



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2013

ITEM NUMBER: 6a

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 2116 PRESIDENT PLACE

DATE: NOVEMBER 4, 2013

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT, MAINTENANCE SERVICES DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: BRUCE A. HARTLEY, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER

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RECOMMENDATION

Approve the removal of one City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way at 2116 President Place as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal to be completed at City expense.

BACKGROUND

At the regular meeting of October 24, 2013, the Parks and Recreation Commission continued the request for the removal of the City parkway tree at the above address to the November 2013 meeting to allow time for City staff to review the site again, given the new information regarding invasive roots provided by the Applicant at the meeting.

ANALYSIS

The Public Services Director, Maintenance Services Manager and the City Arborist inspected the tree and adjacent property on October 31, 2013. Confirming the information stated in the agenda report from the October meeting, roots from the tree appeared to be impacting the Applicant's driveway. Roots were also observed on another side of the tree that may have potential to cause damage to a private property wall and walkway. Typically, root pruning could be performed with root protection barriers installed to prevent roots from causing damage. However, due to the presence of problem roots on two sides of a very large (65' tall) tree, root pruning is not a viable option. Cutting the main roots on two sides of the tree; both the windward sides during Santa Ana wind events, would result in a high risk for failure of the tree.

Staff agreed that in this situation, the tree should be removed; eliminating any potential future damage to private property and reducing the City's associated liability. It was determined to meet the criteria for a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

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

2. The Commission could deny the removal of the tree and direct staff to prune the roots of the tree and install root barriers to prevent further damage to private property improvements.

FISCAL REVIEW

If the tree is removed as a Category 1 - Health and Safety Removal, with the City paying removal and replacement costs, the cost for the removal of the tree would be \$800, with a cost of replanting 1 – 24" box size tree of \$200.

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 2116 President Place. The tree is in good condition. However, the roots of the tree are causing problems with the concrete driveway and may affect other private property hardscape in the future. To prevent that, root pruning would be necessary on two sides of the tree and could result in the tree failing in high winds, and is therefore not recommended.

It is recommended that the Commission confirm the Public Services Director's decision to remove the tree as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal.



BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager



ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

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