



AGENDA

Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission City of Pacifica

**WEDNESDAY, December 18, 2019 CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2212 Beach Boulevard**

**CALL TO ORDER
7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING**

- I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- II ROLL CALL**
- III APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Regular Meeting October 23, 2019
- IV ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- V INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS**
Commissioner Gail Benton Shoemaker
Commissioner James Heywood
- VI ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**
This is the time set aside for the public to address the Commission on items not appearing on the agenda, public input will be considered for items at this time. Please state your name for the record when addressing the Commission. Statements will be limited to three (3) minutes.
- VII ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**
A) Public Plaza along Beach Boulevard Project
- VIII PUBLIC HEARINGS**
A) Heritage Tree Appeal [HT-519-19](#) - 606 Canyon Drive.
- IX ITEMS FOR CONSENT**
- X REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRISPONDANCE FROM COMMISSIONERS**
- XI REPORTS FROM STAFF**
A) Director Perez

Next Regular Meeting January 22, 2019

The City of Pacifica will provide special assistance for disabled citizens upon at least 24 hour advance notice to the City Manager's office (738-7301). If you need sign language assistance or written material printed in a larger font or taped, advance notice is necessary. All meeting rooms are accessible to the disabled.



**Minutes
Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission
City of Pacifica**

REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM
Wednesday October 23, 2019
City Council Chambers
2212 Beach Blvd.
Pacifica, CA 94044

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Knowles called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Commissioner Lusson**.

II ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Chair Knowles, Commissioners Abbott, Kellogg,
Lusson, and Poblitz.

Commissioners Absent: None

Commissioners Excused: None

Staff Present: Director Michael Perez, Recreation Specialist Linda Hanssen,
Associate Engineer Ryan Marquez

III APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chair Knowles called for a motion to approve the minutes of the
9-25-19 meeting.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Kellogg, seconded by
Commissioner Poblitz, motion carried 5-0.**

IV ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Chair Knowles called for a motion adopting the order of the agenda.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Poblitz, seconded by
Commissioner Lusson, motion carried 5-0.**

V SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Presentation

Ryan Marquez and Alta Planning and Design representatives Joe Paul, Benjamin Frazier, and Otto Melara presented an update to the Draft Plan for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. This was one of the last opportunities for the Commission to give feedback. They hope to get the Commissions blessing on the plan before it goes to the City Council. The Draft Plan can be accessed at <https://walkbikepacifica.com>

Otto Melara, Project Manager and Planner for Alta Planning and Design said they would update the Commission on the process, present the draft

plan and talk about the next steps. He gave an overview of their presentation.

1. Highlight and review the approach, methodologies and how they were used to arrive at recommendations. Discuss recommendations at a broad level.
2. Review the implementation and prioritization process and how projects were categorized into different implementation categories. (Short term, long term, and project opportunities.)
3. Present the draft plan document and discuss next steps.

Definition of the plan. The plan is a vision for Pacifica where walking and biking are encouraged as a safe and practical means of transportation that provide access to schools, parks, shopping, trails, beaches, bluffs and any other destinations that people want to go to. They specifically called out Highway One as a main artery of the city and how it poses a lot of constraints and issues. A big part of what they have had to do is to figure out how to navigate around and through Highway One. The timeline was summarized. It started August 2018 and moved into existing conditions and needs analysis. Recommendations have just wrapped up and they are currently looking at the draft plan. Outreach was conducted at PBR commission meetings, formal workshops, public encounters, and the Eco Fest. Throughout the project an active online presence, with the ability for people to comment on everything presented, was available. This proved to be an effective resource and valuable tool. To summarize the project approach they looked at the basic infrastructure as it relates to biking and walking. That led to the needs analysis or "gap study" of different challenges that the Bike and Pedestrian infrastructure face. Projects were then run through an implementation process where they were assigned a score based on different categories. Improvements touch on elements such as safety, connectivity and feasibility. This allowed categorizing projects as fast and simple, or longer term. A slide show was presented to the Commission showing specific recommendations, options, and definitions.

Benjamin Frazier said every recommended project, both bike and pedestrian, was prioritized based on two types of scoring criteria. They used priority scoring and feasibility scoring. Some projects were scored as a group. Priority scoring was ranked 0-7 points with scores of 5 or higher considered high priority projects. Safety is worth 3-4 pts, connectivity 2 pts, and accessibility 3 pts. The feasibility score is worth 2 pts. Cost and complexity were used to score projects. Projects involving coordination with other agencies are considered more complex. There were a total 9 pts possible, no project scored more than 7. There were 15 pedestrian projects and 12 bicycle projects that scored above 6. The draft plan lists each individual project. Programs were also looked at and fell into 5 different categories, educational, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation, and engineering.

Otto Melara said the draft plan will be available on line for public comment until November 22. It is comprised of 6 chapters; Executive Summary, Today and the Needs Analysis, Outreach and Engagement, Vision and Goals, Recommendations, and Implementation. The next step is to continue to receive comments, make changes, and finalize the plan. It will then be presented to the City Council for full adoption.

Jim Sullivan (Open Space Parkland Advisory Committee) reiterated that electric bicycles should be considered in the plan. Solid surface trails have been opened to electric bikes already. He requested that directional signs include multiple uses of paths. He recommended that Public Works engage with bicyclists before designing roadway changes.

The Open Bay Trust is promoting the "Bay to Ocean Shore Corridor" from Woodside to Half Moon Bay as the first bay to ocean corridor. Pacifica already has one over Sweeney Ridge that should be a key aspect of the plan. The recreational aspects of trails should be promoted.

Malcom Gordon (volunteer with the Venture Cycling Association) addressed the Commission regarding a plan to get local cities to approve a bicycle touring route that would extend the length of California. His group wants to present the idea of a route that would go through Pacifica using our proposed bike trails. He feels it would be a financial/ tourist benefit to Pacifica. Daly City, Pacifica, and Half Moon Bay all need to approve the route. Once Pacifica's Bike/ Pedestrian plan is approved VCA will request a letter of endorsement from Pacifica they can give to Cal Trans. He left information packages for the Commission.

Commissioner Abbott: She asked how the process for public comments would work and if they would be visible to everyone on the website.

Otto Melara responded that all comments would be visible on the web tool. At the end of the comment period comments will be sorted based on content. Each one will be reviewed.

Commissioner Abbott: She asked if there was a way to respond to individual people who made comments. **Otto Melara** said once all the comments are incorporated they can respond to the group of people who have left their e-mail addresses. It isn't feasible to contact each person individually.

Commissioner Abbott: She commented on the big vision stating that it is important people know Pacifica is a City where it is safe and practical for Bicycles and Pedestrians. She suggested that we be represented at school choice events to discuss options for biking to school. She appreciated learning about the scoring process. A high priority area for her is Highway One and Crespi. She would like to see that revisited. She asked if projects not on the priority list would be individually reviewed.

Ryan Marquez responded that all the projects would be reviewed. Public Works and city staff will have to make decisions based on funding potential. Some projects may move forward and some may be grouped together.

Commissioner Abbott: She asked if there would be more public input as the funding comes together. **Ryan Marquez** responded yes.

Commissioner Abbott: She is interested in knowing more about how we can market the plan once it is completed.

