

BEAUTIFICATION/LANDSCAPE/TREE COMMITTEE

A G E N D A

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

4:30 p.m.

Public Works Conference Room, First Floor, City Hall

A. ROLL CALL

Council Member Jill Hardy
Council Member Barbara Delgleize
Council Member Billy O'Connell
Travis Hopkins, Director of Public Works
Denny Bacon, Maintenance Operations Manager
Randy Menzel, Tree Supervisor
Sarah Whitecotton, Administrative Secretary

B. MINUTES

B-1. October 27, 2015 Regular Meeting

C. ACTION ITEMS

C-1. Eucalyptus (White Iron Bark) Tree Removal Located at 1751 Main Street

Recommended Action- Approve the Removal of the Eucalyptus (White Iron Bark)
Tree Located at 1751 Main Street

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

None

E. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

None

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

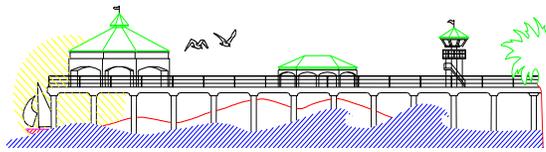
The Beautification/Landscape/Tree Committee welcomes public comments on all items on this agenda or of community interest. **Each speaker is allotted three minutes**; time may not be donated to others. The Committee can only take action on items that are on this agenda. This is the time to address the Committee regarding items of interest or agenda items other than public hearings.

G. COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS

None

H. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2016.



BEAUTIFICATION/LANDSCAPE/TREE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 27, 2015

A. ROLL CALL

Committee Member Jill Hardy
Committee Member Billy O'Connell
Committee Member Barbara Delgleize
Travis Hopkins, Director of Public Works
Denny Bacon, Maintenance Operations Manager
Randy Menzel, Tree Supervisor
Sarah Whitecotton, Administrative Secretary

B. MINUTES

B-1. The minutes of the September 22, 2015 were motioned by Committee Member Hardy to be approved. Committee Member Delgleize seconded.

VOTE: The motion carried
AYES: 2
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 1 (O'Connell)

C. ACTION ITEMS

C-1. Zone 12 Residential Pavement Management Project

Recommended Action- Approve the parkway tree removals and replanting for Zone 12 Residential Pavement Management Project. Denny Bacon presented information regarding the removal of 120 (+/- 10%) trees In Maintenance Zone 12. Discussion ensued. Committee Member Delgleize motioned to approve the project and send the recommendation to Council. Committee Member O'Connell seconded

VOTE: The motion carried
AYES: 3
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0

D. INFORMATION ITEMS

None

E. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

None

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Beautification/Landscape/Tree Committee welcomes public comments on all items on this agenda or of community interest. **Each speaker is allotted three minutes**; time may not be donated to others. The Committee can only take action on items that are on this agenda. This is the time to address the Committee regarding items of interest or agenda items other than public hearings.

6 speakers were present. Shari Engel commended Parks staff for work being done at Central Park- additional trash receptacles and staff working is appreciated. The Secret Garden project is going well. Ann Anderson stated that the Tree Society has hired Spectrum to trim trees on Ellis for \$1,200 and that she and Jean are working alongside them. She also thanked City staff for installing decomposed granite in the Urban Forest. Jean Nagy thanked the Women's Club for generously donating \$10,000 towards three drinking fountains for Central Park. At \$3,395 each, the Tree Society will cover the remainder of the cost. She would like Women's Club recognized for their contributions over the last two years. Jean also advised that the Tree Society removed some large infested bushes at Tarbox Park and now there are residents complaining that one resident is storing trash cans and a shed in park. Juana Mueller said that Central Park Drive is being planted and the City side looks great and the triangle will be done by 4th. They would also like the rock commemorating gift of Cherry trees moved between Cherry trees and the Secret Garden. Steve Engel advised Boeing employees gave grant money that will be used in the Secret Garden.

G. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

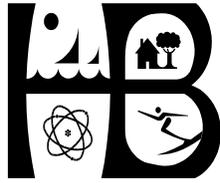
Denny Bacon reminded all present that the Police Department posts Monday and Wednesday mornings that there is no loitering in Central Park and 72 hours later park staff is clearing out the park. Committee Member Billy O'Connell stated that there is a new program to assist the homeless and the Police and Parks Departments have been advised to refer them. Committee Member Barbara Delgleize advised that additional decomposed granite will be installed at the Shipley temporary parking area. Denny Bacon will give permission to David De La Torre to move rock commemorating gift of Cherry trees between Cherry trees and the Secret Garden.

H. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2015.

Committee Member Jill Hardy

Sarah Whitecotton
Administrative Secretary



**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
Beautification, Landscape and Tree Committee
REQUEST FOR ACTION**

SUBMITTED TO: Chairperson and Members of the Committee

VIA: Travis Hopkins, Director of Public Works

SUBMITTED BY: Denny Bacon, Maintenance Operations Manager

DATE: December 1, 2015

SUBJECT: Eucalyptus (White Iron Bark) Tree Removal Located at 1751 Main Street

BACKGROUND: This report is being provided to justify the removal of the Eucalyptus (White Iron Bark) tree located at 1751 Main Street.

On April 24, 2012, the Beautification, Landscape and Tree Committee (BLT) met and approved the removal of 15 parkway trees located on Main Street between Adams Avenue and Utica Avenue for the Main Street Arterial Highway Rehabilitation Project CC-1397. The BLT Committee approved the removals.

At the July 16, 2012, City Council meeting, Councilmember Connie Boardman submitted an "H" item to reconsider Arterial Rehabilitation Project CC-1397 due to concerns raised regarding the removal of the large Eucalyptus (White Iron Bark) tree located at 1751 Main Street.

Councilmember Boardman explained her intent to save a large eucalyptus tree growing within the project area and discussion ensued on how to accomplish that. A motion was made by Boardman, seconded by Harper to award Construction Contract 1397 in the amount of \$1,188,402.00 to All American Asphalt for the Main Street (Adams Avenue to Utica Avenue) and the Garfield Avenue (Delaware Street to Beach Boulevard) Rehabilitation Projects. CC-1397 was amended to include a caveat that the large eucalyptus tree growing within the project be preserved if there is no evidence of damage to homes.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: Shaw, Harper, Dwyer, Carchio, Bohr, and Boardman NOES: Hansen.

The project commenced and the Eucalyptus (White Iron Bark) tree located at 1751 Main Street was not removed. Repairs to the curb, gutter and sidewalk were left out of the project area to not damage the root structure of the tree.

On Sunday, October 4, 2015, a branch measuring approximately 24 inches in diameter and 45 feet in length failed and fell from the Eucalyptus (White Iron Bark) tree located at 1751 Main Street, damaging nearby parked cars. A second branch located below it also broke when the aforementioned branch hit it causing it to fail as well.

On Monday, October 5, 2015, staff contacted Ruben Green from Evergreen Arborists to assess the risk and hazard of the Eucalyptus (White Iron Bark) tree located at 1751 Main Street.

Observations:

A standard method of expressing the area of the trunk of a standing tree is called Diameter at Standard Height (DSH). The DSH measures the diameter of a tree's trunk at 4.5 feet above ground. The mature eucalyptus tree is a single-trunk tree with an estimated 61.5-inch trunk diameter and a height of 65 feet, which indicates that this is a mature tree.

The main trunk separates approximately 25 feet above ground into six scaffolding branches. Each branch is approximately 24 inches in diameter, which is the same size as the branch that failed October 4. The sidewalk on the west side of the tree is lifted due to the tree's roots and the base of the tree on the east side has grown over the curb. The tree's canopy (which refers to the upper part of a tree including all branches and leaves) overhangs approximately 27 feet over the 1749 Main Street property and overhangs 29 feet over Main Street.

The failed branch did not appear to have wood-decay (fungus that digests moist wood, causing it to rot) but may have had minor included bark. Included bark forms in the junctions of co-dominant stems where there is a narrow angle union. As the tree grows, the union fills with bark which creates a growing area of structural weakness in the tree.

The tree is situated near the intersection of Main and Springfield which appears to have moderate to high vehicular and pedestrian traffic. North of the tree, within 300 yards, are the Huntington Beach High School, Police Department, and City Hall and south of the tree is a nearby Church.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Before considering any risk factors, mature trees are more prone to failure. This branch break indicates the tree is no longer vibrant and healthy. Furthermore, eucalyptus trees are more prone to failure as compared to other species. Given this eucalyptus species has a propensity for failure, Mr. Green believes the City should remove this tree as soon as possible. Based on his site inspection and examination of the tree, he determined the tree is more likely than not to fail again given the remaining branches are similar in size to the failed branch, its exposure to wind loads, trunk size, species, age, and previous branch failure. The tree should be removed to eliminate risk due to the tree's potential for failure. As the tree adds wood and mass, the potential for serious damage to occupied cars, adjacent houses, property, parked vehicles, and pedestrians increases.

