



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Park and Recreation Commission

**TO: HONORABLE PARK AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**DATE: MARCH 19, 2018**

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

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON PROTECTION OF THE PARENT NAVEL ORANGE TREE FROM  
THE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID AND HUANGLONGBING CITRUS GREENING  
DISEASE**

## **ISSUE:**

Update on activities undertaken to protect the Parent Navel Orange Tree from the Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing citrus greening disease.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive and provide input on a report of the activities to protect the Parent Naval Orange Tree from the Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing citrus greening disease.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Parent Navel Orange Tree is California Historic Landmark No. 20, and is City of Riverside Landmark No. 15.

On August 8, 2017, the Community & Economic Development Department presented to the City Council an update (Attachment 1) on huanglongbing citrus greening disease and its impact on the citrus industry.

A City of Riverside Press Release dated July 28, 2017 (Attachment 2) urges vigilant inspection of citrus trees for signs of citrus greening after the disease was found on a tree in northeast Riverside.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Protection of the Parent Navel Orange Tree (PNOT) from the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) and the huanglongbing (HLB) citrus greening disease is critical to preserving a treasured historical and cultural resource with national significance.

The PNOT is located within a fenced enclosure at the corner of Magnolia and Arlington Avenues (see map – Attachment 3). Two companion trees, the Marsh grapefruit and a 1940's navel

orange, of lesser or no historical value, are enclosed along with the PNOT. Under advisement from citrus and plant pathology experts at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), these two companion trees are recommended for removal to eliminate potential hosts for the ACP and HLB.

To further protect the PNOT, the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department has been working with an agricultural supplier to provide a suitable design for a temporary screen house to protect against the ACP. Given the size of the PNOT and the limited space within the fenced enclosure, a custom solution was proposed by the agricultural supplier, leading to higher cost and a longer manufacturing time than anticipated. In consulting with UCR, and other local experts from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Citrus Research Board, various other concerns and criteria for designing the screen house have been brought to light.

Given the complexity of setting up the temporary screen house, the team of experts has arrived at the conclusion that the time and funding invested on the screen house would be better spent on a permanent screen house rather than a temporary structure. A solution using a pre-engineered steel framework with easily replaceable screen panels is being researched for biological and historic appropriateness and for cost effectiveness.

In the meantime, the PNOT and the two companion trees are being monitored and regularly treated with pesticides as a preventative measure to prevent infestation by the ACP.

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Attachment:

1. City Council Report dated 08/08/2017
2. Press Release dated 07/28/2017
3. Map showing location of Parent Navel Orange Tree