



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2015

ITEM NUMBER: 8c

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 2822 ELLESMERE AVE

DATE: OCTOBER 8, 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

Approve the request to remove three (3) City owned parkway trees growing in the public right-of-way at 2822 Ellesmere Avenue.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was initially contacted by the Applicants on September 15, 2015, stating that they would like to replace the turf in the parkways in the front and side of the residence with drought tolerant plants and to discuss the possible removal of the three (3) parkway trees. The property is located on the corner of Ellesmere Avenue and Pitcairn Drive.

On October 6, 2015, the City Arborist inspected the trees. The Arborist initially determined that the trees did not meet the criteria to be removed by the City at no cost to the Applicant (Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal).

The Applicants submitted the request via electronic mail to the Maintenance Services Manager on October 5, 2015. See Attachment 1. In the letter the Applicant provides two main reasons for the removal request:

1. The trees are damaging the property and are menacing.
2. The Applicants are in the process of designing and costing out a new drought tolerant landscaping for the parkways as part of the water district turf removal program.

On October 8, 2015, the Arborist received a DVD and plumbing invoices documenting the inspection and cleaning of the sewer lateral. The DVD provided the documentation necessary to categorize the F-1 tree as a Category 1 removal.

ANALYSIS

The three (3) trees are Cajeput Trees, *Melaleuca leucadendra*. The trees were found to be in good health with no apparent structural issues or diseases present. The trees range in height from approximately twenty-five (25') feet to forty (40') feet, with trunk diameters ranging from eleven (11") inches to sixteen (16") inches. They are growing in parkways

that are five and one-half feet (5.5') in width, with sidewalks that are four feet (4') in width. The trees have been maintained by the City on a consistent 3-4 year cycle and were last trimmed in February 2014. See Attachment 2.

During the Arborist inspection, it was observed that roots of the trees on Pitcairn Drive have filled the parkways completely from side to side and have roots spreading for several feet in both directions from the trunks of the two trees.

There were multiple locations where lifted sidewalks were previously ground smooth. There is one location, adjacent to the F-1 tree growing in front of the home on the Ellesmere side of the property, that is lifted approximately 3/8" and is in need of grinding. Due to the extensive roots on both sides of the S-1 and S-2 trees, root pruning is not a viable solution, as it would only address the issues on one side of each tree and would involve severe pruning within a foot of the main trunk. The extensive root grinding necessary to allow for the re-landscaping and irrigating of the parkway would also cause a significant amount of stress to the trees. The trees, at maturity, will be approximately forty feet in height and will have trunk diameters of twenty-five to thirty inches (25-30") in diameter, significantly larger than they are at present.

The F-1 tree is causing sewer lateral problems and meets the criteria for a Category 1 removal. The S-1 and S-2 trees are currently not a risk to health and safety; are not dead, diseased or dying and do not appear to be creating any significant exposure to liability for the City. The trees do not meet the criteria for a staff level authorization for removal, as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards. However, the City Arborist supports the removal of these two trees due to the extensive root systems, the lack of any reasonable management solutions and the observable beginnings of damage to curb, gutter and sidewalk adjacent to them.

The City Arborist evaluated the trees for possible relocation, but believes due to the large size, high cost of relocating the trees and the low value of this species, relocation is not recommended.

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

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

1. The Commission could authorize the removal of the three trees as a Category 1 – 'Health and Safety' removal with all removals and replacement costs paid for by the City and determine if replacement trees are to be planted.
2. The Commission could authorize the removal and replacement of one or all of the trees, per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 Category 3 – Discretionary Removals, which would require the replacement of the trees with three (3) twenty-four inch box-size trees and six (6) fifteen gallon-size trees to be planted elsewhere on City property. The applicant would pay all removal and replacement costs.

If the tree removals are approved by the Commission, the payment for the removal of the parkway trees and any required mitigation trees must be provided to the City prior to removal and 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 trees was denied, or approved as a Category 3 - Discretionary Removal, as the Applicant would pay all costs.

For the Commission's information, removal cost for these trees would be \$650. The replanting costs for the mitigation trees (3 – 24" box sizes and 6 – 15 gallon container sizes) would be \$1,275. Costs are based on current City contract prices. The total costs for removal and replacement would be \$1,925.

If approved as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal, the costs to the City for the removal would be \$650; with a cost of \$675 for the installation of three (3) 24" box-size replacement trees. Total cost would be \$1,325.

