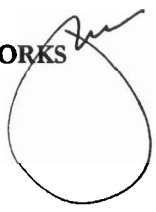


**TO:** JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER  
**FROM:** JOHN R. McCARTHY, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS  
**SUBJECT:** OAK TREE REMOVAL REQUEST  
TENTATIVE TRACT 2276  
**DATE:** APRIL 6, 1999



**Needs:** For the City Council to consider adopting a Resolution to remove an existing 54-inch diameter oak tree as part of the development of Tentative Tract 2276.

- Facts:**
1. In August 1998, the Planning Commission approved Tentative Tract 2276 to subdivide an approximate 15-acre site into 71 single family residential parcels, exclusively for senior citizens.
  2. The development plan would require the removal of an existing 54-inch oak tree located at Airport Road.
  3. In December 1998, the City Council directed the developer to re-align the proposed sidewalk on Airport Road to preserve the oak tree.
  4. According to the applicant, due to the foliage of the tree in December, it was difficult to see the health of the tree.

**Analysis and Conclusion:** The applicant has submitted additional information and requests that the City Council re-consider their initial direction to preserve the tree and allow the developer to remove the 54-inch diameter oak tree on Airport Road.

**Policy Reference:** Oak Tree Ordinance  
City Council Minute Action, December 1, 1998

**Fiscal Impact:** None

- Options:**
- A. That the City Council adopt the attached Resolution, authorizing the removal of one 54-inch diameter oak tree as part of the development of Tentative Tract 2276.
  - B. That the City Council amend, modify, or reject the above options.

- Attachments:** (3)  
1) Resolution  
2) Applicant's Letter of Request  
3) Photos

**RESOLUTION No. 99-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA,  
GIVING PERMISSION TO REMOVE AN OAK TREE AT AIRPORT ROAD (TENTATIVE TRACT 2276)**

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**WHEREAS**, the City has received an arborist report dated September 30, 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, the health of the tree has deteriorated and is severely infected with heart rot.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. That the City Council of the City of Paso Robles does hereby give permission for the removal of one (1) oak tree at Airport Road as part of the development of Tentative Tract 2276.

Section 2. That the applicant is required to install two (2) 24-inch box oak trees (1-1/2 inch minimum caliper) for each oak tree removed which are greater than 3-inch diameter.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of **April**, 1999, on the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

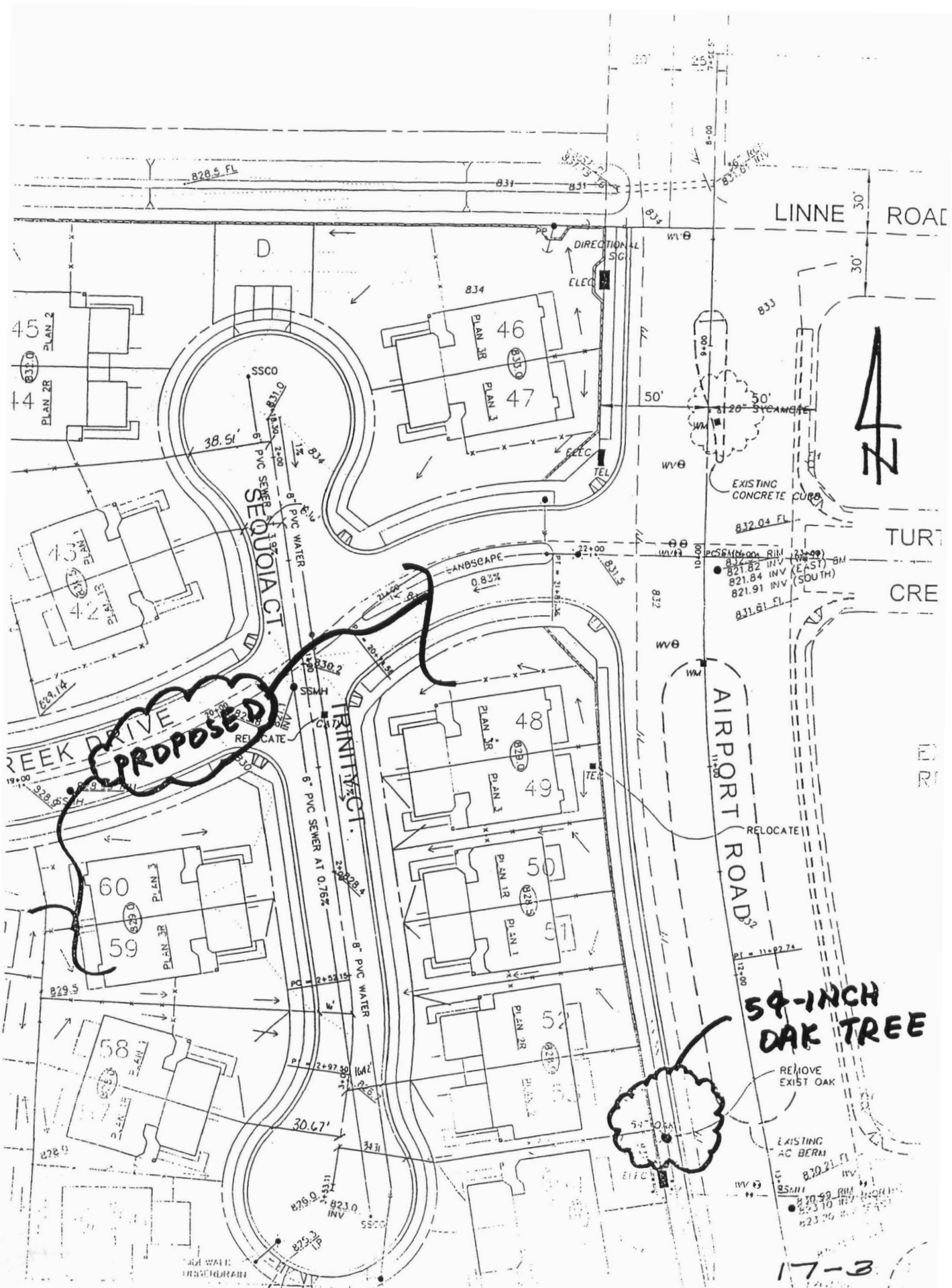
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**Duane Picanco, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Madelyn Paasch, City Clerk**