Based on Mr. Green's examination of the tree and his ISA classification the likelihood of tree failure is highly probable and severe, staff concurs with Mr. Green's recommendation to remove the tree.

The ISA has a rating system to determine the likelihood a tree will fail and what would be the consequences of such a failure. The four classifications for the likelihood of failure are "improbable", "possible", "probable", and "imminent". The ISA also has four categories classifying the consequences of a tree failure. Those four categories are "negligible", "minor", "significant" and "severe".

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve removal of the Eucalyptus (White Iron Bark) tree located at 1751 Main Street.

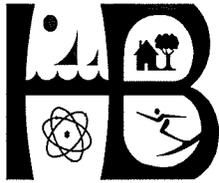
ALTERNATIVE ACTION: Take any other action that the BLT deems necessary and appropriate at this time.

Attachments:

April 24, 2012 BLT Arterial Highway Rehabilitation project CC-1397 report and minutes.

July 16, 2012, City Council "H" item from Councilmember Connie Boardman and minutes.

Arborist report from Evergreen Arborists Consultants.



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
Beautification, Landscape and Tree Committee
REQUEST FOR ACTION

SUBMITTED TO: Chairperson and Members of the Committee

VIA: Travis Hopkins, Director of Public Works

SUBMITTED BY: Denny Bacon, Maintenance Operations Manager

DATE: April 24, 2012

SUBJECT: Arterial Highway Rehabilitation Project, CC-1397, Main Street, Utica Ave., 17th St. to Adams.

BACKGROUND: This report is being provided to justify the removal of 15 street trees on Main St. as part of the Arterial Rehabilitation Project CC-1397 and two trees due to declining health.

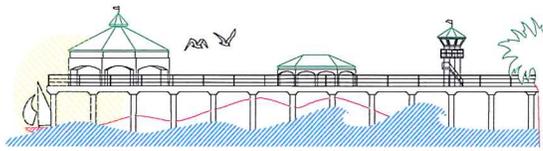
The projects consist of asphalt rehabilitation by either full depth reclamation or through conventional methods by grinding the existing pavement, removing failed roadway sections and overlaying the street with rubberized asphalt concrete. Isolated replacement of concrete curb, gutter, sidewalk and construction of access ramps will be installed where needed. Manholes, monitoring wells, survey monuments and water valve assemblies will be adjusted to grade and traffic loops and striping will be replaced.

The tree removals will correct gutter flooding and trip hazards in the right of way.

The following addresses on Main St. will be affected:
1808, 1832, 1828, 1812, 1734, 1724 (Declining), 1712, 1708, 1827, 1815, 1807 (2),
1805, 1751, 1749, 1745 (Declining) and 1735.

All trees removed will be replaced with appropriate species.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the proposed removals on Main Street as part of the Arterial Rehabilitation Project CC-1397.



BEAUTIFICATION/LANDSCAPE/TREE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 27, 2012

A. ROLL CALL

Chairperson Don Hansen
Vice Chair Devin Dwyer
Committee Member Joe Shaw
Travis Hopkins, Director of Public Works
Denny Bacon, Maintenance Operations Manager
Randy Menzel, Tree Supervisor
Cindi Sangenito, Administrative Secretary

B. MINUTES

B-1. The minutes of the April 30, 2012 special meeting were motioned by Vice Chair Dwyer. Chairperson Hansen seconded.

VOTE: The motion carried
AYES: 2
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Shaw)
ABSTENTIONS: 0

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Beautification/Landscape/Tree Committee welcomes public comments on all items on this agenda or of community interest. **Each speaker is allotted three minutes**; time may not be donated to others. The Committee can only take action on items that are on this agenda. This is the time to address the Committee regarding items of interest or agenda items other than public hearings.

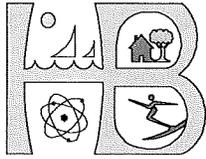
No public comments.

D. ACTION ITEMS

D-1. Tree removals associated with Street Rehabilitation Project CC-1330 - Arterial Springdale Street, Warner Avenue to Chinook Drive – Project is currently underway. 45 trees are being removed and replaced. Discussion ensued.

Motion made by Chair Hansen to approve with tree removals and submit the project to City Council. Seconded by Vice Chair Dwyer.

VOTE: The motion carried
AYES: 2
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Shaw)



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

City Council Interoffice Communication

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
From: Connie Boardman, City Council Member
Date: July 10, 2012
Subject: ***CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ITEM FOR THE JULY 16, 2012, CITY COUNCIL MEETING – RECONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ITEM 3 FROM THE JULY 2, 2012, CITY COUNCIL MEETING***

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

At the July 2 City Council Meeting, I pulled an item regarding the street rehabilitation of Main Street due to concerns raised regarding the removal of trees along Main St. as part of the project.