The combined value of the three trees is estimated to be \$9,780.

LEGAL REVIEW

No legal review is required for this item.

CONCLUSION

The City-owned trees that have been requested to be removed at City expense are located within the public right-of-way at 2822 Ellesmere Avenue. The trees are in good condition, have been maintained appropriately on a regular schedule. One tree (F-1) is causing damage to a sewer lateral and is recommended to be removed at City expense. The other two trees (S-1 and S-2) do not meet the criteria for removal. However, due to the current damage, excessive roots and the potential for future damage to curb, gutter and sidewalk, without practical management solutions, it is recommended that the Commission approve the request to have the trees removed.



BRUCE A. HARTLEY
Maintenance Services Manager



ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Letter From Resident
 2. Tree Information and Maintenance History
 3. Photographs

C: Mike and Mona McClanahan
 2822 Ellesmere Avenue
 Costa Mesa, CA 92626

ORTIZ, JIM

From: Mike & Mona [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 10:08 AM
To: ORTIZ, JIM
Subject: mike and mona tree removal letter

October 3, 2015

Dear Mr. Hartley,

I am requesting the removal of the three melaleuca/paper bark trees at the home address: 2822 Ellesmere Ave., Costa Mesa. Please allow a timely removal of these property damaging and menacing trees as we are in the process of designing and costing out a new drought tolerant landscaping (part of the water district turf removal program).

Sincerely,

Mona and Mike McClanahan
[REDACTED]

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

ATTACHMENT #2

Date Request Received: October 5, 2015
Name of Resident: Mike & Mona McClanahan Requesting Party: Same
Address: 2822 Ellesmere Ave Address: Same

Date Inspected: October 6, 2015
Inspected By: Jim Ortiz

Tree Species: Cajeput Tree – F1 Removal Cost: (DBH x \$ 20.00)= \$ 320.00
Height: 40 Feet Width of Sidewalk: 4 Feet
Trunk Diameter: 16 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: 5.5 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: February 28, 2014

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments:

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: **Minor sidewalk lifting**

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

Root Pruning Comments:

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: October 6, 2015

Photo #1: Looking North

Photo #2: Looking South

Photo #3: Front of Tree

Photo #4: Base of Tree

Site Detail (33.673269212114,-117.93009687084)					
District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
12	2822 ELLESMERE AV	Front-1	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> CAJEPUT TREE	13-18	30-45
Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	\$3,260	Parkway	5
Utility	Valid				
No	Yes				
Work History					
Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job #/Acct #	Amount	
WCA	2/25/2014	Grid Prune - 15% thinning	25119	\$46.00	
WCA	10/29/2010	Grid Pruning	16780	\$46.60	
WCA	8/30/2007	Grid Pruning	11049	\$45.10	
WCA	2/12/2004	Grid Trimming	6173	\$41.50	
WCA	1/30/2001	Grid Trimming	3569	\$40.10	
Notes					

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

Date Request Received: October 5, 2015
Name of Resident: Mike & Mona McClanahan Requesting Party: Same
Address: 2822 Ellesmere Ave Address: Same

Date Inspected: October 6, 2015
Inspected By: Jim Ortiz

Tree Species: Cajeput Tree – S1 Removal Cost: (DBH x \$15.00)= \$ 165.00
Height: 25 Feet Width of Sidewalk: 4 Feet
Trunk Diameter: 11 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: 5.5 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: February 28, 2014

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments:

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: **Minor sidewalk lifting**

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

Root Pruning Comments:

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: October 6, 2015

Photo #1: Looking West

Photo #2: Looking East

Photo #3: Front of Tree

Photo #4: Base of Tree

Site Detail (33.673126184976,-117.92985784038)					
District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
12	2822 ELLESMERE AV On: 1740 PITCAIRN DR	Side-1	Melaleuca quinquenervia CAJEPUT TREE	13-18	15-30
Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	\$3,260	Parkway	5
Utility	Valid				
No	Yes				
Work History					
Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job #/Acct #	Amount	
WCA	2/28/2014	Grid Prune - 15% thinning	25119	\$46.00	
WCA	10/28/2010	Grid Pruning	16780	\$46.60	
WCA	8/30/2007	Grid Pruning	11049	\$45.10	
WCA	2/18/2004	Grid Trimming	6173	\$41.50	
Notes					

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

Date Request Received: October 5, 2015
Name of Resident: Mike & Mona McClanahan Requesting Party: Same
Address: 2822 Ellesmere Ave Address: Same