Otto Melara responded that one way to increase the public's knowledge of trails and walking routes is "way finding" signage that raises attention and directs people to specific locations as outlined in the draft.

Commissioner Abbott: She liked the section of the plan that discussed "way finding signs". She would like to see more discussion about street furniture since it fits in with the Age Friendly City goal. She also

appreciated the opportunity for the inclusion of art.

Commissioner Kellogg: He referred to Jim Sullivan's comments about signage for trails. He said there is no one easy way to find accessible off road bike trails. He asked if this was in the scope of the plan.

Ryan Marquez said no this isn't in the scope of the plan since it involves different jurisdictions.

Commissioner Poblitz: Wanted to know how the public was notified about the website being live again.

Otto Melara responded that it was put in the Pacifica newsletter and on Facebook. Everyone who signed up on the website during this process will be notified.

Commissioner Poblitz: Asked if newspaper notices were ever used. He felt time was ticking on an important issue as this is a last call for comment.

Otto Melara said the scope of the project has a public engagement strategy. Newspaper use is possible, but is not part of the plan.

Commissioner Poblitz: asked if Alta would be open to a newspaper interview. **Otto Melara** responded yes.

Commissioner Poblitz: He asked if all comments were restricted to the website or if there was somewhere else a debate could be carried on. **Otto Melara** said yes, there was a web board as part of the original website.

Commissioner Poblitz: He asked if there were funds pay for professional grant writers.

Ryan Marquez said funding isn't his area. It will be up to the City Council. In the past, Public Works has successfully written their own grants.

Commissioner Lusson: He felt that this was a branding opportunity and would like to see that aspect explored. He asked where community feedback fit into the scoring system. **Ben Fraizier** said that it was not included in the point base.

Commissioner Lusson: He wanted to know if a project that scored lower could it still be considered. **Ben Fraizier** replied yes. Projects that were costly or involved other agencies were scored lower. Many are good projects but will be more difficult to complete

Chair Knowles: She asked if we looked at targeted communication, specifically cyclists and bicycle shops. **Ryan Marquez** responded that Facebook, Next Door, cards and posters, and bike shops had all been contacted.

Chair Knowles: Asked if there has been any new input since June. **Ryan Marquez** said once the initial open feedback period ended Alta narrowed it down to recommendations. Comments to only the recommendations were open. People were unable to open new suggestions for different areas. New ideas based on public comment lead to recommendations for several new areas after the initial recommendation period. All comments were put onto a spreadsheet to be shared with the city.

Chair Knowles: High priorities seem to be Highway One and trail access. We need to address these areas. In regard to bicycle access, seven of the sixteen projects are bicycle boulevards. **Otto Melara** said the recommendation behind the bicycle boulevards is a network of streets prioritized for bicycles and minimized for cars. The goal is to calm traffic in those areas.

Chair Knowles: She expressed excitement about the recommendations for the Crespi area. Linda Mar will need to involve community input. A road diet will be hard to sell. Bradford to Sharp Park is a dangerous area but will be difficult to resolve. She asked why the Palmetto freeway on ramp wasn't included. **Ryan Marquez** said reconfiguring that on ramp is a feasibility issue, but grants have been applied for.

VI ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Commissioner Abbott made a motion for consent. Commissioner Poblitz seconded. Motion carried 5-0

VII REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRISPONDANCE FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Abbott: The Library Advisory Committee sent out postcards. They are planning a meeting for the Sharp Park residents. The Age Friendly task force is continuing as a community coalition. They will be conducting outreach to the community. They would like to have Age Friendly business designations. The Community Center mural is almost done. It will be complete by Nov 2.

Commissioner Kellogg: No Report

Commissioner Poblitz: No Report

Commissioner Lusson: No Report

Chair Knowles: No Report

VIII REPORTS FROM STAFF

Director Perez reported on the following:

He thanked his staff for all of their hard work and the quarterly reports. The new PLAY brochure will be coming out at the beginning of December.

Ohlone Portola Heritage Day

Ohlone Portola Heritage Day, November 2 has been four years in the making. We have an opportunity to make this a special event. We are cohosting with the event with GGNRA, NPS, and San Mateo County. An outline of the event is included in the October Package. All the Commissioners were encouraged to attend the event. The new mural is looking great. The GGNRA is bringing buses of people from San Francisco to participate in the hikes as part of their outreach program. Nick Neely, the author of Alta California, which is about his journey along the path of Portola, will be at the Saturday event. He will also speak at the Pacifica Historical Society November 3.

San Mateo County is having an Ohlone Heritage day at the Sanchez Adobe on October 26. They are opening their new interpretive center. Johnathan Cordero, who is an Ohlone descendent will speak at that event.

The evening of November 2 is the Pacifican's Care Speakeasy. It is a great fundraiser. **Director Perez** pointed out that a large percentage of the money generated is donated to PBR for Child Care for programs.

Playground Improvement

Ray Kurttila, Aren Clark, Tracy Gilbert, and representatives from Game Time met to discuss the Playground Improvement project. Fairmont West will be the location for National Recognition through CPRS. The Community Center playground is limited in scope due to space constraints. They will need to order materials before the end of the year, but they are looking at completion by spring. Improvements to Oddstad park are delayed due to accessibility requirements and a lack of space. The Portola/ Marvilla Park and Sky ranch Parks are still scheduled for improvement this year.

Staffing

Ann Cooney, Senior Services Assistant Supervisor, has resigned. We wish her the best of luck in her new position. We will be getting temporary help at the Senior Center.

Four of the five child Care positions allocated have been filled. The lead teacher job is still posted.

Aquatics

The 2nd annual Aquatics Pumpkin Patch doubled participation from last year. Last week a gas leak to the high school caused limited swim access several days. They didn't have hot water to warm the pool or for showers. The "Remind" app was used to enhance our notification system. The staff is trying very hard to improve communication with patrons.

Upcoming events.

- 16th Annual Spooktacular October 26
- December Holiday Extravaganza

PBR Commission

Monday, two new PBR commissioners will be appointed by the City Council. The next PBR Commission meeting is proposed for November 20.

A study session on tree appeals is being considered. It would focus on the process, types of appeals, and the Heritage Tree ordinance.

Commissioner Abbott: There isn't current a plan for replacing trees. Tree appeals are becoming more frequent. The planning department's role should also be discussed.

Commissioner Knowles: She supports a study session on tree appeals.

Commissioner Abbott: Asked if the new panic buttons installed go directly to the police department.

Director Perez replied that yes, they do. If a customer exhibits threatening behavior the panic button can be used.

Commissioner Abbott: She asked about the air quality and PBR office situation.

Director Perez reported that testing has been completed but a report has not been released yet.

Commissioner Knowles: She acted as a volunteer for the pedestrian count at Crespi and Highway 1. She commented on the volume of traffic.

