



# Community Services and Youth Committee Memorandum

*City of Arts & Innovation*

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**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**

## **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. Review, provide input, and accept the 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 it's 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 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.

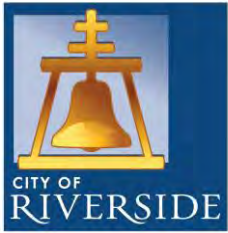
To provide a more permanent physical barrier a steel structure has been designed that will serve as the framework for the insect screening material. The framework design has been prepared and is now being reviewed by the city's Building and Safety Division. The construction documents for the steel framework 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 or in.

Prepared by:	Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director
Certified as to	
availability of funds:	Edward Enriquez, Interim 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



City of Arts & Innovation

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 28, 2017

### Contact:

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Communications Officer

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## Riverside Urges Vigilance After Deadly Citrus Disease Found on Local Tree

*Citrus greening, known as huanglongbing, or HLB, is a threat to citrus across the state*

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The City of Riverside is urging all owners of citrus trees in the area to remain vigilant and inspect their citrus trees for signs of citrus greening, also known as huanglongbing, or HLB, after the disease was found this week on a tree in northeast Riverside.

State and federal officials removed the infected tree from the property near the intersection of Chicago and Marlborough avenues because the disease, which inevitably kills infected citrus trees, can be transmitted from tree to tree by the Asian citrus psyllid. To learn what an Asian citrus psyllid looks like, how the disease affects trees and how to report sightings, visit [CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org](http://CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org).

“Riverside has a long and storied history with citrus dating back more than a century, so any threat to citrus trees is a very serious matter,” Mayor Rusty Bailey said. “It is imperative that all owners of citrus -- from a tree in a backyard to a grove in full production – be aware of the danger posed by HLB and take steps to ensure trees remain disease-free.”

The bacterial disease attacks plants’ vascular system but does not pose a threat to humans or animals. The Asian citrus psyllid can spread the bacteria when the pest moves from one location to another, feeding on citrus trees and other plants. Once a tree is infected there is no cure, and it typically declines and dies within a few years.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed the discovery of HLB after the disease was detected in a CDFA sample collected July 10 from a grapefruit tree in a residential neighborhood.

CDFA worked with the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office and USDA to create a survey and treatment program to remove and dispose of the infected tree and treat citrus trees within 800 feet for Asian citrus psyllid infestations. A quarantine within a five-mile radius of where HLB was detected prohibits the sale of all host nursery stock and the movement of all host plants and fruits, both for residents and commercial operations.

Cultural Heritage Board

February 20, 2019

Ruben Arroyo, Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, said discovery of the disease means that all citrus trees in the area are at risk.

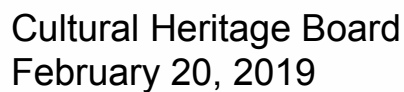
“It’s important for residents, growers and agricultural officials to work together to quickly find this disease and stop its spread,” Arroyo said.

Riverside’s California Citrus State Historic Park, which preserves the cultural landscape of the citrus industry and tells the story of the industry’s role in the history and development of California, is not affected by the quarantine.

HLB is known to be present in Mexico and in parts of the southern United States. Florida first detected the pest in 1998 and the disease in 2005. The University of Florida estimates that the disease causes an average loss of 7,513 jobs per year, and has cost growers \$3 billion in lost revenue since it was first detected there. The Asian citrus psyllid was first detected in California in 2008.

“Citrus is a part of our heritage, our current business community, and our future,” Mayor Pro Tem Mike Gardner said. “It’s very important for everyone who owns a tree to be informed and aware of the potential danger.”

For more information about HLB and what to look for, Riverside County residents may call the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office at (951) 955-3045 or CDFA’s toll-free pest hotline at 1-800-491-1899 or visit: [www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp/](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp/)





**A.S.C. ENGINEERS & ASSOCIATES**  
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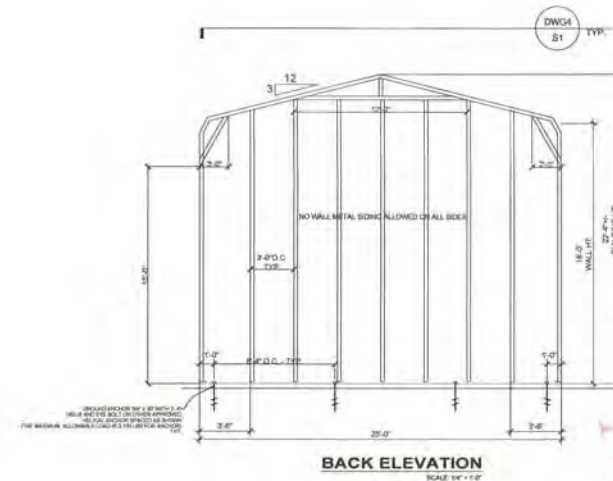
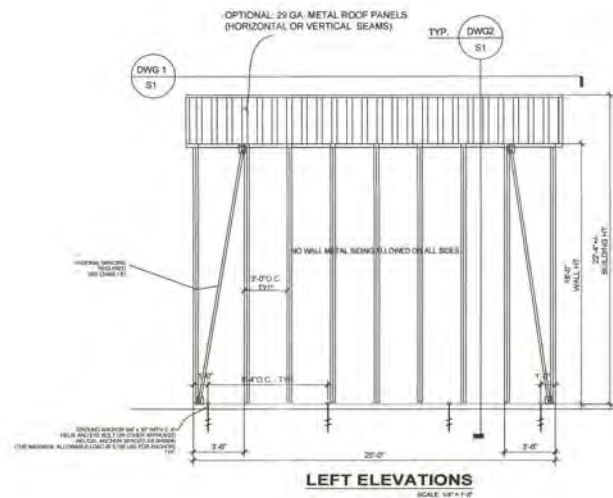
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PROJECT NUMBER  
3780

SHEET NUMBER

S2



**CULTURAL RESOURCE REVIEW**  
 Checked for Compliance with the  
 Cultural Resource Ordinance, Title 20  
 of Riverside's Municipal Code  
 by the Citywide Residential Historic District  
 Design Ordinance (where applicable),  
 and the Secretary of Interior's  
 Standards for Historic Properties

By: [Signature]  
 (Historic Preservation Officer)

Date: 9/24/16  
 City of Riverside, Planning Director