

TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER

FROM: ROBERT A. LATA, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO REMOVE AN OAK TREE– 515 RED RIVER ROAD (TODD)

DATE: JANUARY 21, 2003

Needs: For the City Council to consider a request to remove one (1), triple-stem (each 8” in diameter) Blue Oak on a residential lot proposed for development.

Facts:

1. The City has received a written request from Darryl Todd for the removal of the tree to accommodate the construction of a new house on the parcel located on Lot 79 of Tract 2281, 515 Red River Drive.
2. Jack Brazeal performed an arborist report on October 20, 2002. The report was based on an earlier design that proposed removal of both trees #1 and #2 (see attachment A, Arborist report).
3. The arborist has rated the trees as follows: Tree #1 (triple-stem), 44 percent; Tree #2 (four-stem), 44 percent. However, the four-stem tree has a more attractive form.
4. The applicant has relocated the original footprint of the proposed home on the lot which will allow preservation of the larger diameter, four-stem oak tree (#2) near the street, although the construction will still necessitate the removal of the smaller triple-stem tree (#1).
5. The oak tree ordinance replacement policy would require the applicant to install "like species" at a replacement requirement of 6 inches (24” removed x 0.25 replacement factor). This requirement could be satisfied by planting two (2) 4-inch trees, three (3) 2-inch trees or other combinations that add up to the 6-inch requirement based on 1.5 -inch being the minimum tree size.

Analysis

And Conclusion:

City policies strongly encourage oak tree preservation. Section 10.01.140 (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, the tree is rated at 44 percent of a 100 percent healthy condition.
- 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: Allowing the removal of the tree

would allow preservation of a four-stem Blue Oak tree (Tree 2) located in the front yard.

- 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 severely 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 approximately eleven other oak trees on the lot where the triple stem Blue Oak is proposed for 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 of 6 inches (24" removed x 0.25 replacement factor). This requirement could be satisfied by planting two (2) 4-inch trees, three (3) 2-inch trees or other combinations that add up to the 6-inch requirement based on 1.5 - inch being the minimum tree size. Eleven other oak trees would be retained and preserved on the lot.

Policy

Reference: Paso Robles Municipal Code Section 10.01

Fiscal

Impact: None.

Options:

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 03-xx approving the removal of the triple-stem native Blue Oak the oak tree based on the arborist rating the tree as being in poor condition and the fact that there are eleven other trees on the lot that would be preserved, and approving a replacement ratio of six inches of Blue Oak, to be planted in a location that is appropriate for the species of tree as determined by a horticulture professional (e.g., Blue Oaks shall be planted in a non-irrigated environment).
- b. Deny the request to remove the triple-stem Blue Oak and require the applicant to design a home in a manner to avoid all oak trees.
- c. Amend, modify or reject the above options.

Attachments:

1. Site Plan
2. Photo of Proposed Tree Removal
3. Resolution to Approve Tree Removal
4. Attachment A, Arborist Report

RESOLUTION NO. 03-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR THE REMOVAL OF AN OAK TREE ON
LOT 79 - TRACT 2281 - 515 RED RIVER DRIVE
(APPLICANT: DARRYL TODD)

WHEREAS, the City has received an application by Darryl Todd to remove one (1) triple-trunked (eight inches each) Native Blue Oak tree located on Lot 79 of Tract 2281 (Shadow Canyon); and

WHEREAS, Darryl. Todd has submitted an Arborist Report performed by Jack Brazeal's Tree Consulting that rated this tree at 44 percent of 100 percent healthy; and

WHEREAS, as shown on the site plan attached as Exhibit "A" the removal of the tree would allow the allow the preservation of an existing four-trunked (eight inches each) Blue Oak Tree located in the front yard.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council of the City of Paso Robles does hereby authorize the removal of the 24-inch diameter triple trunk Native Blue Oak tree on Lot 79 of Tract 2281.

SECTION 2. As agreed upon the applicant, the applicant is required to install "like species" at a replacement requirement of 6 inches (24" removed x 0.25 replacement factor). This requirement could be satisfied by planting two (2) 4-inch trees, four (4) 2-inch trees or other combinations that add up to the 6-inch requirement based on 1.5 -inch being the minimum tree size.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 21st day of January 2003 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Frank R. Mecham, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sharilyn M. Ryan, Deputy City Clerk