IX ADJOURNMENT

Chair Knowles asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Lusson made the motion to adjourn, Commissioner Poblitz seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0** and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hanssen
Recreation Specialist

Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission
Cynthia Knowles, Chair



Staff Report

Item VII. December 18, 2019

SUBJECT:

The Public Plaza along Beach Boulevard Project conceptual design presentation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive report/presentation on the Public Plaza along Beach Boulevard Project conceptual design; provide input, comments and questions to the consultants and staff.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The City of Pacifica Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a planning tool used to prioritize capital project needs beyond the City's annual budget cycle. The CIP is a dynamic document that is updated every year by identifying new projects, updating the status of existing projects, and prioritizing all projects. The Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works develops the CIP with input from the various City Departments, the City Council and the public. The identified projects in the CIP were selected to make the best use of the City's limited resources. The Public Plaza along Beach Boulevard Project, along Sharp Park Beach, is one of the identified projects in the CIP.

Gates + Associates, chosen by staff after participating in an extensive interview process, is the consulting firm specializing in urban design, land planning and landscape architecture, tasked with developing the design concepts for this project. Gates + Associates will develop a schematic design with input gathered by various stakeholders. A final conceptual plan will be created along with a set of construction documents for obtaining bid solicitations from potential contractors.

Tasks that have been completed to date are the geotechnical testing and topographic surveys of the future site of the Beach Boulevard Plaza; they are currently developing the preliminary conceptual plan. On October 9, 2019, Gates + Associates participated in a community outreach effort at the Farmer's Market held on Old County Road; they managed to obtain a substantial amount of public input data that is being incorporated into the draft conceptual plan being presented today.



Staff Report

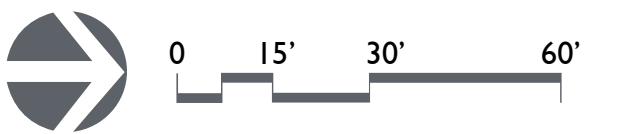
The project will renovate the picnic area along the southern end of the Beach Boulevard Promenade to make it an attractive and inviting community gathering spot while also enhancing protection from storm impacts and reducing maintenance costs. The proposed scope of work includes installing more attractive hardscape as a plaza area, ocean-themed stone play animals, potential outdoor gym station, new picnic tables, bicycle parking, features to prevent ocean waves from spreading sand throughout the plaza area, BBQ grills, and installing landscaping that will enhance the area. The features installed should help reduce City staff time required for maintenance and cleanup of the area.

FISCAL IMPACT:


None

ATTACHEMENTS:

Beach Boulevard Plaza Landscape Concepts




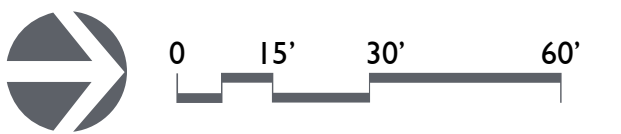
LEGEND

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 Interactive Art | 11 Accent Planting |  Dune Restoration |
| 2 Accent Column | 12 Trash/Recycle Receptacles | |
| 3 Seatwall at New Planting | 13 Existing Paving | |
| 4 Seatpads | 14 Existing Memorial Stone | |
| 5 Shade Structure | 15 New Paving w/Memorial Pavers | |
| 6 Existing Picnic Tables | 16 New Picnic Tables | |
| 7 Concrete Benches | 17 Informational signage | |
| 8 Concrete Planters | 18 Bike Parking | |
| 9 Decomposed Granite Plaza | 19 Seatwall at Entry | |
| 10 BBQ | 20 Workout Station | |



LEGEND

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
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SITE ELEMENTS



