PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2015 **ITEM NUMBER:**

SUBJECT: **TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 216 FLOWER STREET**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 5, 2015**

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 216 Flower Street.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was contacted by the Applicant via telephone on December 1, 2014, and received a letter dated December 2, 2014, requesting that the City remove the tree at no cost to the property owner because it is oozing a substance that is killing the grass surrounding the tree and staining the private walkway in close proximity to the tree. See Attachment 1. The Applicant believes the tree is positioned too close to the residence and in the event of its failure, could pose a risk to the house and the occupants.

This item was previously agendized for the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of June 17, 2013. At that time, the Commission denied the request for removal.

ANALYSIS

On December 4, 2014, the City Arborist re-inspected the tree, a Red Flowering Gum, *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, and found it to be in good condition. The Arborist noted that the tree had a series of sap flows indicative of a build-up of positive pressure inside the tree. Often this type of internal pressure is caused by the pruning of a tree. Records indicate that the tree was pruned by the City's contracted tree service on May 5, 2014, thus causing the sap to seep from several pruning cuts and cracks present in the bark and sapwood layers. Typically, sap flows will continue until the tree reaches a state of balanced internal pressure. The sap may stain concrete or if heavy, may have an effect on turf or other understory plants.

The Arborist also noted that the tree has an extensive root system and is stable. It is approximately thirty feet (30') in height with a trunk diameter of forty-four inches (44"). It is growing immediately adjacent to the street, with no adjacent sidewalk or defined parkway. The public right-of-way width at that location is ten feet beyond the road edge. Root pruning has occurred along the street side of this tree to accommodate curb and gutter repairs performed at this location. These cuts further explain the reason behind the substantial sap flow of this tree occurring at the present time.

The letter from the Applicant requesting the City remove the tree provided the following reasons for the removal request:

- Oozing substance from the tree is killing the grass surrounding the base of the tree and is staining the private walkway in close proximity to the tree.
- Due to the tree's close proximity to the house, there is a belief that the tree could harm people.

The tree does not meet the criteria for a staff level authorization for removal, as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards. 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 tree does not meet Category 1 or 2 removal criteria. The Applicant was informed of that decision and was provided with the removal criteria in 2013.

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 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.

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 $880. 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 $1,305. The value of the tree is estimated to be $9,830.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The City-owned street tree that has been requested to be removed is located within the ten foot wide public right-of-way at 216 Flower Street. The tree is in good condition. The Applicant is concerned that the tree may not be safe and may harm someone or cause property damage if it were to fail.

The Red Flowering Eucalyptus tree is not currently causing any observable damage to either public or private property besides that of the stated dying grass and stained walkway that the Applicant believes is due to the sap flow of the tree. It does not meet the criteria required to allow for staff to approve its removal. The basis of the request appears to be related to a concern for the structural integrity of the tree and the potential for harm or damage it may cause should it fail. The City Arborist determined that the tree is stable and safe and has determined that the observed sap flow has no significance as it relates to the tree's potential for failure. Therefore, it is recommended that the Commission deny the request.

Bruce A. Hartley

BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager

ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS:
1. Letter from Applicant requesting removal of parkway tree
2. Tree Information
3. Photographs

C: Dorothy Bayliss
223 Virginia Place
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Resident
216 Flower Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

December 2, 2017

Dorothy L. Bayliss
223 Virginia Place
Costa Mesa, Calif 92627
Ph No. [redacted]

ATTACHMENT #1

City of Costa Mesa
PO Box 1200
Costa Mesa, Calif. 92626-1200

City of Costa Mesa,

I am enclosing copies of the letters dated April 18, 2013 and June 21, 2013.

I am asking for the removal of the Tree located at; 216 Flower Street Costa Mesa, Calif 92627 { Removal of a Street Tree at NO Cost To the property owner

They repaired the damage the Tree roots did to the curb about April 18, 2013. It is now ozing a substance on to the grass and my front sidewalk, It is killing the grass and staining the sidewalk. Which I think The City should Compensate me for the damage.

The BIGGEST worry I have and I think the City should consister is it is so Close to the house That PEOPLE can get hurt or Worst Killed.

Sincerely
Dorothy L Bayliss
Dorothy L. Bayliss

% Doug Kokesh
Bruce A. Hartley
Larry Dreiman

June 21, 2013
Dorothy L Bayliss
223 Virginia Place
Costa Mesa, Calif 9262

City of Costa Mesa, Calif.
% Bruce A. Hartley, Maintenance Service
Manager
PO Box 1200
Costa Mesa, Calif. 92628-1200

City of Costa Mesa,

The tree at 216 Flower Street measures 10' from the street side of curb to the last above ground root. The last above ground root of the tree to the foundation of the house measures 14' 4". The closest above ground root to the driveway is 2' 5½". The closest above ground root to the sidewalk that goes to the entrance of the house 11".

Will the city of Costa Mesa approve funds to maintain and repair as needed these locations including the roof of the home?

Nice People live in this Home. Will the City provide Free Medical for them if the Tree harms them without a lawsuit?

Sincerely
Dorothy L Bayliss
Dorothy L Bayliss

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Dorothy L Bayliss
223 Virginia Place
Costa Mesa Calif 92627
Ph No [redacted]
April 18, 2013

City of Costa Mesa
PO Box 1200
Costa Mesa, Calif. 92626-1200

City of Costa Mesa,

I have talked to Tom Banks, Daniel Dominguez and Larry Dreiman, concering the tree at 216 Flower Street, Costa Mesa, California. I still feel the tree should be removed, at the full cost of the City of Costa Mesa.