Date Inspected: October 6, 2015
Inspected By: Jim Ortiz

Tree Species: Cajeput Tree – S2 Removal Cost: (DBH x \$15.00)= \$ 165.00
Height: 35 Feet Width of Sidewalk: 4 Feet
Trunk Diameter: 11 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: 5.5 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: February 28, 2014

Is the Tree a good candidate for Relocation? Yes No

Likelihood of survival: Good Fair Poor

Comments:

Concrete Damage: Yes No

If Yes, describe damage: **Minor sidewalk lifting**

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

Root Pruning Comments:

Date of Response to Resident: _____

Date Information Packet Mailed: _____

Photos Taken: Yes No Date Photos Taken: October 6, 2015

Photo #1: Looking West
Photo #2: Looking East
Photo #3: Front of Tree
Photo #4: Base of Tree

Site Detail (33.673127165847,-117.92996823517)

District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
12	2822 ELLESMERE AV On: 1740 PITCAIRN DR	Side-2	Melaleuca quinquenervia CAJEPUT TREE	13-18	15-30
Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	\$3,260	Parkway	5
Utility	Valid				
No	Yes				

Work History

Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job #/Acct #	Amount
WCA	2/28/2014	Grid Prune - 15% thinning	25119	\$46.00
WCA	10/28/2010	Grid Pruning	16780	\$46.60
WCA	8/30/2007	Grid Pruning	11049	\$45.10
WCA	2/18/2004	Grid Trimming	6173	\$41.50