NEW PAVING W/MEMORIAL PAVERS



TRASH/RECYCLE RECEPTACLES



BIKE PARKING



SEAT WALL AT PLANTING

PLANTING



SEAT WALLS AT ENTRY



WORKOUT STATION



NEW PICNIC TABLES

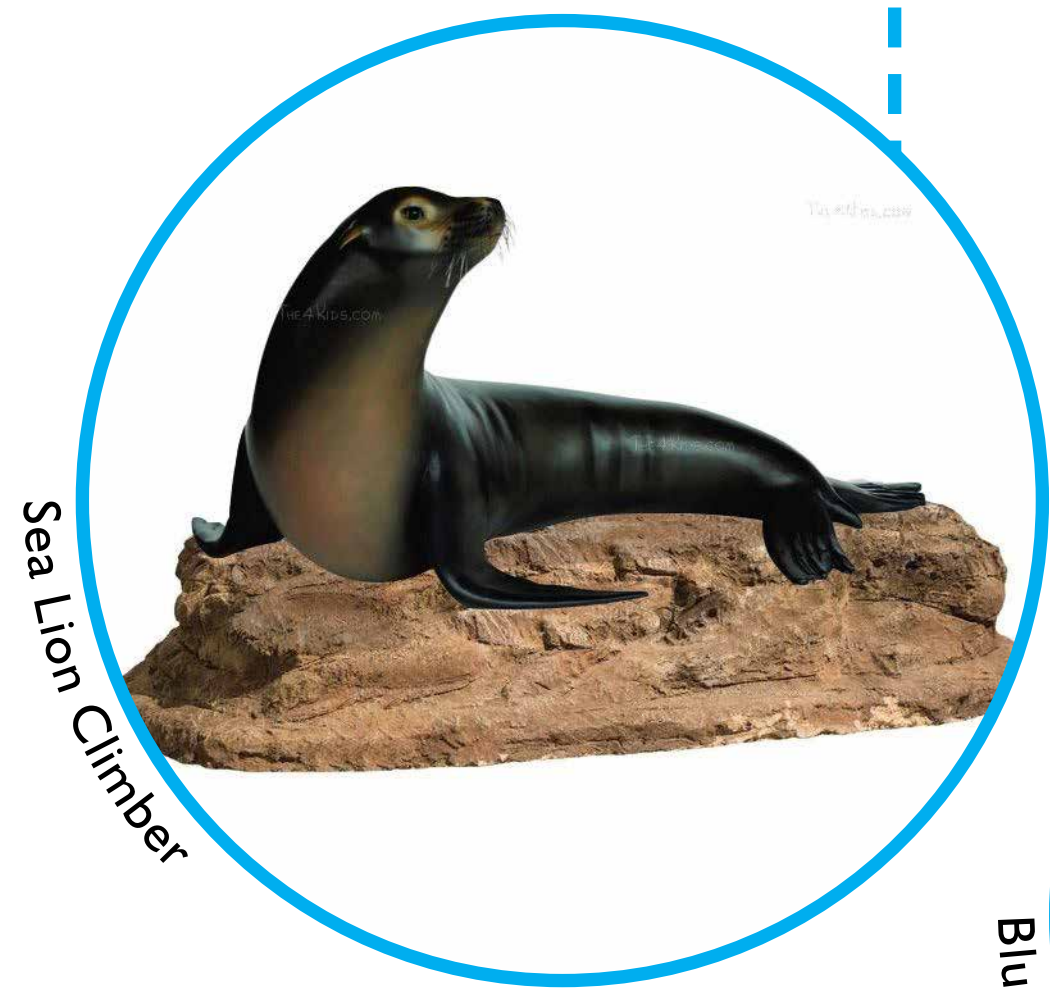


INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE

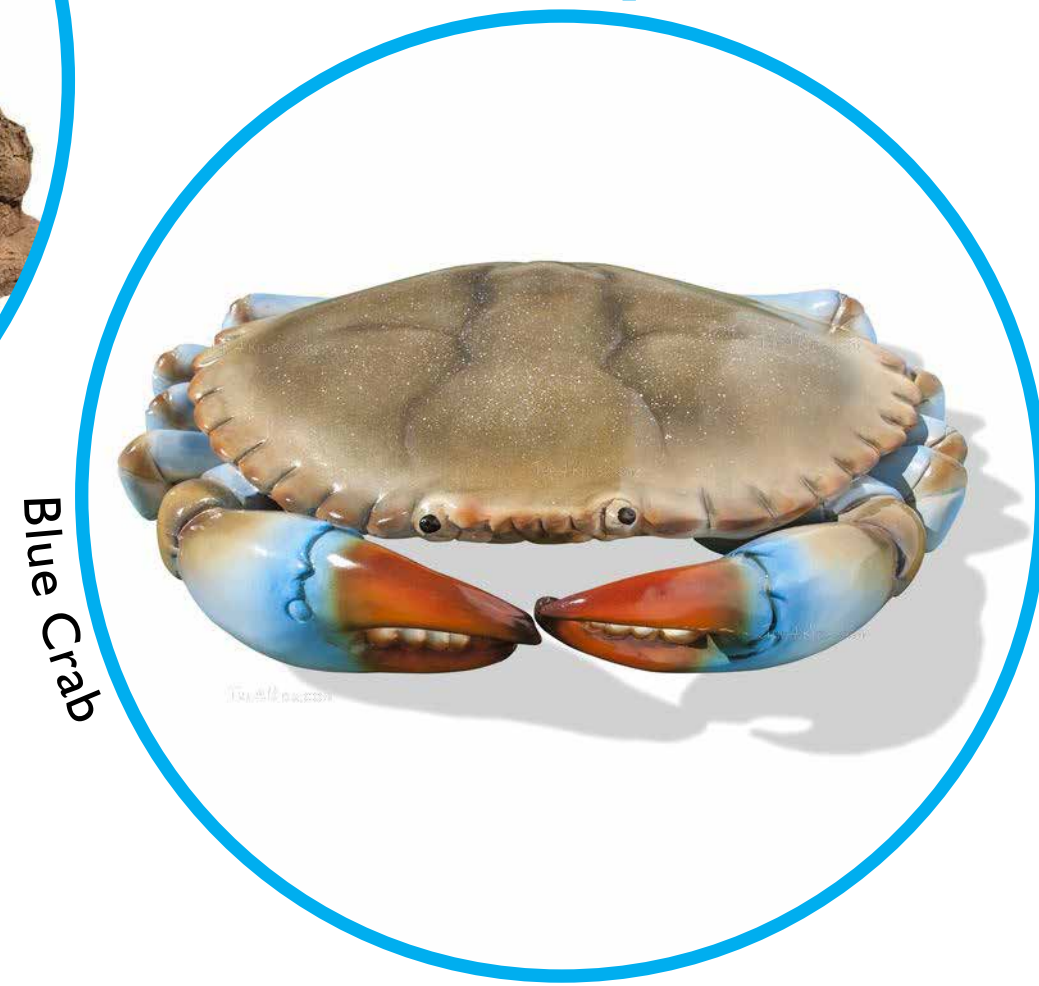


SITE ELEMENTS TO MATCH EXISTING





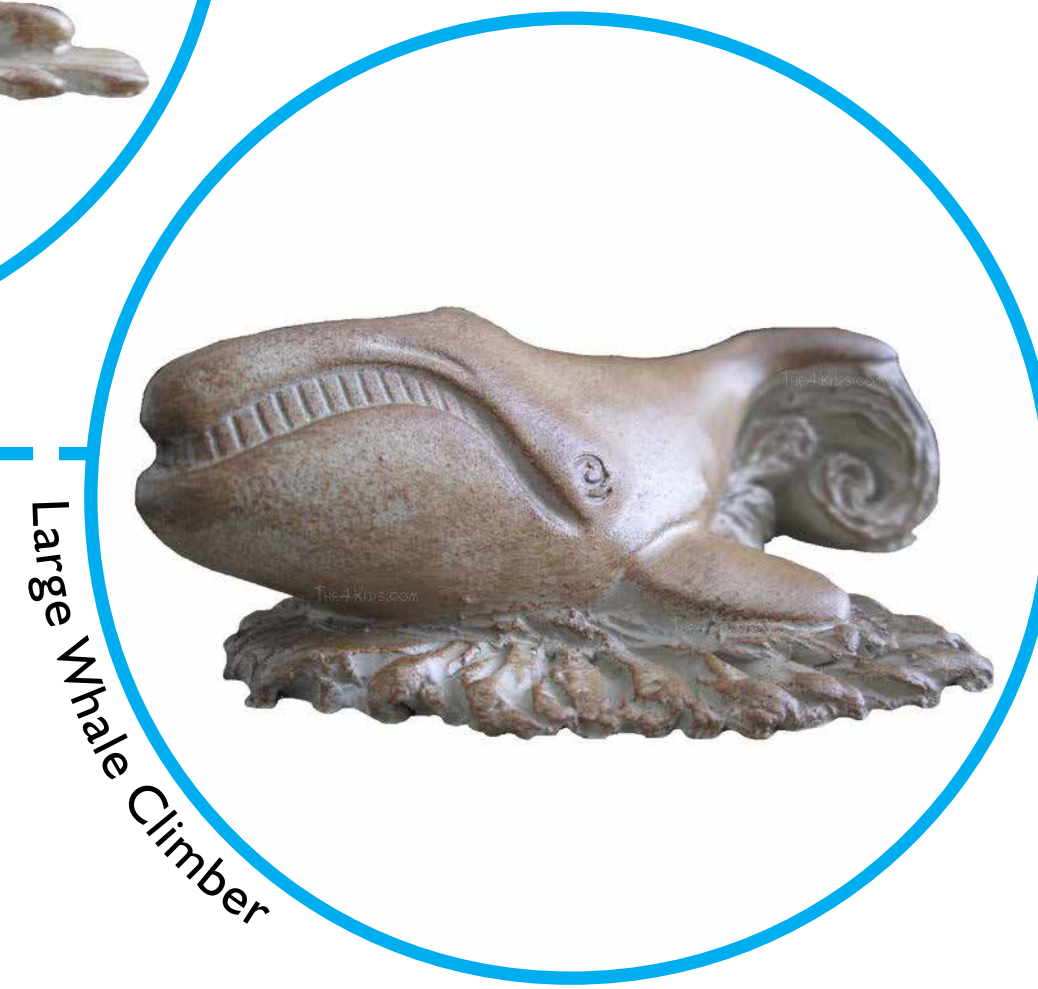
Sea Lion Climber



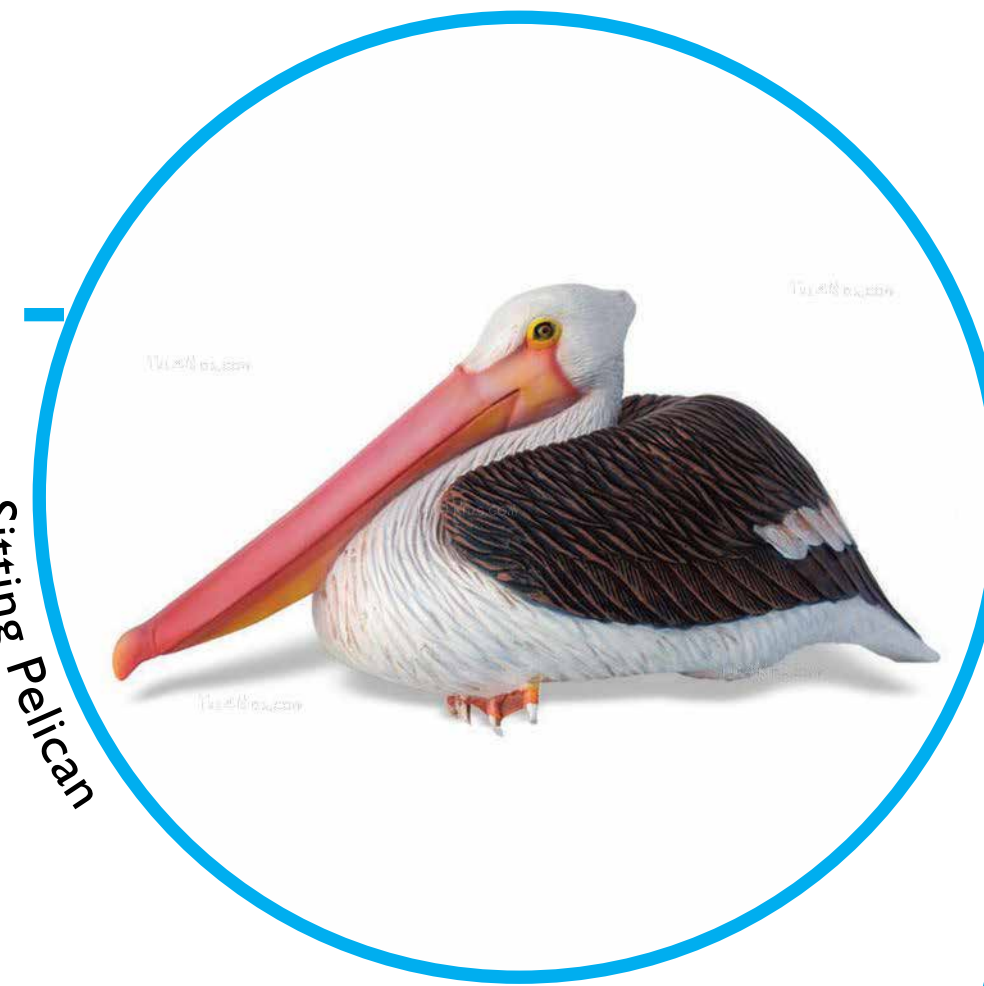
Blue Crab



Small Whale Climber



Large Whale Climber



Sitting Pelican



Dolphin Tail Climber



Staff Report

Item VIII December 18, 2019

To: Members of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission

From: Aren Clark, Public Works Superintendent

Subject: Appeal to Removals of City Trees

Background/Discussion:

On September 20, 2017, the City of Pacifica contracted Tree Management Experts, a private tree consulting company, to look at trees listed in the most recent tree survey as Moderate Risk. The assignment was to recommend procedures for reducing the risk level of these trees. The report recommends pruning and or cabling of many trees but also recommends the removal of trees when it is determined that standard pruning procedures, when applied, would not significantly reduce the risk level. The City of Pacifica budgeted for the removal of six (6) of these trees in the East Sharp Park area for fiscal year 2019-20. The City sent out notices of the tree removals to adjacent property owners and attached removal notices to each tree. One tree removal located adjacent to 606 Canyon Drive has been appealed by concerned citizens.

Due to the level of concern regarding the proposed removal of this tree, the City contracted Tree Management Experts, to re-evaluate the tree and to specifically examine the extent of the decay in the trunk. The decay detected was not extensive enough to conclude that a mid-trunk failure was a likely scenario. The tree remains, as originally determined, to be a medium risk tree with a noticeable lean and a low crown ratio. The crown ratio is a measure of the vertical extent of the portion of the tree containing live foliage as compared to the overall height of the tree. Trees with low crown ratios tend to add new growth in the crown and not provide much energy for the creation of new wood in the lower trunk and root area. The location of the street adjacent to the tree means that it is prudent to judge that the root system of the tree is compromised to some extent. The most likely mode of failure would be continued limb breakage in high winds. The lean is of some concern as it places an asymmetrical load on the root system and creates a defined target in that if the tree were to fail it would almost certainly impact one or both homes located at 606 and 618 Canyon.

A letter, provided to the Commission along with this report, was submitted by five residents of Canyon Drive stating some of the reasons that they are appealing the proposed tree removal. The following is a summary of these concerns:

1. There is no damage or broken limbs in the tree canopy.
2. There is no visual indication of any problem associated with the root system.
3. The tree does not pose a greater risk than other risks associated with living in Pacifica.
4. The trunk cavity has not been shown to raise the risk factor of this tree.