To repair the curb they have cut the root at the base of the tree. If you looked at the drive way before they repaired the curb and drive way, you would have seen the damage. The tree is "Very Large". It could harm the people that live there

I want to "Express" again I think the tree should be removed, at full cost to the city, before some one or something is hurt or damaged.

Sincerely
Dorothy L Bayliss
Dorothy L BAYliss

Tom BANKS
DANIel Dominguez
LARRY Dreiman

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

ATTACHMENT #2

Denial	☒	Category	1☒	2☐	3☐
Supporting	☐	Category	1☐	2☐	3☐

Date Request Received: December 2, 2014 (date of letter)

Name of Resident: _____ Requesting Party: **Dorothy Bayliss (owner)**

Address: _____ Address: **216 Flower Street**

Home Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Date Inspected: **12/04/2014**

Inspected By: **Doug Kokesh, Parks & Urban Forestry Superintendent/City Arborist**

Parkway Maintenance Report: ☐

Tree Species: **Eucalyptus ficifolia F1** Removal Cost: (DBH x $20.00)= **$ 880.00**

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

Trunk Diameter: **44 Inches** Size of Right-of-Way: **10 Feet**

Health: Good☒ Fair☐ Poor☐ Date of Last Pruning: **05/05/14**

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes☐ No☒

Likelihood of survival: Good☐ Fair☐ Poor☒

Comments: **Extensive root system. Root ball requirements for this size of tree would impacted street, curb & gutter, private driveway and walkway. Estimated tree value $9,830.00**

Concrete Damage: Yes☐ No☒

If Yes, describe damage:

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

Root Pruning Comments: **The tree's lignotuber was recently cut to accommodate installation of new curb & gutter. Additional root pruning would have a negative effect on tree health and stability.**

Date of Response to Resident: _____

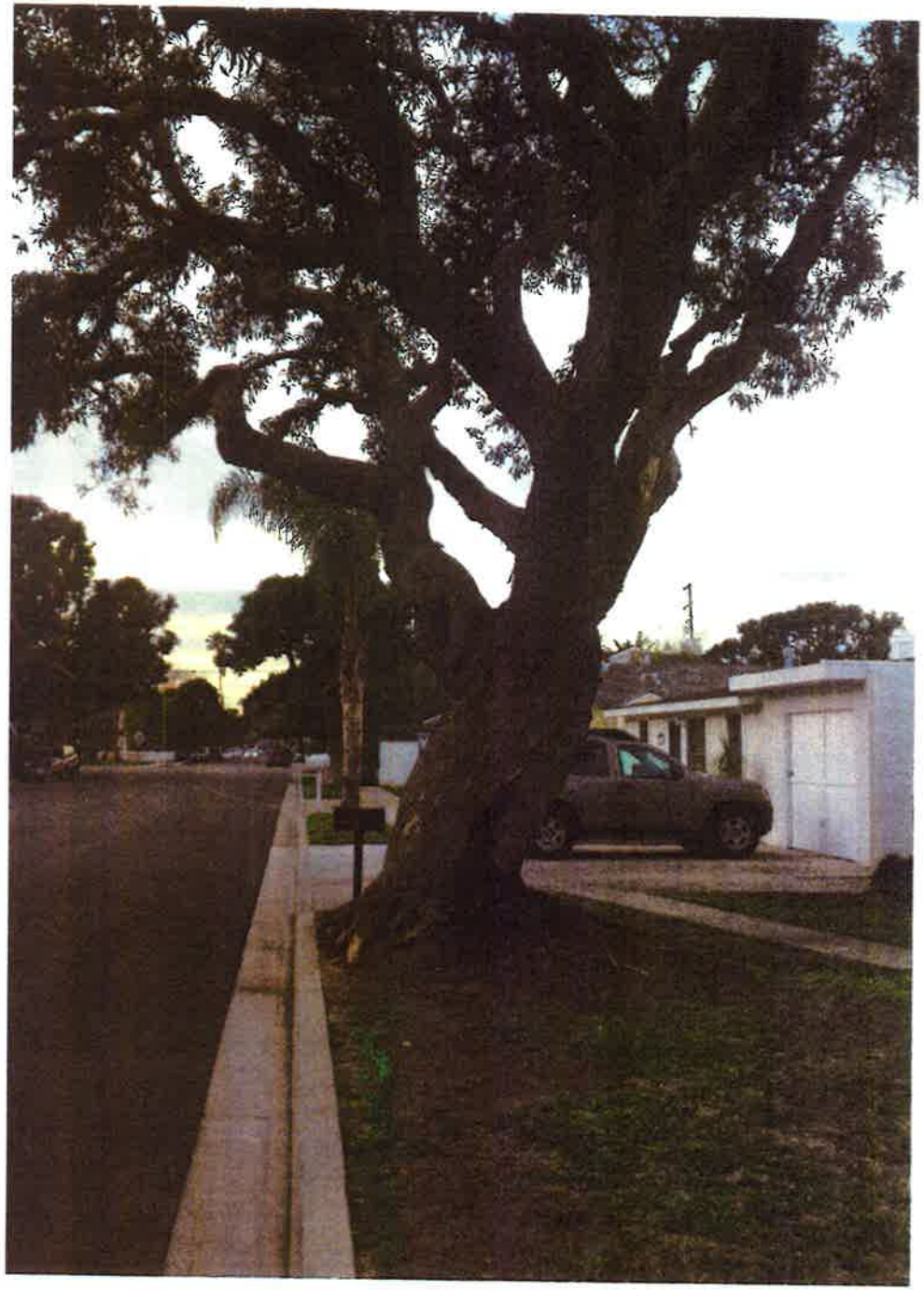
Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes☒ No☐ Date Photos Taken: **12/0414**

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

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

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

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

ATTACHMENT #3