Notes



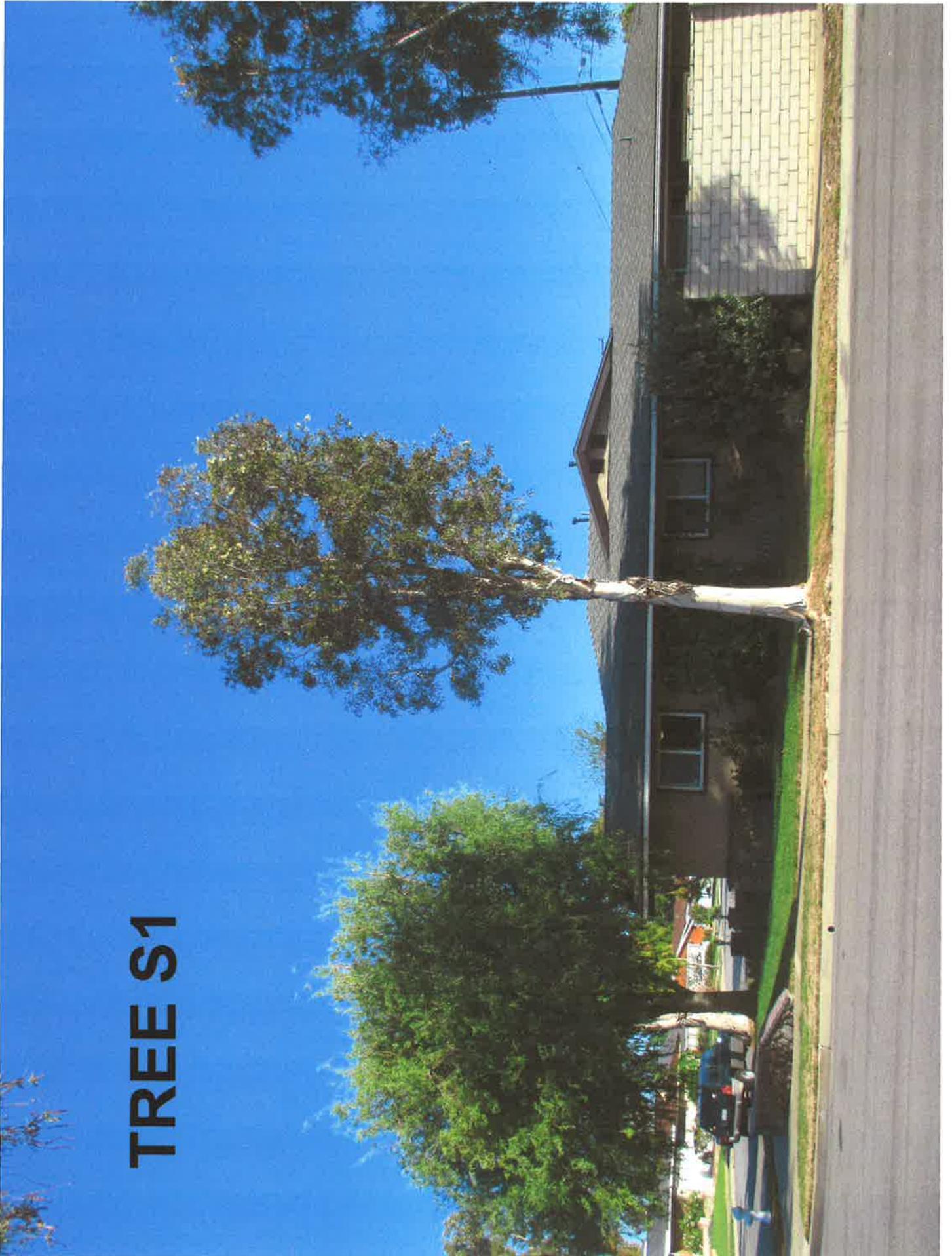
TREE F1







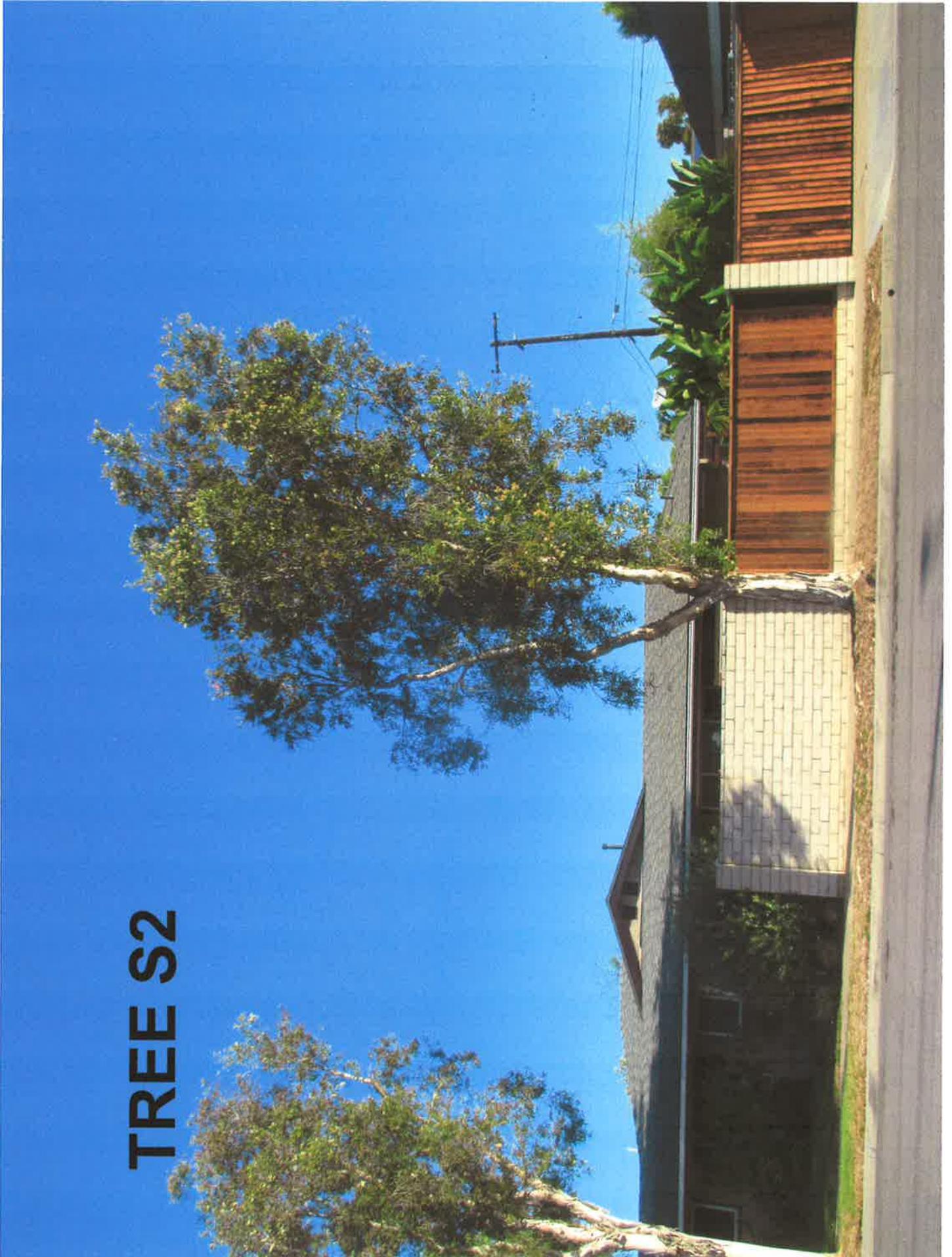
