

**TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER**

**FROM: ROBERT A. LATA, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO REMOVE ONE OAK TREE - TRACT 2269 (ERSKINE)**

**DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2002**

**Needs:** For the City Council to consider a request to remove one 35-inch Valley Oak Tree.

- Facts:**
1. The City has received a written request from Tim Roberts, PE on behalf of Tom Erskine, for the removal of one 35-inch Valley Oak tree within Golden Hill Road, adjacent to Tract 2269, Golden Hill Industrial Park.
  2. An Arborist Report was performed by Jack Brazeal, Registered Consulting Arborist, where the health of the tree was analyzed in terms of its existing condition as well as impacts of the improvements for Golden Hill Road. (See attached report and site plan)
  3. The arborist recommends removal of the tree since it is structurally weak due to the trunk and main scaffold branches being hollow and contaminated with heart rot disease. Mr. Brazeal has indicated in his report that the tree has declined to a point that it is not safe along a public street.
  4. In addition to the heart rot disease; the tree will be impacted by the road improvements for Golden Hill Road. Once Golden Hill Road is widened to its required width, the subject tree would be located within the paving area.
  5. Trenching for utility lines has also occurred within the trees Critical Root Zone that will add to the declined health of the tree.

**Analysis**

**And Conclusion:** City policies strongly encourage oak tree preservation. Section 10.01.150 (D) of the Paso Robles Municipal Code states that five factors should be considered when oak trees are proposed for removal. These factors are:

- The condition of the oak tree with respect to its general health: According to the Arborist Report by Jack Brazeal dated October 4, 2002, the report concludes that the tree is structurally weak due to

heart rot disease and trenching within the CRZ and should be removed.

- The necessity of the requested action to allow construction of improvements or otherwise allow reasonable use of the property for the purpose for which it has been zoned: Street improvements for Golden Hill Road as well as the construction of utilities for the industrial subdivision are currently being constructed within Golden Hill Road.
- The topography of land, and the potential effect of the requested tree removal on soil retention, water retention, and diversion or increased flow of surface waters: the removal of the tree, if authorized, is not expected to impact drainage runoff.
- The number, species, size and location of existing trees in the area and the effect of the requested action on shade areas, air pollution, historic values, scenic beauty and the general welfare of the city as a whole: There are other oak trees located within the subdivision, replacement trees will also be required with the removal.
- Good forestry practices, such as, but not limited to, the number of healthy trees the subject parcel of land will support: the replacement ratio for removal of the 35-inch tree is 9-inches (35 total diameter inches x 0.25 replacement factor). The replacement could be satisfied by planting six (6) 1.5-inch minimum trunk caliper Valley Oak trees or a combination of larger diameter trees adding up to 9-inches. The replacement trees could be donated to the City for placement within a public park area if there is not room on site for planting.

**Policy**

**Reference:** Paso Robles Municipal Code Section 10.01

**Fiscal**

**Impact:** None.

**Options:**

- A. Adopt Resolution No. 02-xx approving the oak tree removal request based on the arborist report identifying that the tree is structurally weak due to the tree having heart rot disease and damage to the root structure from utility trenching within the CRZ, and require replacement ratio of 9-inches of Valley Oaks to be planted in a location that is appropriate for the species of tree as determined by a horticulture professional (e.g. Valley Oaks should be planted in arid environment).
- B. Amend, modify or reject the above options.

**Attachments:**

1. Vicinity Map
2. Pictures of Tree
3. Arborist Report
4. Resolution to Approve

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RESOLUTION NO. 02-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES  
AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF ONE OAK TREES WITHIN  
GOLDEN HILL RD ADJACENT TO TRACT 2269  
(ERSKINE)

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WHEREAS, the City has received an application submitted by Tim Roberts, PE, on behalf of Tom Erskine, to remove one (1) Valley Oak tree (the tree has a diameter of 35-inches) located within Golden Hill Road, adjacent to Tract 2269; and

WHEREAS, Jack Brazeal, Registered Consulting Arborist, has prepared an Arborist Report dated October 4, 2002, stating that:

1. The tree has declined to a point where it is not safe along a public street and should be removed.
2. The tree trunk and main scaffold branches are hollow and are contaminated with heart rot disease.
3. Utility trenching within the critical root zone of the tree will further add to the trees decline.

WHEREAS, the Arborist Report includes the arborist's recommendation that the one (1) Valley Oak tree should be removed based on the above-listed facts and findings, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles does hereby:

1. Authorize the removal of one (1) Valley Oak tree within Golden Hill Road, adjacent to Tract 2269.
2. Require the applicant to plant nine 1.5-inch Valley Oak trees or other combination totaling 9-inches on site and/or within a public park area. The Valley Oaks need to be planted in a location that is appropriate for the species of tree as determined by a horticulture professional (e.g. Valley Oaks should be planted in arid environment).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2002 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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Frank R. Mecham, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sharilyn M. Ryan, Deputy City Clerk