Since the meeting, I have heard a desire from two City Council Members to further discuss this item, so I would like the item reconsidered. The main concern is with the removal of the large tree on Main St. There may be alternatives to removing it that I would like the City Council to discuss.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Request to reconsider action taken on Agenda Item 3 (*Award Construction Contract in the amount of \$1,188,402.00 to All American Asphalt for the Main Street (Adams Avenue to Utica Avenue) and the Garfield Avenue (Delaware Street to Beach Blvd.) Rehabilitation Projects, CC-1397*) from the July 2, 2012, City Council Meeting.

CB:cf

xc: Fred Wilson, City Manager
Paul Emery, Deputy City Manager
Bob Hall, Deputy City Manager
Joan Flynn, City Clerk
Travis Hopkins, Director of Public Works

NOES: None
OUT OF ROOM: Carchio

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

17. Approved for introduction Ordinance No. 3954 capping the Retirement Property Tax at the rate set for Fiscal Year 2012/13 to pay for pre-1978 Employee Retirement Benefits

Assistant City Attorney Mike Vigliotta discussed methodology in adopting the proposed Ordinance, and what would trigger Proposition 218 requirements.

A motion was made by Bohr, second Boardman to after the City Clerk reads by title, approve for introduction Ordinance No. 3954, "An Ordinance of the City of Huntington Beach Amending the Huntington Beach Municipal Code by Adding Chapter 3.07 Relating to Capping the Retirement Property Tax at Fiscal Year 2012/13 Rates."

Councilmember Harper and staff discussed the sunset of the existing pension tax and whether or not the City Council had authority to lower the tax.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Shaw, Hansen, Carchio, Bohr, and Boardman
NOES: Harper, and Dwyer

COUNCILMEMBER ITEMS

18. Submitted by Councilmember Connie Boardman - Reconsideration of Construction Contract #1397 awarded at the July 2, 2012 Council meeting regarding the rehabilitation of Main Street due to concerns raised regarding the removal of trees as part of the project

Councilmember Boardman explained her intent to save a large eucalyptus tree growing within the project area, and discussion ensued on how to accomplish that.

A motion was made by Boardman, second Harper to award Construction Contract in the amount of \$1,188,402.00 to All American Asphalt for the Main Street (Adams Avenue to Utica Avenue) and the Garfield Avenue (Delaware Street to Beach Blvd.) Rehabilitation Projects, CC-1397, **amended to include a caveat that the large eucalyptus tree growing within the project be preserved if there is no evidence of damage to homes.** The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Shaw, Harper, Dwyer, Carchio, Bohr, and Boardman
NOES: Hansen

19. Submitted by Councilmember Connie Boardman - Request staff to include analysis of relocation of historic buildings designated to be demolished on Nichols Street at Warner Avenue as part of the Focused Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for this project.

Councilmember Boardman presented a PowerPoint depicting history of the buildings, and as liaison to the Historic Resources Board, shared her concerns about the lack of analysis to consider relocation of the structure(s) proposed for demolition, including moving them to City-

Consulting Arborist Report
October 26, 2015

Report Prepared on Behalf of:

Mr. Randy Menzel
1751 Main St. Dist. 431 S.R. #169409
Tree Maintenance Supervisor
City Of Huntington Beach
Public Works Department
Maintenance Operations Division
(714) 536-5480

Prepared by:

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1751 Main St. Dist. 431 S.R. #169409
 Evergreen Arborists
 October 26, 2015