TREE S1





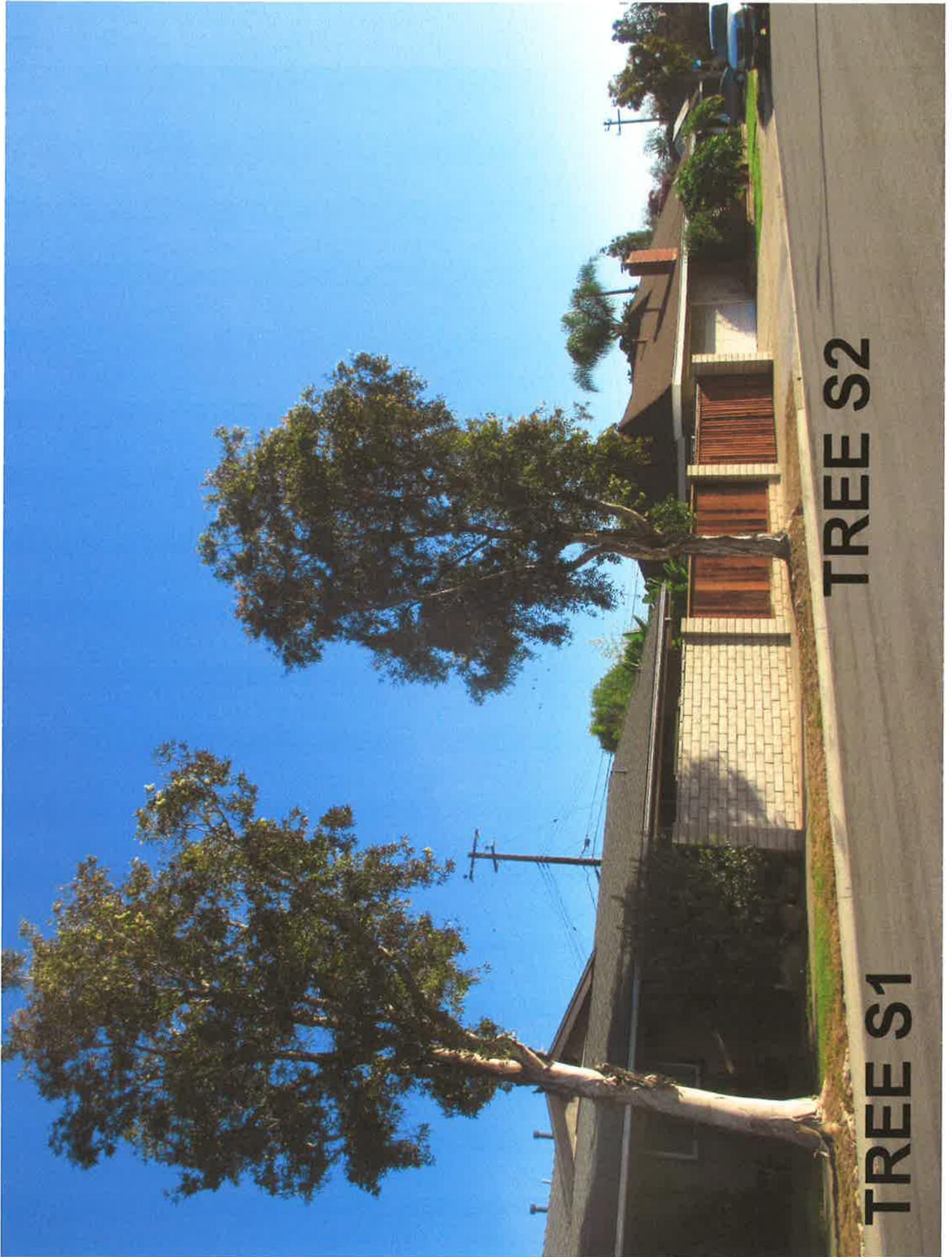


TREE S2





TREE S2 BASE



TREE S2

TREE S1