

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

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

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO REMOVE ONE OAK TREE - 2041 RIVERSIDE AVE. (DIESER)**

**DATE: JANUARY 7, 2003**

**Needs:** For the City Council to consider a request to remove one 30-inch Valley Oak Tree.

- Facts:**
1. The City has received a written request from Mr. John Dieser for the removal of one Valley Oak tree on the property located at 2041 Riverside Ave. The tree extends over the neighboring property (2027 Riverside) and is causing damage to the house. Mr. Wesley is the owner of 2027 Riverside and is in favor of the tree removal (see attached letters from Mr. Dieser and Mr. Wesley).
  2. An Arborist Report was performed by Elder & Elder Ltd., The Arborist analyzed the situation and determined that the tree has damaged the two adjacent buildings, including foundations, chimneys, roofs as well as damage to sidewalks. Also, one of the branches of the tree recently fell on the Wesley residence causing significant damage. (See attached report and site plan)
  3. The Arborist Report states that pruning the tree at this point would remove the structural integrity most likely causing the health of the tree to significantly decline. The Arborist recommends removing the subject 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 Elder & Elder Ltd. dated December 16, 2002, the report concludes that the tree is causing significant damage to the two adjacent residences and at this point removal would be the best option since the tree could not support further pruning.

- 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: There is no new construction proposed for the subject sites, the reason for the removal of the tree is to prevent further damage to the existing dwellings.
- 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: With the removal of the proposed tree, replacement trees will 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 30-inch tree is 7.5-inches (30 total diameter inches x 0.25 replacement factor). The replacement could be satisfied by planting five (5) 1.5-inch minimum trunk caliper Valley Oak trees or a combination of larger diameter trees adding up to 7.5-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. 03-xx approving the oak tree removal request based on the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Arborist Report identifying that the tree is structurally weak and the removal is necessary to prevent further damage to the existing residences and require replacement ratio of 7.5-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 non-irrigated environment).
- B. Amend, modify or reject the above option.

**Attachments:**

1. Vicinity Map
2. Arborist Report including Pictures of Tree
3. Letter from John Dieser dated November 4, 2002 (State Farm and Wesley Letters attached)
4. Resolution to Approve

H:\Darren\oaktreeremoval\2041 & 2027 Riverside Ave.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES  
AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF ONE VALLEY OAK TREE AT  
2027 RIVERSIDE AVE. (DIESER)

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WHEREAS, the City has received an application submitted by John Dieser, to remove one (1) Valley Oak tree (the tree has a diameter of 30-inches) located at 2027 Riverside Ave.; and

WHEREAS, Elder & Elder Ltd. prepared an Arborist Report dated December 16, 2002, stating that:

1. The tree is causing severe damage to the existing residences on either side of the tree.
2. The tree is beyond pruning, since pruning would significantly decrease the structural integrity of the tree.

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,

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 at 2027 Riverside Ave.
2. Require the applicant to provide replacement for the removed tree using a replacement ratio of 7.5-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 a non-irrigated environment.)

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January 2003 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