5. The tree provides habitat for a bee colony and other wildlife.
6. Removing the tree could impact the neighboring tree by altering wind loads.
7. Overall concern about the loss of mature Monterey Cypress trees along streets in Pacifica.

Below are staff's responses to these concerns:

1) There is no damage or broken limbs in the tree canopy.

Limb failure in high winds is a problem with Monterey cypress trees. In a natural setting the large lower limbs of a Monterey cypress tree often partially break and rest on the ground. When cracks develop in upper limbs, the lower canopy provides support and the limbs remain attached without falling off entirely. When Monterey cypress are grown as street trees, the lower limbs are pruned away to provide room for infrastructure (roads, houses, overhead utilities, etc.). This pruning practice encourages the trees to grow substantially taller than they would in a natural setting and also necessitates the continued removal of lower limbs as they develop cracks. This ultimately leads to trees with low live crown ratios and poor trunk taper as discussed earlier. It also leads to increased damage caused by failed limbs as they fall from increasingly higher points in the tree. Monterey cypresses trees are prone to developing cracks due to mechanical stress. A number of issues create this weakened condition:

- The wood is relatively weak
- Growth is only at the ends of limbs and end-heavy limbs naturally develop
- Branch crowding is common within a tree or as a result of adjacent trees and leads to long, weak branches
- Many of these trees were planted close to other large trees and are suppressed with one-sided forms and end-heavy limbs
- The species tends to form multiple (co-dominant) trunks, and cracks commonly occur at the juncture of these trunks

2) There is no visual indication of any problem associated with the root system

Root damage in Monterey Cypress trees is a major concern. Almost all tree roots on all trees in Pacifica are in the top two feet of soil. Many of these trees are eighty to one hundred years old and the City has no records of construction that may have impacted these root systems. Contractors and others sometimes cut or damage roots believing that they are only surface roots and that other roots deeper in the ground support the tree. Soil is also compacted around street trees in the same construction processes, depriving the root system of needed oxygen. A compromised root system will prevent a tree from absorbing necessary nutrients and may affect structural stability. Compromised root systems can sometimes be detected in certain tree species as the tree will form reaction wood to compensate for load changes. Reaction wood growth in response to root damage will show as abnormal swellings of the lower trunk. The ability to form reaction wood varies considerably from one tree species to another. Blue Gum eucalyptus is an example of a tree species that generally forms significant reaction wood, whereas Monterey cypress is an example of a tree species that forms very little. Due to the absence of significant reaction wood formation in Monterey cypress trees, and the fact that trees can have unstable root systems and still have healthy foliage, root damage in this tree species may remain undetected during a tree inspection.