Summary

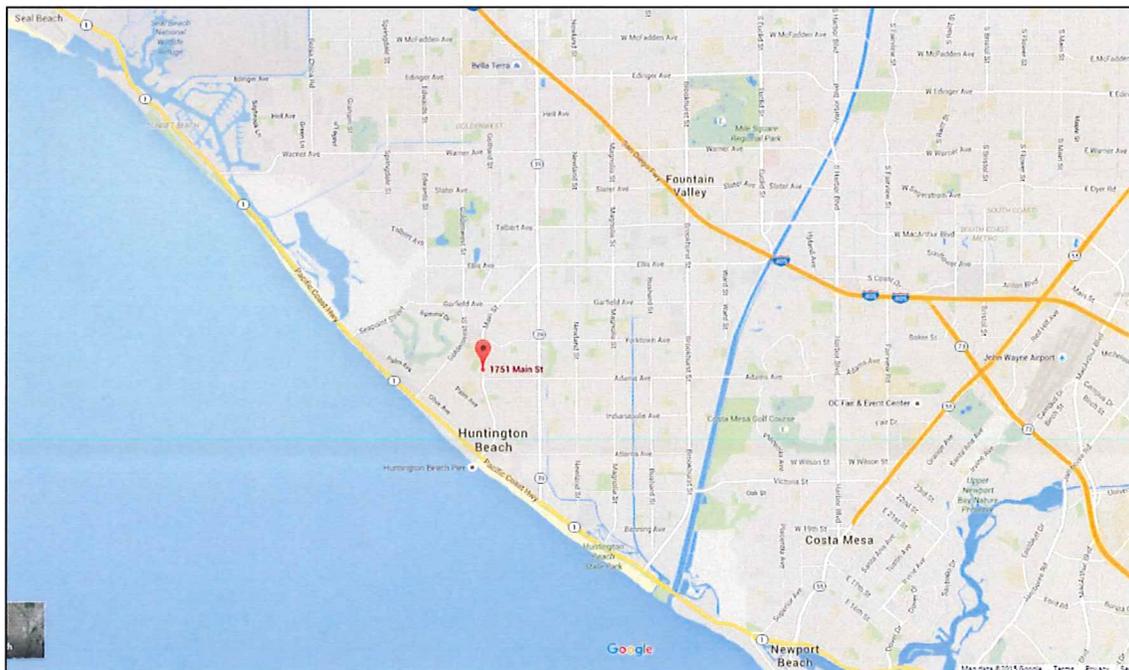
Tree Maintenance Supervisor Randy Menzel from the City of Huntington Beach contacted Ruben Green from Evergreen Arborists via email and telephone on October 5, 2015, and asked me to assess the risk and hazard of a mature *Eucalyptus leucoxydon*, White ironbark. The tree is located in an irrigated parkway planter between a curb and 5 foot wide sidewalk in front of 1751 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA. On Sunday, October 4, 2015, a branch from the tree that was approximately 24 inches in diameter by 45 feet long, failed and damaged parked cars along Main Street. A second branch located below also broke when the above branch hit it and caused it to fail as well. Mr. Menzel asked me to perform a site inspection, provide my analysis, and prepare an arborist report of my findings.

Limits of Agreement

My site examination and the information in this report are limited to the date and time the inspection occurred. The information in this report is limited to the condition of the tree during my inspection. This report is not intended as, and does not represent, legal advice and is not relied upon to take the place of such advice.

Purpose and Use of Report

This report presents my observations, recommendation, and opinions concerning the tree only. It is intended for the exclusive use of the City of Huntington Beach and used at their discretion.



Vicinity Map

1751 Main St. Dist. 431 S.R. #169409
Evergreen Arborists
October 26, 2015

Background

I conducted my site examination on October 6, 2015, and was accompanied by Mr. Menzel. During my site inspection, I took 43 various photographs of the tree and site. True and correct copies of some of those photographs are collectively attached to this report and incorporated by this reference. Mr. Menzel also provided me with 14 pictures from the date of the accident. Some of these photos are also included in this report as supporting materials.

Observations

A standard method of expressing the area of the trunk of a standing tree is called Diameter at Standard Height (DSH). The DSH measures the diameter of a tree's trunk at 4.5 feet above ground. The mature eucalyptus tree is a single-trunk tree with an estimated 61.5-inch trunk diameter and a height of 65 feet, which indicates this is a mature tree.

The main trunk separates approximately 25 feet above ground into six scaffolding branches. Each branch is approximately 24 inches in diameter, which is the same size as the branch that failed October 4. The sidewalk on the west side of the tree is lifted due to the tree's roots and the base of the tree on the east side has grown over the curb. The tree's canopy (which refers to the upper part of a tree including all branches and leaves) overhangs approximately 27 feet over the 1749 Main Street property and overhangs 29 feet over Main Street.

The failed branch did not appear to have wood-decay (fungus that digests moist wood, causing it to rot) but may have had minor included bark. Included bark forms in the junctions of co-dominant stems where there is a narrow angle union. As the tree grows, the union fills with bark which creates a growing area of structural weakness in the tree.

