



# **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT**

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MEETING DATE: JANUARY 28, 2016

ITEM NUMBER: **9a**

**SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 2743 GANNETT DRIVE**  
**DATE: JANUARY 7, 2016**  
**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**

Deny the request to remove one (1) City owned parkway tree growing in the public right-of-way at 2743 Gannett Drive at City expense.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Maintenance Services Division was initially contacted by the Applicant via telephone on November 13, 2015, stating that they are having plumbing issues and believe the tree is too big for the parkway. The City Arborists contacted the resident and e-mailed both the City's tree removal criteria and the Costa Mesa Sanitation District's S.L.A.P. (sewer lateral assistance program) information to assist the resident with the sewer issues.

On November 16, 2015, the City Arborist inspected the tree and evaluated the reported problems associated with the tree. The property owner was present during the inspection. It was observed that the sidewalk had been ground previously in a few locations associated with the tree. One area on the sidewalk is lifted and will be ground in the near future. There were no other significant issues related to the tree observed. There was evidence of tree roots affecting the street. The tree did not meet the criteria to be removed by the City at no cost to the Applicant (Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal).

On December 16, 2015, the City Arborist contacted the resident and informed the resident that if requested, the tree will be agendized for the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. The City Arborist informed the resident that the City would root prune and install 18" root barrier panels.

The Applicant submitted a letter requesting the removal of the tree dated December 22, 2015. See Attachment 1.

## **ANALYSIS**

The tree is a Canary Island Pine, *Pinus canariensis*. The tree is in good health with no apparent structural issues or diseases present. The tree is approximately sixty feet (60') in height with a trunk diameter of twenty-one inches (21"). It is growing in a five (5) foot wide irrigated turf parkway adjacent to a four (4) foot wide sidewalk. The tree has been

maintained by the City on a consistent 3-4 year cycle and was last trimmed on December 3, 2015. See Attachment 2.

The tree is not a risk to health and safety, is not dead, diseased or dying and does not appear to be creating any significant exposure to liability for the City. 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 due to the size, low probability of success and the cost of relocating the tree, 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 1 – ‘Health and Safety’ removal with all removal and replacement costs paid for by the City and determine if a replacement tree is to be planted.
2. The Commission could authorize the removal and replacement of the tree, per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.2 Category 2 – Accelerated Removals, which would require the replacement of the tree with one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree and two (2) fifteen gallon-size trees to be planted elsewhere on City property. The applicant would pay all removal and replacement costs.

If the tree removal is approved by the Commission, the payment for the removal of the parkway tree 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 tree was denied, or approved as a Category 2 - Accelerated Removal, as the Applicant would pay all costs.

For the Commission’s information, removal cost for this tree would be \$420. The replanting costs for the mitigation trees (1 – 24” box size and 2 – 15 gallon container size) would be \$425. Costs are based on current City contract prices. The total cost for removal and replacement would be \$845.

If approved as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal, the cost to the City for the removal would be \$420; with a cost of \$225 for the installation of one 24” box-size replacement tree. Total cost would be \$645.

The value of the tree is estimated to be \$9,110.

## **LEGAL REVIEW**

No legal review is required for this item.

## CONCLUSION

The City-owned tree that has been requested to be removed at City expense is located in the public right-of-way at 2743 Gannett Drive. The tree is in good condition, has been maintained appropriately on a regular schedule. It is causing minor damage to the sidewalk but does not meet the criteria for a 'no-cost' removal. It is recommended that the Commission deny the request to have the City incur the removal and replacement cost.

  
BRUCE A. HARTLEY  
Maintenance Services Manager

  
ERNESTO MUNOZ  
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Letter From Resident Requesting Removal  
2. Tree Information & Maintenance History  
3. Photographs

C: Edward Martindale III  
2743 Gannett Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

**Edward Martindale III**  
2743 Gannet Drive • Costa Mesa, CA 92626

ATTACHMENT #1

RECEIVED  
JAN 04 2016

December 22, 2015

Dear Bruce,

I am contacting you at Jim Ortiz's suggestion to see what we can do to get our over 60' tall pine tree removed that is causing a lot of damage. Jim agreed about the damage but said that since the tree is healthy his hands are tied.

Our city pine is the tallest tree on Gannet Drive. We are in the process of having our custom driveway redone for thousands of dollars because of the extreme root damage that has popped many of our bricks out. The asphalt in the street is also coming up and many of the pine cones are like rocks and leave dents on parked cars when they fall. We also have to get our sewer drain reamed out at least twice a year because of roots that invade toward the middle of the street.

