



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

ITEM NUMBER: 10c

SUBJECT: TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 329 ANDERSON LANE
DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 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 tree growing in Jordan Park, adjacent to 329 Anderson Lane.

BACKGROUND

The Maintenance Services Division was initially contacted by the Applicant via telephone on August 24, 2015 requesting that a tree growing in Jordan Park adjacent to his property be trimmed due to the continuous dropping of needles in his back yard. His home and back yard share a property line with the park. The City Arborist left a voice mail message with the Applicant on August 27, 2015 informing him that all the trees in the park would be trimmed in the next two to four weeks. Rains delayed the trimming until October, when all of the trees in Jordan Park were trimmed.

On August 16, 2016 the Applicant contacted the City Arborist by telephone. He stated that he is concerned for the safety of his two young children. According to the Applicant the tree drops debris on his yard and that while playing in the yard his son has nearly been hit by falling pine cones and debris; with one pine cone hitting his arm. In addition to the Applicant's concern for the safety of his children, the tree also drops pine needles, branches and frequently drips sap into his yard that make a mess, kill his plants and has destroyed his patio furniture.

The Arborist informed him that he would evaluate the tree, but that the tree had been pruned within the past year and that the City would not likely be trimming the tree again for at least three years.

August 19, 2016 the City Arborist inspected the tree. The Canary Island Pine, *Pinus canariensis*, was found to be in good health with no apparent structural defects or diseases observed. That same day, the Arborist contacted the resident via e-mail confirming that the tree was healthy and that it would not be approved for removal and that the Applicant would need to have the request agendized onto the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. The Applicant submitted a written request dated August 26, 2016. See Attachment 1.

ANALYSIS

The tree is approximately fifty-feet (55') in height with a trunk diameter of twenty-five inches (25"). Although a mature tree, this species may reach sixty feet to eighty feet (60 - 80') or more in height, with a spread of twenty feet (20') or more. It is growing in Jordan Park, adjacent to the Applicant's residence. The tree is approximately eight feet (8') away from the Applicant's block wall. The tree has been maintained by the City on a consistent three to four (3-4) year cycle. The tree is likely more than thirty years old. The tree was last pruned on October 2, 2015. At that time, the tree was trimmed more significantly than a typical pruning, which removes a higher percentage of branches and foliage, referred to as a 'crown reduction' pruning. This level of pruning has been instituted in the past few years to address frequent resident complaints generated by the needles and cones that the pine trees generate. See Attachments 2 and 3.

The tree is located immediately adjacent to the newer homes that were constructed on a large lot subdivision to the north of the park. The development created a new street with homes backing up to the entire northern boundary of the park. The Maintenance Division has received requests from residents to add additional trees along that area for a screen/buffer from the park.

It is the opinion of staff, that the tree is not a significant risk to health and safety beyond that of a typical tree of this species. It is not dead, diseased or dying and does not appear to be creating any significant exposure to liability for the City. The needles, cones and small branches that fall from the tree are a natural occurrence. The tree does not meet the criteria for a staff level authorization for removal, as stated in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards. It may be considered by the Commission as a Category 2 – Accelerated Removal, should a determination be made by the Commission that it meets the removal criteria.

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 provided by the Applicant, with the planting location determined by the Commission. 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 park 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 \$507.50. 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 \$932.50.

If approved as a Category 1 – Health and Safety Removal, the cost to the City for the removal would be \$507.50; with a cost of \$225 for the installation of one 24" box-size replacement tree. Total cost would be \$732.50.

The value of the tree is estimated to be \$14,740.

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 Jordan Park, adjacent to the Applicant's residence at 329 Anderson Lane. The tree is in good condition, has been maintained appropriately on a regular schedule, does not pose a significant liability to the City and does not meet the criteria for 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



JAMES G. ROSS
Interim Public Services Director

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

C: Jonathan Knox
329 Anderson Lane
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

RECEIVED
AUG 30 2016

August 26, 2016

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

RE: Request to remove Canary Island Pine
Location: Jordan Park, Costa Mesa & 329 Anderson Ln, Costa Mesa

Dear Mr. Hartley,

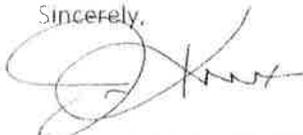
I am writing you today to ask for your consideration to remove the Canary Island Pine that is located in the far back right corner in Jordan Park. My utmost main concern and reason for this request is for the safety of my two young children. My home and back yard back up to the park and the tree in question, and in multiple occasions my son has been playing in the yard and a nearly have been hit by falling pine cones and debris and once actually getting hit his arm. I already have to be aware of the baseball field on the other side of the fence when older kids are hitting to be on watch for balls being hit into our yard as this also happens often. With the baseballs I can at least be aware and tell my son to come inside since I can see them playing on the field, with the tree I have no warning and not want the next falling pine cone to seriously injure them.

In the addition to the safety of my children of falling objects, the tree produces an overwhelming amount of dropping needles, branches and sap that fall into our yard that not only makes a mess they also kill our plants and flowers and has destroyed our patio furniture, I estimate damages of over \$3000.

The Canary Island Pine is a nuisance tree species as it over produces tree waste in the form of sap, needles, pine cones and branches and should be reconsidered and categorized as a "Problem Tree Species". Jordan Park has four Canary Island Pines along the far back fence where it borders the school field and batting cage, in the far back right corner there is also three Tipu Trees that share the space with the pines and feel that the area is over planted.

I appreciate your time and consideration with my letter, I hope you see my concerns and agree with my request to remove the one tree closest to my property line.

Sincerely,



Jonathan & Michelle Knox
329 Anderson Ln
Costa Mesa, CA 92627



Enclosure: Picture of fallen pinecone in our yard.



Site Detail (33.643847882002,-117.90039684915)(WCA InventoryID: 6477872)						
District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height	
27	2 JORDAN PARK	Park-17	<i>Pinus canariensis</i> CANARY ISLAND PINE	25-30	60+	
Condition	Maintenance	Removal Priority	Estimated Value	Parkway Type	Parkway Size	
Good	Grid Trim	N/A	\$14,740	Other	99	
Utility	Valid					
No	Yes					
Crew	Work Date	Work Type	Job # / Acct #	Amount		
WCA	10/02/2015	Crown Reduction/Restoration	31556	\$148.00		
WCA	03/05/2013	Grid Prune	22986	\$46.00		
WCA	02/02/2010	Grid Pruning	14385	\$46.60		

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

Date Request Received: August 26, 2016
Name of Resident: Jonathan Knox Requesting Party: Same
Address: 329 Anderson Ave Address: Same

Date Inspected: September 1, 2016 – Tree is located in Jordan Park
Inspected By: Jim Ortiz

Tree Species: Canary Island Pine (P-17) Removal Cost: (DBH x \$20.30)= \$ 507.50
Height: 55 Feet Width of Sidewalk: 0 Feet
Trunk Diameter: 25 Inches Size of Right-of-Way: 0 Feet

Health: Good Fair Poor Date of Last Pruning: October 2, 2015

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: **N/A**

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

Root Pruning Comments:

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**