3) The tree does not pose a greater risk than any other risk associated with living in Pacifica.

It is difficult to establish relative risk related to different scenarios. It is important to mention that all the risk factors mentioned in the letter are risk that the City is currently working to reduce. For example, improved building codes are used to address earthquake risk, funding for seawall repairs is being pursued, fire access routes to inaccessible areas within the City are being studied etc. The City recognizes that all urban forests present some risk that needs to be managed. It is the position of City staff that the risk this tree presents can no longer be managed with normal maintenance procedures.

4) The trunk cavity has not been shown to raise the risk factor of the tree.

Tree Management Experts has examined the trunk decay and feels that there is enough sound wood in the trunk to provide adequate stability. Trees try to add new wood faster that decay can progress in order to maintain trunk and root integrity. The low crown ratio of this tree will hinder the trees ability to maintain an adequate growth rate in the lower trunk area which is a concern.

5) The tree is providing habitat for bees and other wildlife.

The City makes every effort to relocate bee colonies when they are encountered and although it is not possible to guarantee success due to the difficulty of removing trees of this size the City has so far been successful in this endeavor.

6) Removing the tree could impact the neighboring tree by altering wind loads.

Altering wind-loads is also a major concern. Prevailing winds in Pacifica tend to move from the west to east. The tree being removed is on the east side of another large Cypress tree and, in this case, is the tree being sheltered from the prevailing winds. The City also plans to perform additional pruning on the remaining tree as recommended in the report supplied by Tree Management Experts.

7) Overall concern about the loss of mature Monterey Cypress trees along streets in Pacifica.

Staff understands and recognizes the concern for loss of mature Monterey Cypress trees. The funding now available for contracting tree work has resulted in an approximate 80% reduction in annual tree pruning. At the same time the City of Pacifica is attempting to maintain trees that are much larger than what would be found along streets in most cities. In order to continue to have an urban forest that can provide all the benefits being discussed the City needs to reduce the height of the tree canopy to manageable levels. Monterey Cypress, Monterey Pine and Blue Gum Eucalyptus are not native to Pacifica. These trees do well in this local climate and there are large specimens and sizeable groves in the City and County Parks and open space areas within Pacifica. These tree species are generally recognized to not be suitable street tree species. The City should consider the long term fade out of these trees along Pacifica's streets in favor of safer and more manageable tree species.

In summary this tree represents a significant risk that should be taken seriously. There are no maintenance procedures that will reduce the current risk level. The City of Pacifica seeks to provide a low risk sustainable urban forest. To this end it is necessary to remove certain Monterey Cypress trees where it is felt that pruning cannot significantly reduce the risk level. Each year City staff recommends a small number of medium risk trees, where pruning would be unproductive, for removal. In order to prioritize this work City staff targets trees that exhibit certain attributes. The main attributes pertaining to the removal of this tree are:

- The tree is listed as a medium risk tree that cannot be pruned to achieve a risk level reduction.
- The height of the tree and the proximity of overhead conductors make the tree difficult and thereby expensive to maintain with no safety improvement attainable.
- Due to the trees proximity to the neighboring tree it has grown with a pronounced lean and an unbalanced canopy. This creates a defined target in that if the tree were to fail, it would almost certainly impact at least one home.
- The tree has a low crown ratio and a questionable root system.

Fiscal Impact:

This is scheduled work and has been accounted for in the budget for fiscal year 2018-19.

Commission Action Requested:

Commission is requested to approve, disapprove or modify the decision of City Staff supporting the application for the removal of the tree.

Documents Attached:

1. **Copy of Tree Removal Application**
2. **Copy of Removal Notice**
3. **Tree Removal Appeal Letter with Pictures of the Tree**
4. **Arborist Report Prepared by Tree Management Experts**
5. **Copy of Appeal Hearing Letter**

CITY OF PACIFICA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - FIELD SERVICES DIVISION
170 SANTA MARIA AVE. PACIFICA, CA 94044
650-738-3760 650-738-9747 (fax) DPWassistance@ci.pacifica.ca.us
HERITAGE TREE APPLICATION

THIS SECTION IS A PERMIT APPLICATION ONLY.
IT DOES NOT GUARANTEE ISSUANCE OF PERMIT NOR GIVE PERMISSION TO BEGIN WORK

PERMIT NUMBER: HT-519-19 DATE: 09-27-19

APPLICANTS NAME: City of Pacifica PHONE NUMBER: (650) 738-3760

ADDRESS: 170 Santa Maria Avenue Pacifica CA 94044

1) LOCATION OF TREE(S): 606 Canyon
(ATTACH A SKETCH OR PLOT OF PROPERTY)

2) VARIETY OF TREE(S): Cypress TOTAL NUMBER OF TREE(S): 1

3) ACTION REQUESTED:

- removal / destruction** construction affecting dripline other (please specify)
 move designate as Heritage Tree

4) JUSTIFICATION (STATE THE REASON WHY THE ACTION IN SECTION 3 IS BEING REQUESTED): The City of Pacifica intends to reduce risk to adjacent property owners.

HERITAGE TREE ORDINANCE - PERMIT

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICATION EXECUTED ABOVE, PERMISSION IS: GRANTED DENIED

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____ EXPIRATION DATE: _____ EXTENTION EXPIRATION: _____

INSPECTED BY: City of Pacifica DATE: 09/27/19

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____

HERITAGE TREE ORDINANCE APPEAL
(Appeal Cost- \$388)

NAME OF APPELLANT: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

REASON TO APPEAL THE ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION ABOVE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON: _____



Scenic Pacifica
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

CITY OF PACIFICA

170 Santa Maria Avenue • Pacifica, California 94044-2506
www.cityofpacifica.org

MAYOR
John Keener

MAYOR PRO TEM
Sue Vaterlaus

COUNCIL
Sue Digre
Mike O'Neill
Deirdre Martin

* * * * NOTICE * * * *

Based on recommendations contained in a recent tree survey prepared by an independent arborist, observations made by City staff and concerns raised by local homeowners the City intends to proceed with the removal of Six (6) Cypress trees in the East Sharp Park area. These trees are located adjacent to the following addresses:

- 606 Canyon Dr. (1 Tree)
- 1101 Mirador Terr. – Cypress (1 Tree)
- 390 Loma Vista Terr.– Cypress (3 Trees)
- 366 Loma Vista Terr. Cypress (1 Tree)

Tree removal notices have been attached to each tree in question for identification. The City is now processing the tree removal permit, required by City ordinance, for the removal of trees over fifty inches in circumference. The process requires that notification of the intended removal/s be mailed to adjacent property owners. **If you are not in favor of any the proposed removals you need submit an appeal to the City before October 17, 2019. The fee for each tree appeal is \$388.00 and payment needs to be submitted at the same time.** In accordance with the requirements established by the Heritage Tree Ordinance, this Department will make a final decision on the permit by that date.

