



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL      DATE: APRIL 2, 2019**

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

**SUBJECT: REMOVAL OF TWO COMPANION TREES ENCLOSED WITH THE PARENT**  
**NAVEL ORANGE TREE TO PROTECT AGAINST THE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID**  
**AND THE HUANGLONGBING CITRUS GREENING DISEASE**

## **ISSUE:**

Approve the removal of two companion trees enclosed with the Parent Navel Orange Tree to protect it from the Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing citrus greening disease.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council:

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 on the Parent Navel Orange Tree from the Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing citrus greening disease.

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

On February 13, 2019, the Community Services and Youth Committee met with Chair Conder, Vice Chair Adams and Member Perry present to consider the protection of the Parent Navel Orange Tree from the Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing citrus greening disease. Following discussion, the committee voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council 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 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 a 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.

In a joint effort between the City, experts from UC Riverside, the Citrus Research Board, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), recommendations for protection of the PNOT were developed.

On February 13, 2019 a recommendation to remove the two companion trees adjacent to the PNOT was presented to the Community Services and Youth Committee. A scientist from UC Riverside provided background information on the Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing citrus greening disease and reasons why removal of the companion trees was necessary.

On February 20, 2019 a presentation was made to the Cultural Heritage Board (CHB) outlining the findings and the recommendation for removal of the companion trees to protect the PNOT.

## **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 reviewed and approved by the city's Building and Safety Division. The construction building permit for the steel framework is ready for issuance with the structure installation scheduled for March 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:**

The cost to remove the trees is \$1,407; sufficient funds exist in the Parks Professional Services account 5215000-421000.

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

Concurs with:

  
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Chuck Conder  
Councilmember

Attachment: Press Release July 28, 2017