Jim Ortiz has suggested more root barriers, which haven't worked in the past, and if deeper barriers are installed it could easily affect the stability of the tree. We had a commercial landscape company evaluate the tree and the owner, who has a degree from Cal Poly in this field, said that if deeper root barriers are installed there is a significant risk that the tree could blow over during high winds. This is a very scary thought for us with the projected El Nino coming our way in early 2016.

We love trees and have prolonged the decision to contact the City of Costa Mesa about removing our pine but we now deem our tree to be a hazard and are frustrated by the significant damage that it has already caused. I would think that the liability alone would motivate the city to agree to our request.

Thanks for your consideration and we'll look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



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

ATTACHMENT #2

Date Request Received: January 6, 2016  
Name of Resident: Edward Martindale III Requesting Party: Same  
Address: 2743 Gannett Dr. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Inspected: November 16, 2015  
Inspected By: Jim Ortiz

Tree Species: Canary Island Pine Removal Cost: (DBH x \$ 20.00)= \$ 360.00  
Height: 60 Feet Width of Sidewalk: 5.5'  
Trunk Diameter: 21 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: 10'

Health: Good  Fair  Poor  Date of Last Pruning: 12/03/15

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 lifting in three (3) areas of the sidewalk. One (1) sidewalk panel has lifted and will need to be ground in the future.

Can the Tree be Root Pruned: Yes  No  Date: N/A

Root Pruning Comments: Tree evaluated. Recommendation is to root prune and add 18" root barrier panels.

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

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

Photos Taken: Yes  No  Date Photos Taken: 11/16/15 & 1/07/16

Photo #1: Street view looking north

Photo #2: Street view looking south

Photo #3: Front of tree

Photo #4: Base of tree

<b>Site Detail</b> (33.670719172885,-117.93934850937)(WCA InventoryID: 1957931)					
District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
16	2743 GANNET DR	Front-1	<i>Pinus canariensis</i> CANARY ISLAND PINE	19-24	45-60
Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	\$9,110	Parkway	5
Utility	Valid				
No	Yes				
<b>Work History</b>					
Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job #/Acct #	Amount	
WCA	12/3/2015	Crown Reduction/Restoration	31556	\$148.00	
WCA	7/9/2012	Grid Pruning	22374	\$46.60	
WCA	4/10/2009	Grid Pruning	12656	\$46.60	
WCA	1/15/2007	Grid Pruning	9754	\$41.50	
WCA	4/2/2004	Grid Trimming	6173	\$41.50	
WCA	5/11/2001	Grid Trimming	3569	\$40.10	
<b>Notes</b>					

**Subject:**

Resident Wants Tree Removed

**Detailed description:**

Resident Is having plumbing issues and believes the tree is too big for the parkway.

**Req'd date:**

2015-11-16 ( Request entered by: Jim Ortiz )

**Req'd by:**

Marty Martingdale

**Location:**

2743 Gannett Dr

**Phone:**  
[REDACTED]

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**Work Order Nr:**

15111785

**District:**

0

**Supervisor:**

City Arborist

**Employee:**

Ortiz, Jim

**Call back needed:**

N

**Contacted date:**

2015-11-13

**OSHA safety concern:**

N

**Status:**

In Progress

**Completion date:**

0000-00-00

**Inspection date:**

2015-11-13

**Hours:**

0 Minutes: 45

**Material cost:**

0.00

**Action taken:**

11/13/15 - Contacted by resident who wants his tree removed. Concerned about plumbing issues, tree too big for parkway, cones damaging cars and concerned about cones dropping on people who use the sidewalk and damage to his infrastructure. I called the resident back and spoke to his wife. She e-mailed me and I e-mailed her the criteria for tree removal and the CMSD SLAP program. Resident called to discuss tree issues. I contacted resident and we spoke about his concerns. I told the resident that I would inspect the tree in the public parkway next week to determine health of tree. I also told the resident that I would root prune and install 18" root barrier panels. If resident still wants tree removed, I will assist him for this tree to be agendized on a P.R.C. report in January 2016 - JO 11/16/15 - Inspected tree this morning and the tree is healthy. Resident came out and still wants tree removed. I told him that we would need to have the tree agendized on the next PRC meeting in January - JO 12/16/15 - E-mailed by resident asking for tree to be agendized on the next PRC meeting. I e-mailed resident back and informed him what he needs to be have the tree in the public right-of-way to be agendized onto a PrC meeting possibly in January of 2016 - JO

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