



Community Services and Youth Committee Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS **DATE: APRIL 17, 2017**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE POLYPHAGOUS SHOT HOLE BORER BEETLE AFFECTING PARKS TREES - DIRECT SUBMITTAL

ISSUE:

Receive an update on the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer Beetle affecting Parks trees.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Community Services and Youth Committee receive the update on the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer Beetle affecting Parks trees.

BACKGROUND:

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer is a beetle that has recently been found to be colonizing many species of trees in Southern California.

DISCUSSION:

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) has been found in many tree species within Southern California, including trees found within City parks. PSHB colonization leads to deterioration of tree health and vigor, and may result in tree death.

Research shows that 49 species are suitable hosts to the PSHB. The PSHB has been found in oaks, sycamores and alders in Fairmount, Martha McLean and White Parks. In 2016, at a cost of nearly \$9,600, approximately 1,800 trees of many species within Fairmount Park, as well as 7 trees including oaks, sycamores and a ficus in White Park and 1 oak in Patterson Park were treated for the PSHB. One tree, a large oak in Fairmount Park, succumbed to the PSHB and was removed in 2016.

The City's parks system includes approximately 30,000 trees. Tree removals throughout the parks system, not necessarily related to the PSHB, over the last three calendar years are: 2014 – 67 trees; 2015 – 156 trees; and, 2016 – 57 trees.

Research is underway in an effort to identify means of control and to minimize the spread of the PSHB. Research entomologists from University of California, Riverside, have prepared the attached presentation to provide a more in depth look at the characteristics of the PSHB.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:	Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director
Certified as to availability of funds:	Scott G. Miller PhD, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by:	Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment:	Presentation
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