**PROPOSED**

**54-INCH DAK TREE**



**M E M O R A N D U M**

**to:** Jim App, City Manager  
**from:** Larry Werner *LW*  
**subject:** Tract 2276 oak tree removal  
**date:** March 18, 1999

RECEIVED  
CITY MANAGER

MAR 19 1999

CITY OF PASO ROBLES

On December 1, 1998 we requested that the City Council approve the removal of an oak tree located in the right of way of Airport Road adjacent to Tentative Tract 2276 (Turtle Creek). At that time the Council did not see fit to allow the removal of the tree.

Due to the foliage of the tree at the time it was difficult to view the extent of the rot and decay of the main trunk of the tree. During the winter, when the leaves were absent, it became very clear that the damage and decay of the tree was extensive and presents a public hazard. The existing branch which points to the north joins the trunk directly adjacent to the portion of the trunk which is cracked and rotten. It is only a matter of time before the trunk fails and the branch falls. At my request, John McCarthy visited the site with me to re-evaluate the tree. His conclusion, as was mine, is that the tree poses a public safety hazard and should be removed. Councilman Mecham has also taken a look at the tree and concurs. This was also the recommendation of the Arborist.

I have attached photographs which clearly show the extent of the decay and cracking of the main trunk. Please feel free to share these photos with members of Council and Staff. Additional photos can be supplied on request.

We therefore respectfully request that the City Council reconsider this item at it's earliest convenience. As we anticipate construction to commence within weeks it would be appreciated if this item could be scheduled as soon as possible.

cc Jack Ghormley

WESTERN

CERTIFIED

ARBORIST

CHAPTER

BRAZEAL'S TREE CONSULTANTS

4531 Skipjack Lane  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
(805) 227-6140



Tax ID 248488781  
WC-0163  
California State License No. 619923

September 30, 1998

Jack Ghormley  
Bonita Homes  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

RE: One 54" diameter valley oak (Quercus lobata) tree, located on Airport Road,  
South of Linne Road, Paso Robles, Ca.

ASSIGNMENT:

Evaluate the health and condition of one, 54" diameter valley oak tree located on the West side of Airport Road and South of Linne Road at the Bonita Homes tract, Paso Robles, California. Prepare a report that will address the proposed impact to this tree as a result of the Airport Road improvements.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

Determine if the health and condition of the subject tree will survive the impact of the proposed Airport Road improvements and if it will remain in a safe and healthy condition.

LIMITS OF ASSIGNMENT:

Any request(s) or assignment(s) by governing bodies, other than the City of Paso Robles, requiring any change to this initial report, shall be changed by addendum and may be subject to additional charges.

17-5

OBSERVATION:

This large tree stump is located on an unimproved site adjacent to Airport Road, at the Bonita Homes tract area. All but 1 of the original branches have failed, leaving a large stump approximately 20 feet tall that is covered with second growth (suckers). This is a common characteristic of valley oak trees that can be observed throughout the inland valleys of California. Severe heart rot is existing in this tree leaving only the outer shell to support the branches. As the second growth becomes large and heavy, the potential for additional branch failure will increase. Valley oak trees reaching this stage of maturity can live for many years if the root system is left undisturbed or if the root system is not severely impacted. However, branch failure will always be a safety factor to deal with.

CONCLUSION:

1. This valley oak tree is very old.
2. This tree is severely infected with heart rot.
3. Pruning and maintenance can lessen the hazards associated with this tree but will not guarantee safe passage for pedestrians or vehicular traffic.

RECOMMENDATION:

The proposed improvements on Airport Road will create an unsafe condition beneath this tree for pedestrians and vehicular traffic. To mitigate this unsafe condition, removal is recommended.



Jack Brazeal  
Registered Consulting Arborist

Attachments: (2) photographs; (1) site plan