The tree is situated near the intersection of Main and Springfield which appears to have moderate to high vehicular and pedestrian traffic. North of the tree, within 300 yards, are the Huntington Beach High School, Police Department, City Hall and south of the tree is a nearby Church. To illustrate the location of the tree in respect to these places, I downloaded from the Google Earth website an aerial view of the site. I then annotated the photograph to indicate the locations and the 1751 Main Street tree. I used the numerals 1 through 5 to indicate these locations.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Even before considering any risk factors, mature trees are more prone to failure. This branch break indicates the tree is no longer vibrant and healthy. Furthermore, eucalyptus trees are more prone to failure as compared to other species. Given this eucalyptus species has a propensity for failure, the City should remove this tree as soon as possible. Based on my site inspection and examination of the tree, I determined the tree is more likely than not to fail again given the remaining branches are similar in size to the failed branch, its exposure to wind loads, trunk size, species, age, and previous branch failure. The tree should be removed to eliminate risk due to the tree's potential for failure. As the tree adds wood and

1751 Main St. Dist. 431 S.R. #169409
Evergreen Arborists
October 26, 2015

mass, the potential for serious damage to occupied cars, adjacent houses, property, parked vehicles, and pedestrian's increases.

The ISA is a world-renowned, international nonprofit arboricultural society. Its mission statement is "Through research, technology, and education promote the professional practice of arboriculture and foster a greater public awareness of the benefits of trees." The ISA publishes a "Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form" which is generally recognized within the arborist community as the standard for assessing the hazards that trees present to property and life.

The ISA has a rating system to determine the likelihood a tree will fail and what would be the consequences of such a failure. The four classifications for the likelihood of failure are "improbable", "possible", "probable", and "imminent". The ISA also has four categories classifying the consequences of a tree failure. Those four categories are "negligible", "minor", "significant" and "severe".

Based on my examination of the tree, my experience, training, and education, my ISA classification of the likelihood of tree failure is highly probable and the consequences of such failure to the public, property and persons on that property are severe.

Discussion

Eucalyptus trees are more prone to failure as compared to other species. The California Tree Failure Report lists eucalyptus trees as having one of the highest rated incidences of tree failures. Mature trees located near targets with a propensity for failure must be removed due to the potential for collateral damage and personal injury from failure and branch drop. These types of trees cannot be managed or ignored. For example, on September 15, 2011, a large Eucalyptus tree in Newport Beach fell without warning on a car, crushing the vehicle and killing the driver. It is significant to note that in the event of a failure of this nature, persons in its path will have no more than one to two seconds to get out of the way of the falling tree.

The October 4, 2015, failed branch raises serious concerns about the safety of that tree to the public, property, and persons on and around 1751 Main St. This tree has a very substantial risk of another branch drop and presents a significant hazard to the public. An element that adds to the urgency of this matter is the increased winds and rain on account of the expected El Niño conditions during the next year. During such expected storm conditions, the likelihood of tree failure increases dramatically.

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Evergreen Arborists
October 26, 2015

