



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Community Services and Youth Committee Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS** **DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2019**

**FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT** **WARD: 3**

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE REMOVAL OF TWO COMPANION TREES ENCLOSED WITH THE PARENT NAVEL ORANGE TREE AND ITS PROTECTION AGAINST THE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID AND THE HUANGLONGBING CITRUS GREENING DISEASE - DIRECT SUBMITTAL**

## **ISSUE:**

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

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Community Services and Youth Committee:

1. Receive an update on activities undertaken to protect the Parent Navel Orange Tree from the Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing citrus greening disease; and
2. Approve the removal of the two companion trees adjacent to the Parent Navel Orange Tree to minimize the threat of Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing citrus greening disease.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Parent Navel Orange Tree (PNOT) is a California Historic Landmark No. 20, and is the City of Riverside Landmark No. 15.

On August 8, 2017, the Community and Economic Development Department presented to the City Council an update on Huanglongbing citrus greening disease and its impact on the citrus industry.

On July 28, 2018, the City of Riverside Press Release (Attachment 1) urged 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 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. Two companion trees, the Marsh grapefruit and a 1940's navel orange, of no significant historical value, are enclosed along with the PNOT. Under advisement from citrus and plant pathology experts at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), the two companion trees are recommended for removal to eliminate potential hosts for the ACP and HLB.

The City and scientists from UCR have developed a strong relationship related to maintaining the health and vigor of the PNOT, including protecting against pests and disease. The team of scientists include experts from UCR as well as from the Citrus Research Board and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) with focus in the fields of citriculture, entomology, biology, plant pathology, and plant genetics. This team of experts is known throughout the world for their work in the citrus industry.

As recommended by this team, a frost cloth was draped over the PNOT during the summer months to provide a physical barrier against the psyllid. The frost cloth provided the needed protection during the psyllid's most active period. It was, however, subject to the effects of heavy winds and suffered tears and was ultimately removed in early fall.

To provide a more permanent physical barrier, a steel structure has been designed that will serve as the framework for the insect screening material. The framework design has been prepared and is now being reviewed by the City's Building and Safety Division. The construction documents for the steel framework are anticipated to be approved by the city and ready for construction in early 2019. 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.

## **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:	Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer / City Treasurer
Approved by:	Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Press Release July 28, 2017