PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 **ITEM NUMBER: 10b**

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 2095 VALLEY RD

DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 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

RECOMMENDATION

Deny the request to remove one (1) City owned parkway tree growing in the public right-of-way at 2095 Valley Road.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was initially contacted by the Applicant via telephone on April 29, 2016, concerned that the roots of the City's Canary Island pine tree were lifting the sidewalk on the Sea Bluff Drive side of their property and that the roots would inevitably cause damage to a newly installed block wall. Work orders were generated for the evaluation of the tree and for maintenance/repair of the lifted concrete sidewalk. Following the evaluation of the tree by the City Arborist, the Applicant's request for removal was denied. The Applicant submitted a letter requesting that the removal of the tree be reconsidered. See Attachment 1.

ANALYSIS

On May 2, 2016 raised joints in the sidewalk were ground in four locations, with gaps between panels filled with concrete. That same day, the City Arborist inspected the tree and evaluated the reported problems. The property owner was present during the inspection.

The tree being requested for removal is a Canary Island Pine, *Pinus canariensis*. It is one of two growing in the public right-of-way adjacent to the Applicant's property. The tree (S-1) is approximately sixty-feet (60') in height with a trunk diameter of twenty inches (20"). It is growing in a five foot (5') wide irrigated turf parkway. The trunk of the tree is seven feet five inches (7'-5") away from the Applicant's masonry wall. The tree has been maintained by the City on a consistent 3-4 year cycle. The tree was trimmed last on May 14, 2013. The tree was found to be in good health with a slight lean towards the street and no observable structural defects or signs of disease present.

On July 20, 2016 the City's tree maintenance contractor root pruned the adjacent Canary Island Pine tree (S-2), However the S-1 tree was not root pruned due to the lean of the tree heading away from the side of the tree that the root pruning would have taken place on. With such a large, full tree, there was concern regarding the potential for Santa Ana

winds to possibly cause the tree to fail if a significant portion of the tree's roots were pruned. The S-2 tree was successfully root pruned, with eighteen inch (18") deep root barriers installed. See Attachment 2.

The sidewalk adjacent to the tree has been ground previously due the lifting by the roots of the tree. There is minor cracking in the street and some displacement of the curb also attributable to the tree. See Attachment 3. At this time there is no damage to private property. The depth of the footing on the adjacent private property wall is unknown, as is the predictability of roots eventually causing damage to the wall. At this time, there are no maintenance activities that could provide remedies without compromising the integrity of the tree.

The S-1 tree does not meet the criteria to be removed by the City as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal. 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 City Arborist evaluated the tree for possible relocation, but believes due to the size, low probability of success and the high 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 $406. 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 $831.

If approved as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal, the cost to the City for the removal would be $406; with a cost of $225 for the installation of one 24" box-size replacement tree. Total cost would be $631.

The value of the tree is estimated to be $4,890.

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 2095 Valley Road. The tree is in good condition, has been maintained appropriately on a regular schedule and is causing minor damage to the sidewalk; it 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

JIM ROSS
Interim Public Services Director

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

C: Chad Parker
2095 Valley Road
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

ATTACHMENT #1

RECEIVED AUG 24 2016

Chad Parker
2095 Valley Rd
Costa Mesa, CA. 92627
[redacted]

August 17th, 2016

Mr. Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
City of Costa Mesa
77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA. 92628-1200

Dear Mr. Bruce Hartley,

We are composing this letter to you for the removal of a Canary Island Pine Tree in the public right-of-way on Sea Bluff Drive in Costa Mesa.

The Canary Island Pine Tree root system is causing the sidewalk on Sea Bluff Drive to be compromised. Mr. Jim Ortiz has already sent someone out to cut the root system on one of the trees, but informed us that the other tree is too close to the corner and therefor the root system cannot be cut.

The root system will inevitably cause the block wall we recently built to also be compromised. We followed all of the instructions set by the City of Costa Mesa, submitted all of the proper paperwork, and obtained the permit to have the wall constructed. I do not want all of our hard work and money spent in building the wall to be wasted.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and hope you will take the removal of the Canary Island Pine Tree into consideration.