Photos of Tree Branch Failure on October 4, 2015



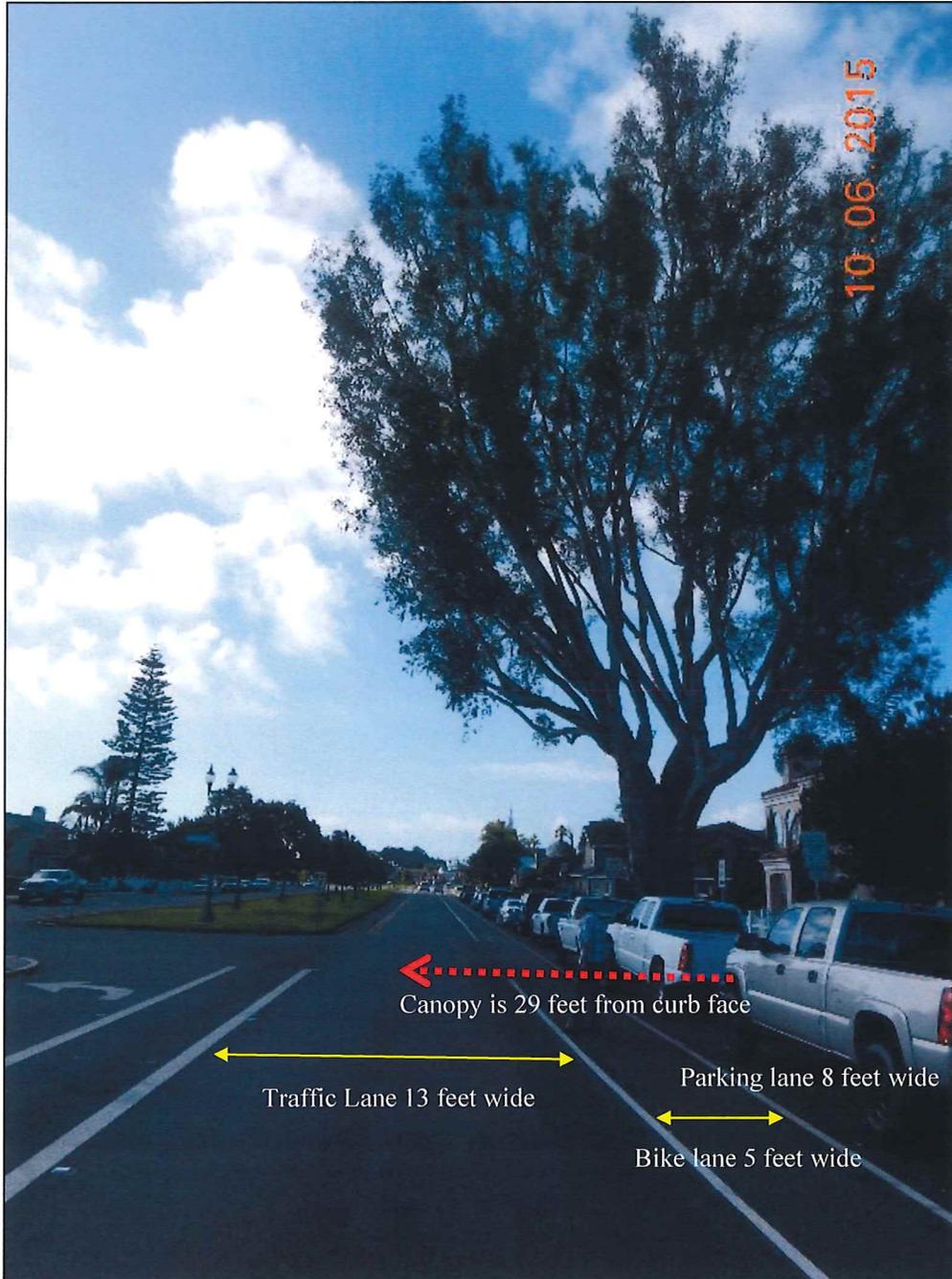
1751 Main St. Dist. 431 S.R. #169409
Evergreen Arborists
October 26, 2015



A second branch located below failed branch also broke when the above branch hit it and caused it to fail as well.

1751 Main St. Dist. 431 S.R. #169409
Evergreen Arborists
October 26, 2015

Photos from My Site Inspection on October 6, 2015



The tree's canopy overhangs approximately 29 feet over Main Street

1751 Main St. Dist. 431 S.R. #169409
Evergreen Arborists
October 26, 2015



Yellow markers indicates the extent of where the failed branch landed. I did not place a marker in the middle of the lawn of 1749 Main Street.



The tree is situated near the intersection of Main and Springfield.

