



# **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT**

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MEETING DATE: JUNE 26, 2014

ITEM NUMBER:

**SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - FAIRVIEW PARK – O.C.M.E. AREA**

**DATE: JUNE 12, 2014**

**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**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Provide staff direction on the request for the removal of one (1) City-owned park tree located in Fairview Park adjacent to the Orange County Model Engineers (OCME) maintenance and storage facility.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Maintenance Services Division received a request from the OCME to remove a tree that is growing immediately adjacent to the maintenance and storage facility operated by the organization on the east side of Fairview Park. The tree was planted very close to concrete walls, storm drain lines, a light pole and the train loading area. The tree is beginning to have impacts on drainage flows, is blocking lighting and has begun to cause impacts to concrete improvements and affect the storm drain pipes. The request is a proactive approach to preserving the improvements and minimizing any flooding of the facility during rain events.

## **ANALYSIS**

The tree being considered for removal is a Floss Silk tree, *Chorisia speciosa*, growing in an unirrigated and un-landscaped area just outside of the perimeter fence/wall on the northeast corner of the train maintenance facility. The tree was likely planted by the OCME sometime in the past, as were all of the trees that provide screening around the perimeter of the facility. The location of the tree is at the outfall of two drainage systems. One system, consisting of two six inch (6") diameter PVC pipes drains surface flows from the slope area along the north and western boundaries of the facility. The second system is an eight inch (8") diameter PVC pipe that drains the surface run off from inside the facility. The eight inch pipe empties into a catch basin. It is currently not affected by the tree, but will likely be affected in the future as the root system of the tree becomes larger. The two smaller pipes discharge next to the tree and then flow into a collector pipe that travels under the concrete loading area and into a swale along the adjacent golf course. A small concrete block wall is located in this area to direct the water flow into the next segment of pipe. That wall is uplifted by the roots of the tree. See Attachment 1. The concrete perimeter walls of the facility shown no observable signs of damage. The

security light, although obscured by the foliage of the tree, is not being damaged by the trunk or branches of the tree at this time.

The Arborist found the tree to be in good condition. The tree is approximately twenty-five feet (25') in height and is a multi-trunk tree with two trunks having diameters of thirteen inches (13") and fifteen inches (15"). The tree is growing approximately eighteen inches (18") from the adjacent walls and three to five feet (3-5') from drainage pipes. The tree is listed in the City's tree inventory and was last pruned by the City July 12, 2012. The tree is not mature and may reach fifty to sixty feet (50-60') in height and width. The species is known for very large diameter roots extending several feet from the base of the tree.

The tree is not currently causing damage to vital infrastructure, but is beginning to affect drainage and lighting (security), with greater impacts anticipated as the tree matures. It does not currently 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 (OCME Leadership) was informed of that decision. The City Arborist evaluated the tree for possible relocation, but believes that due to concrete improvements and lighting that are located next to the tree, removing and boxing the tree would be very difficult and costly with a low probability of success. Therefore 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 of the tree as a Category 3 – Discretionary Removal, with the Applicant paying the cost for removal and the 3:1 replacement costs. One 24" box-size tree and two 15 gallon size trees would be planted elsewhere in Fairview Park.
2. The Commission could authorize the removal of the trees as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal. The City would pay all removal and replacement costs.
3. The Commission could deny the request.

## **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.

If approved as a Discretionary Removal, where the Applicant pays the removal and replacement costs, the cost for removing the tree would be \$560. The cost for the required three-to-one replacement (mitigation) trees would be \$425; the services of a biologist would be required to inspect for nesting birds prior to removal at a cost of \$500; for a total cost of \$1,485. Costs are based on current City contract prices.

If approved as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal, the estimated costs to the City to remove the tree would be \$560 with an additional cost of \$500 for the biologist, resulting in a total cost of \$1,060.

The value of the tree is estimated to be \$3,260.

## LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

## CONCLUSION

The City-owned park tree that is being requested to be removed is located at the OCME maintenance and storage facility on the east side of Fairview Park. The tree is beginning to affect drainage, lighting and concrete improvements, but at this time it does not meet the criteria for removal as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards (Standards). Therefore, it is requested that the Commission provide staff direction regarding the request to remove the tree.

  
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BRUCE A. HARTLEY  
Maintenance Services Manager

  
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ERNESTO MUNOZ  
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Tree Information  
2. Photographs

C: Joe Hayes, President  
Orange County Model Engineers, Inc.  
P O Box 3216  
Costa Mesa, CA 92628

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

ATTACHMENT #1

Date Request Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Resident: N/A Requesting Party: OCME

Address: Fairview Park Train Station Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Inspected: 5/05/14

Inspected By: Daniel Dominguez III – Interim City Arborist

Parkway Maintenance Report:

Tree Species: Chorisia speciosa P577 Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.00)= \$560.00

Height: 25 Feet Width of Sidewalk: NA

Trunk Diameter: 13", 15" multi-trunk, 28 Inches total Size of Right-of-Way: NA

Health: Good  Fair  Poor  Date of Last Pruning: 7/23/2012

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes  No

Likelihood of survival: Good  Fair  Poor

Comments: **Relocation will require removal and replacement of retaining wall, concrete pad and drains. Estimated tree value is \$3,260.00**

Concrete Damage: Yes  No

If Yes, describe damage: **Retaining wall has been lifted and cracked.**

Can the Tree be Root Pruned: Yes  No  Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Root Pruning Comments: **Base of tree 18" from retaining wall on the north and southeast side of the tree. Root pruning will cut into the buttress of the tree, stability will be compromised.**

Date of Response to Resident: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Information Packet Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

Photos Taken: Yes  No  Date Photos Taken: 5/05/2014

Photo #1: Street view looking north

Photo #2: Street view looking west

Photo #3: Base of the tree

Photo #4: Inside canopy