Attached are copies of the applications. If you desire to appeal the proposed administrative decision, please complete the bottom portion of the application and return it along with the appeal fee of \$388 by the date specified. This appeal needs to be mailed to: City of Pacifica, City Clerk, Attention: Tree Appeal, 170 Santa Maria Avenue, Pacifica, CA 94044. Appeals mailed to a different Department may not reach the City Clerk in time to be considered. If you are planning to hand-deliver your appeal, please deliver it to 170 Santa Maria Avenue. Hand-delivering the appeal to another Department will most likely not reach the City Clerk in time for consideration. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Public Works office at 650-738-3760, 650-738-9747 (fax) or email: DPWassistance@ci.pacificaca.us
Sincerely,

Aren Clark
Public Works Superintendent

COPY → Aren Clark
Public Works

RECEIVED
OCT 17 2019
CITY CLERK

CITY OF PACIFICA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - FIELD SERVICES DIVISION
170 SANTA MARIA AVE. PACIFICA, CA 94044
650-738-3760 650-738-9747 (fax) DPWassistance@ci.pacifica.ca.us
HERITAGE TREE APPLICATION

THIS SECTION IS A PERMIT APPLICATION ONLY.
IT DOES NOT GUARANTEE ISSUANCE OF PERMIT NOR GIVE PERMISSION TO BEGIN WORK

PERMIT NUMBER: HT-519-19 DATE: 09-27-19

APPLICANTS NAME: City of Pacifica PHONE NUMBER: (650) 738-3760

ADDRESS: 170 Santa Maria Avenue Pacifica CA 94044

1) LOCATION OF TREE(S): 606 Canyon
(ATTACH A SKETCH OR PLOT OF PROPERTY)

2) VARIETY OF TREE(S): Cypress TOTAL NUMBER OF TREE(S): 1

3) ACTION REQUESTED:

- removal / destruction
- construction affecting dripline
- other (please specify)
- move
- designate as Heritage Tree

4) JUSTIFICATION (STATE THE REASON WHY THE ACTION IN SECTION 3 IS BEING REQUESTED): The City of Pacifica intends to reduce risk to adjacent property owners.

HERITAGE TREE ORDINANCE - PERMIT

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICATION EXECUTED ABOVE, PERMISSION IS: GRANTED DENIED

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____ EXPIRATION DATE: _____ EXTENTION EXPIRATION: _____

INSPECTED BY: City of Pacifica DATE: 09/27/19

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____

HERITAGE TREE ORDINANCE APPEAL
(Appeal Cost- \$388)

NAME OF APPELLANT: Susan Bachman (and others) PHONE NUMBER: 415-902-9575
ADDRESS: 618 Canyon Drive, Pacifica (see attached for others)

REASON TO APPEAL THE ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION ABOVE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON: please see attached 3 page statement with photos.

Rcvd payment \$388 by
credit card / Receipt # 29949
-lc

HERITAGE TREE ORDINANCE APPEAL
PERMIT NUMBER: HT-519-19 DATE: 09-27-19

NAME/ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS:

Primary:	Susan Bachman	618 Canyon Drive	415-902-9575
Secondary:	Nomi Harper	605 Canyon Drive	650-400-2318
	Charles Havnar	625 Canyon Drive	650-303-4206
	Lisa Schenkelberg	628 Canyon Drive	415-596-1644
	Julie Duffy	640 Canyon Drive	650-270-9425

REASON TO APPEAL THE ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION ABOVE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

The stated reason to remove this tree is “to reduce risk to adjacent property owners.” I am the adjacent property owner and am confused about what increased “risk” this tree poses to me and my neighbors. I’ve chosen to live next to this tree for over 25 years. I have never felt threatened or in danger from this tree. I can see that this tree is healthy. It is not leaning, dying, nor appear unhealthy in any way. There are no damaged branches precariously hanging from the canopy. There is no bulging soil or indication of weakened or rotten root structure. The canopy and direction of growth has not visibly changed in more than a decade (see attached photos from 2007 and 2019).

I’m also unclear from the permit application what the risk threshold is for removal of Heritage Trees. This tree poses no greater risk level to me now than when I first moved here. Living in Pacifica poses many risks that I have willingly accepted, as we all do, when choosing to live here. These risks include proximity to the San Andreas Fault, high wildfire risk, risk from the sale and improper use of fireworks, tsunami threat, and coastline erosion. Further, this tree poses no greater risk than other Monterey Cypress Heritage Trees in Pacifica. It seems to me that there’s no basis to single out this particular tree for removal.

As far as I know, only one neighbor has complained about this tree, due to fear that the cavity inside the trunk makes this tree unsafe. The rest of us were not given a voice in this decision. Rather than being a liability, I believe that the cavity in its trunk actually makes this tree a vital asset to our neighborhood and a unique reason to preserve this tree.

This tree has hosted a natural feral bee colony for decades and is still thriving today. This colony is so productive that it swarms every year, enhancing and adding to our local bee populations. Multiple organizations are focusing on the decline of bee populations and the immense importance of preserving natural bee habitats. Healthy Monterey Cypress are prone to cavities within their trunks making them ideal natural bee habitats. This tree is no different than any other Heritage Monterey Cypress in Pacifica. The City has no evidence that this tree is unhealthy due to the cavity.

I’m also concerned about the impact removing this tree will have on the Monterey Cypress Heritage Tree next to it. These two trees have thrived together for much longer than any of us have lived here. They provide wind breaks for each other and possibly added stability from an intertwined root structure.

HERITAGE TREE ORDINANCE APPEAL
PERMIT NUMBER: HT-519-19 DATE: 09-27-19

This iconic tree is a vital part of a healthy ecosystem here in Pacifica. There are so few of these iconic Monterey Cypress trees left in Pacifica. In addition to natural bee hives, these trees are home to Great Horned Owls, Red-tailed Hawks, and countless other species that would not have the habitat to survive without these trees. Once these trees are gone, this vital habitat and the species that rely on them are gone too. As vital habitats, I believe that these Heritage Trees should only be destroyed as a last resort after posing a threat to our community. "Risk" is not the same thing as imminent threat. This tree is not a threat and the City has not provided evidence that this is a high risk tree.

My hope in filing this appeal is that this healthy tree will remain a vital part of the local habitat.

Respectfully, Susan Bachman

APPELLANT'S SIGNATURE: _____



DATE: _____

10/16/19

2007



2019



Tree Management Experts

Consulting Arborists

3109 Sacramento Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

Member, American Society of Consulting Arborists
Certified Arborists, Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

email Roy@treemanagementexperts.com

cell 415.606.3610



City of Pacifica

Attn: Aren Clark, Public Works
151 Milagra Drive
Pacifica, CA 94044

RE: Monterey Cypress at 606 Canyon

Date: 10/21/19

ARBORIST MEMORANDUM

Assignment

- Evaluate two Monterey cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) at 606 Canyon.
- Provide an aerial inspection of various holes in the east tree used by squirrels and bees.
- Evaluate cavity depth and extent using a tile probe.
- Consider changes in risk based on cavities, and based on the removal of the east tree.
- Provide an Arborist Memorandum of findings and recommendations.