Sincerely,

Chad and Marie Parker

ATTACHMENT #2

Site Detail (33.650447949638,-117.94606246395)(WCA InventoryID: 1558369)

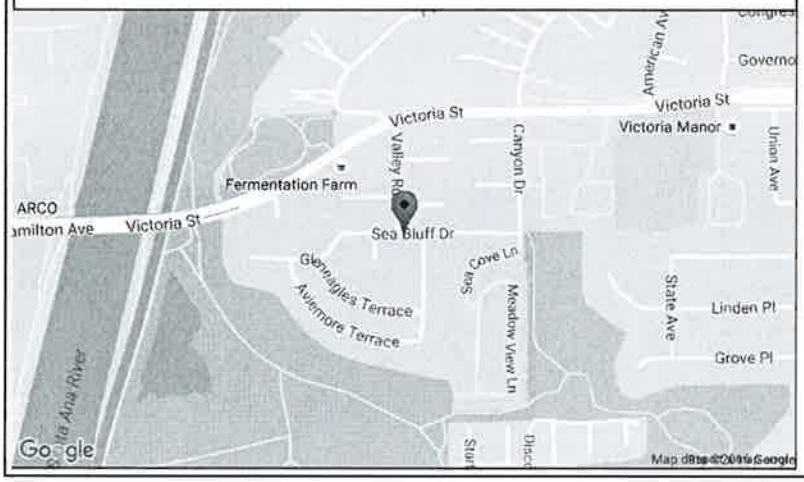
District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
21	2095 VALLEY RD *On: 1115 SEA BLUFF DR*	Side-2	*Pinus canariensis* CANARY ISLAND PINE	31+	30-45

Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	$25,820	Parkway	5

Utility	Valid
No	Yes

Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job # / Acct #	Amount
WCA	07/15/2016	Root Prune/18" RB Installation (CANARY ISLAND PINE)	35178	$594.75
WCA	05/14/2013	Grid Prune	22986	$46.00
WCA	05/06/2010	Grid Pruning	14385	$46.60
WCA	04/16/2009	Grid Pruning	12656	$46.60
WCA	01/17/2007	Grid Pruning	9754	$41.50
WCA	09/19/2003	Grid Trimming	6173	$41.50
WCA	10/24/2000	Grid Trimming	3569	$40.10

Hide Map



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Site Detail (33.650450176031,-117.94595872112)(WCA InventoryID: 1558368)

District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
21	2095 VALLEY RD *On: 1115 SEA BLUFF DR*	Side-1	*Pinus canariensis* CANARY ISLAND PINE	13-18	45-60

Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	$4,890	Parkway	5

Utility	Valid
No	Yes

Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job # / Acct #	Amount
WCA	05/14/2013	Grid Prune	22986	$46.00
WCA	05/06/2010	Grid Pruning	14385	$46.60
WCA	04/16/2009	Grid Pruning	12656	$46.60
WCA	01/17/2007	Grid Pruning	9754	$41.50
WCA	09/19/2003	Grid Trimming	6173	$41.50
WCA	10/24/2000	Grid Trimming	3569	$40.10

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

Date Request Received: August 17, 2016

Name of Resident: Chad Parker | Requesting Party: Same

Address: 2095 Valley Rd | Address: Same

Date Inspected: **September 1, 2016**

Inspected By: **Jim Ortiz**

Tree Species: **Canary Island Pine (S-1)** | Removal Cost: (DBH x $20.30)= $ **406.00**

Height: **60 Feet** | Width of Sidewalk: **5 Feet**

Trunk Diameter: **20 Inches** | Size of Right-of-Way: **10 Feet**

Health: Good☒ Fair☐ Poor☐ | Date of Last Pruning: **May 14, 2013**

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

Likelihood of survival: Good☐ Fair☐ Poor☒

Comments: **Tree will not survive the transplanting**

Concrete Damage: Yes☒ No☐

If Yes, describe damage: **3 areas on sidewalk ground.**

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

Root Pruning Comments: **The City's Tree Contractor will not root prune this tree.**

Date of Response to Resident:

Date Information Packet Mailed:

Photos Taken: Yes☒ No☐ | Date Photos Taken: **9/01/16**

Photo #1: **Tree Facing East**

Photo #2: **Tree Facing West**

Photo #3: **Front of Tree**

Photo #4: **Base of Tree**

ATTACHMENT #3