkway	5
Utility	Valid				
No	Yes				

[<--Prev](#) [Next-->](#)

Work History

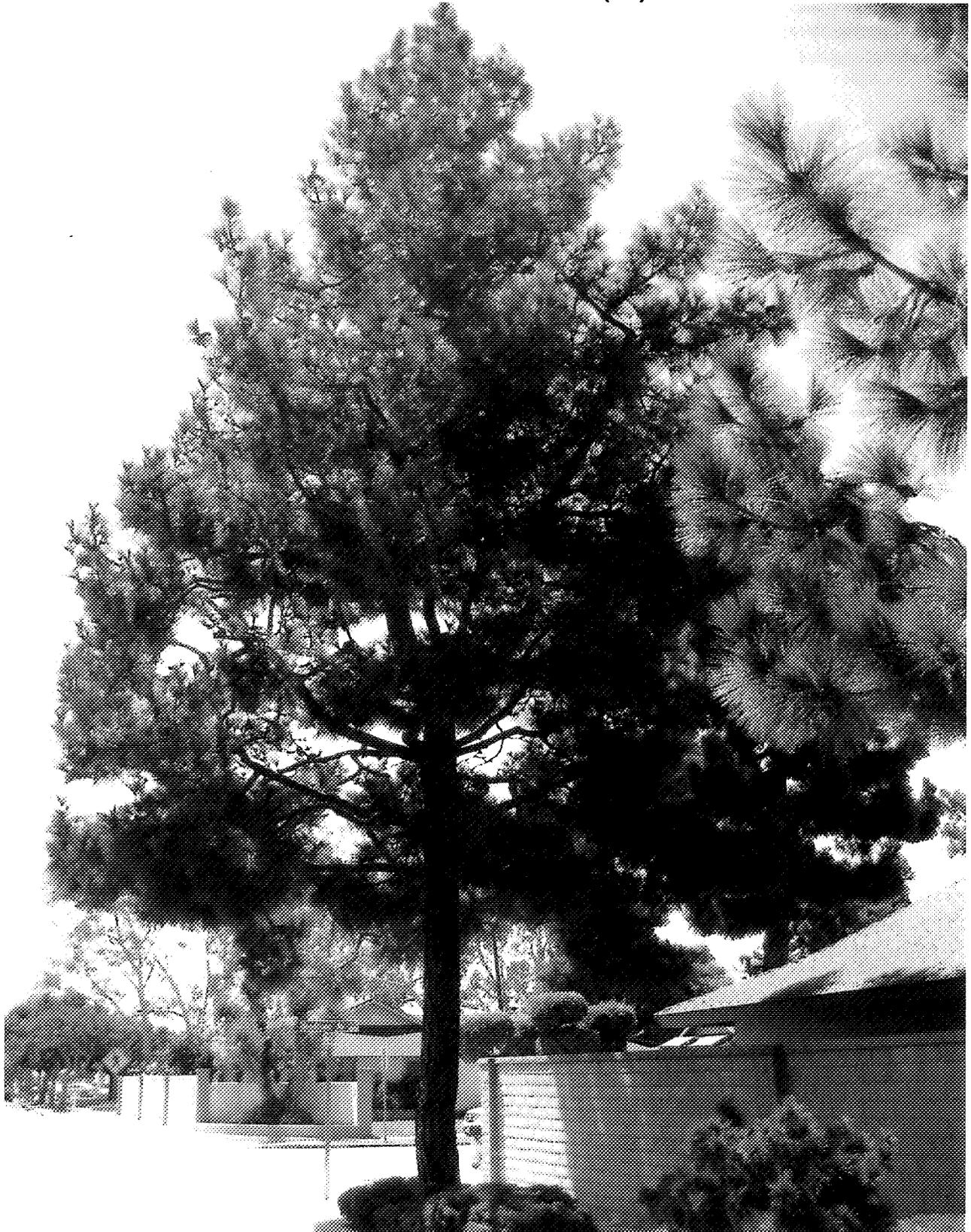
Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job #/Acct #	Amount
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WCA	3/30/2009	Grid Pruning	12656	\$46.60
WCA	5/5/2006	Prune Backup - Crew	8470	
WCA	7/7/2005	Grid Pruning	8470	\$41.50
WCA	3/21/2002	Grid Trimming	4219	\$41.50

22

SIDE PARKWAY TREE #2 (S2)



SIDE PARKWAY TREE #2 (S2)



SIDE PARKWAY TREE #2 (S2)



SIDE PARKWAY TREE #2 (S2) BASE