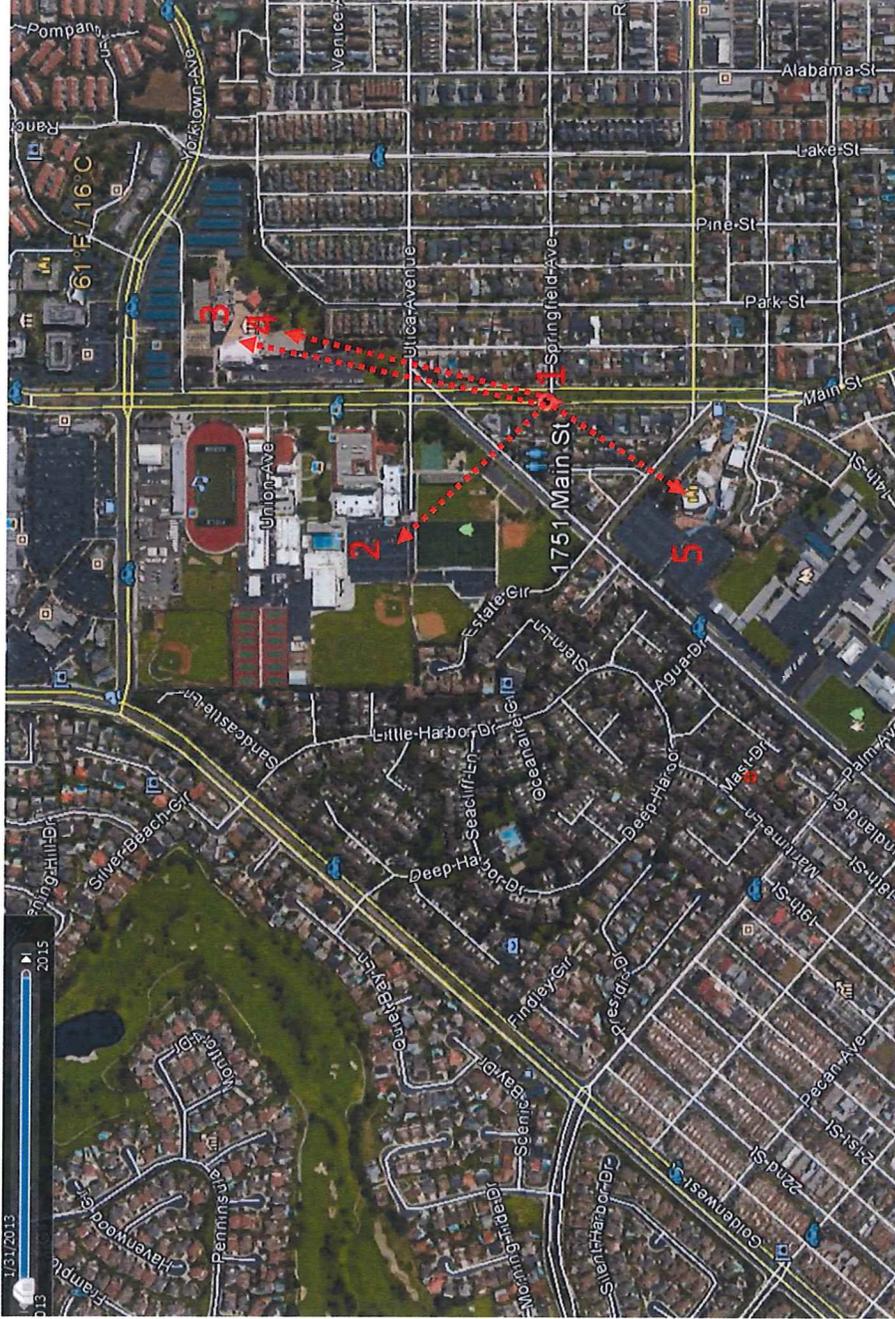
1751 Main St. Dist. 431 S.R. #169409
Evergreen Arborists
October 26, 2015



The tree is located within 250 yards of Huntington Beach High School

1751 Main St. Dist. 431 S.R. #169409
Evergreen Arborists
October 26, 2015

Google Earth Aerial Image



I used the numeral 1 to indicate the position of subject tree, the numeral 2 to indicate the location of Huntington Beach High School, the numeral 3 to indicate the location of the Police Department, the numeral 4 to indicate the location of the City Hall, the numeral 5 to indicate the location of the Church. A true and correct copy of the aerial view is incorporated by this reference.

1751 Main St. Dist. 431 S.R. #169409
Evergreen Arborists
October 26, 2015

Assumptions and Limitations

Evergreen Arborist shall not be liable to client/owner or any other party(s) for loss of property, loss of life, loss of use, loss of profits or income(s), special damages, incidental damages, consequential damages, or damages arising from the failure of inspection(s) or weather conditions. The client shall hold this arborist harmless against any and all claims for injuries to persons or property on the premises.

An arborist is a tree specialist who uses their education, knowledge, training, and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees and attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist or seek additional advice.

An arborist cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways we do not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden within trees and/or below ground under the tree. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances or for a specified period of time. Likewise, remedial treatment does not guarantee outcome or results.

This arborist relies on and expects information from his client to be complete and accurate. The client hiring this arborist accepts full responsibility for authorizing the recommended treatment(s) or remedial measure(s) and holds this arborist harmless. Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. The tree's owner assumes the level of risk he/she is willing to accept by keeping a tree and not removing it.

Qualifications

I am president of Evergreen Arborists Consultants, Inc. with over 30 years of experience in the landscape industry. My background includes hands-on experience in tree care, landscape maintenance, construction, and irrigation management. I have a Master's degree in plant science from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. I provide detailed investigations, independent analysis, and expert witness testimony since 2003. I am a Registered Consulting Arborist with the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA), a certified arborist and a certified tree risk assessor (TRAQ) with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), licensed pesticide applicator (QAL) with the state of California, and a (C-27) licensed California contractor.

I have performed hundreds of forensic examinations on failed trees. I am knowledgeable and have experience in the characteristics of tree failures. I have lectured on tree failures at International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) sponsored events and taught classes on tree failures at tree industry events.