Background

The Department of Public Works received a report of squirrels and bees in various cavities of the east tree at 606 Canyon. Concerns were expressed as to the safety of the tree and the adjacent tree, both being mature Monterey cypress, and some members of the public did not want either tree removed.

Aren Clark arranged for the City's aerial lift (bucket truck) to be at site and available to me for an aerial inspection. This inspection took place on 10/14/19.

Observations and Discussion

For purposes of this report, the two Monterey cypress are referred to as the east tree and west tree. Both are within 4 feet of the edge of Canyon and are therefore street trees maintained by the Department of Public Works.

East Tree

An aerial inspection was completed on the east tree. The squirrel holes were at about 20 feet above grade on the south-southeast side of the tree. The bees were at about 15 feet above grade on the east side of the tree. The diameter at the height of the squirrel holes was about 48 inches.

The two holes actively used by squirrels entered through the end grain of old branch removal cuts and showed evidence of recent chewing around the edges of the openings. Each opening was about 3 to 4 inches across and nearly round. The two holes were

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separated by a large rib of wood, and were bounded by two additional ribs of wood. The left opening was about 6 inches higher than the right opening. The left opening had some evidence of decay in the end grain. It appears that the squirrels exploited the decayed and partially decayed wood to create openings into the cavities.

The left opening was probed to determine the extent of the cavity. Solid wood was encountered along the west side of the opening. The depth of the cavity was approximately 18 inches. A tunnel extended downward and to the right (east).

The right opening was about 6 inches deep and did not have a cavity beyond a tunnel that extended upward and to the right (west). It appeared that the right opening was simply a "back door" for the left opening and cavity.

The cavity used by honey bees was about 2 inches across. The depth was about 4 inches, with bees travelling upward from the opening.

Without consideration of an internal cavity or cavities, the east tree is a moderate risk tree. Given that the tree has an 18-inch cavity with relatively good compartmentalization, and that the bees are likely utilizing the same column of decay as the squirrels, the extent of decay is reasonably well quantified. With the diameter of the tree being about 48 inches, the ratio of sound wood is about 60 percent, and the tree has not likely lost any appreciable strength due to decay. Since decay is relatively minor and response growth is strong, there is no increase in likelihood of failure for the trunk and this tree remains a moderate risk tree.

West Tree

The west tree is currently a moderate risk tree. With removal of the east tree it would change from partially exposed to fully exposed. Pruning could be completed to remove part of the upper structure and shorten the tree, thereby mitigating for the change in exposure. With this pruning, the tree would remain an moderate risk tree after removal of the east tree.

Conclusions and Recommendations

I recommend that the two trees be managed as moderate risk trees. Moderate risk trees are at a significantly increased or elevated risk for failure as compared to normal or ordinary trees. These mature Monterey cypress are similar to many others in Pacifica in that they are over-scale for their setting, have low live crown ratios and compromised root systems due to roadway construction, infrastructure and utilities.

There is no reason why either tree must be removed based on defects identified by way of this current evaluation, although these trees may be best removed due to their moderate risk level and other considerations.

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Assumptions and Limiting Conditions

1. Any legal description provided to the consultant is assumed to be correct. Title and ownership of all property considered are assumed to be good and marketable. No responsibility is assumed for matters legal in character. Any and all property is appraised or evaluated as though free and clear, under responsible ownership and competent management.
2. It is assumed that any property is not in violation of any applicable codes, ordinances, statutes or other governmental regulations.
3. Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible. The consultant can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.
4. Various diagrams, sketches and photographs in this report are intended as visual aids and are not to scale, unless specifically stated as such on the drawing. These communication tools in no way substitute for nor should be construed as surveys, architectural or engineering drawings.
5. Loss or alteration of any part of this report invalidates the entire report.
6. Possession of this report or a copy thereof does not imply right of publication or use for any purpose by any other than the person to whom it is addressed, without the prior written or verbal consent of the consultant.
7. This report is confidential and to be distributed only to the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. Any or all of the contents of this report may be conveyed to another party only with the express prior written or verbal consent of the consultant. Such limitations apply to the original report, a copy, facsimile, scanned image or digital version thereof.
8. This report represents the opinion of the consultant. In no way is the consultant's fee contingent upon a stipulated result, the occurrence of a subsequent event, nor upon any finding to be reported.
9. The consultant shall not be required to give testimony or to attend court by reason of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of an additional fee for such services as described in the fee schedule, an agreement or a contract.
10. Information contained in this report reflects observations made only to those items described and only reflects the condition of those items at the time of the site visit. Furthermore, the inspection is limited to visual examination of items and elements at the site, unless expressly stated otherwise. There is no expressed or implied warranty or guarantee that problems or deficiencies of the plants or property inspected may not arise in the future.

Disclosure Statement

Arborists are tree specialists who use 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 to seek additional advice.

Arborists 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 below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specified period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments, like any medicine, cannot be guaranteed.

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Treatment, pruning, and removal of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborist's services such as property boundaries, property ownership, site lines, disputes between neighbors, and other issues. An arborist cannot take such considerations into account unless complete and accurate information is disclosed to the arborist. An arborist should then be expected to reasonably rely upon the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.

Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risk associated with trees is to eliminate the trees.

Certification of Performance


I, Roy C. Leggitt, III, Certify:

- That we have inspected the trees and/or property evaluated in this report. We have stated findings accurately, insofar as the limitations of the Assignment and within the extent and context identified by this report;
- That we have no current or prospective interest in the vegetation or any real estate that is the subject of this report, and have no personal interest or bias with respect to the parties involved;
- That the analysis, opinions and conclusions stated herein are original and are based on current scientific procedures and facts and according to commonly accepted arboricultural practices;
- That no significant professional assistance was provided, except as indicated by the inclusion of another professional report within this report;
- That compensation is not contingent upon the reporting of a predetermined conclusion that favors the cause of the client or any other party.

I am a member in good standing of the American Society of Consulting Arborists and a member and Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture.

I have attained professional training in all areas of knowledge asserted through this report by completion of a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science, by routinely attending pertinent professional conferences and by reading current research from professional journals, books and other media.

I have rendered professional services in a full-time capacity in the field of horticulture and arboriculture for more than 30 years.


Signed: _____
Certified Arborist WE-0564A

Date: 10/21/19 _____



Scenic Pacifica
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

CITY OF PACIFICA

170 Santa Maria Avenue • Pacifica, California 94044-2506
www.cityofpacifica.org

MAYOR
Sue Vaterlaus

MAYOR PRO TEM
Deirdre Martin

COUNCIL
Sue Beckmeyer
Mary Bier
Mike O'Neill

City of Pacifica

Notice of Tree Removal Application Appeal

The City of Pacifica has received a written appeal, endorsed by five residents, to the proposed tree removal adjacent to 606 Canyon Drive. The Matter has therefore been referred to the Parks Beach and Recreation Commission. The matter will be heard and a decision will be made at the regular monthly meeting of the commission. All of the concerned parties will be allowed to present their opinions on the subject at this time. This meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2019 at 7:00PM. The meeting will be held at the City Council Chambers located at 2212 Beach Boulevard, Pacifica, CA.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call the Public Works Department at (650) 738-3760.