

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

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

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO REMOVE ONE OAK TREE – 3201 SPRING STREET  
(PASO ROBLES YOUTH ARTS FOUNDATION)**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2005**

**Needs:** For the City Council to consider a request to remove one 57-inch Valley Oak Tree.

**Facts:**

1. On January 14, 2005, the City received an application from Steven Alvarez of A&T Arborist, on behalf of the Paso Robles Youth Arts Foundation, requesting the removal of the 57-inch Valley Oak tree at 3201 Spring Street.
2. The tree is located about midway back on the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street side, between the sidewalk and the existing parking lot.
3. An arborist report was submitted by Steven Alvarez, received on January 4, 2005. The report concluded that the tree is “over-mature” and is subject to large branch failure and should be removed.
4. Jack Brazeal prepared a report dated August 8, 1999, in conjunction with the construction of the existing Youth Arts Foundation project. At that time, he indicated that the subject tree was declining and in poor health. Brazeal recommend that considerations be made for removing the tree. See attached report.

**Analysis**

**And Conclusion:** Both A&T Arborists and Jack Brazeal have concluded that the tree is “over mature” and recommend removal.

Based on Jack Brazeal’s report back in 1999 indicating that the tree was in poor condition prior to the construction of the existing Paso Robles Youth Arts facility, the applicants are recommend that replacement trees not be required.

The Paso Robles Youth Arts foundation has submitted a request to construct a 2,500 square foot addition to the existing building. The plans for the addition indicate that the addition can be built without significantly impacting the tree.

**Policy**

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

**Fiscal**

**Impact:** None.

- Options:**
- a.** Adopt Resolution No. 05-xx approving the oak tree removal request based on the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Arborist Reports identifying that the tree is over-mature and in poor condition, and that replacement trees are not required, based on the tree's decline not being of fault of the property owners;
  - b.** Amend, modify, or reject the above options.

**Attachments:**

- 1. A&T Arborist Report
- 2. Jack Brazeal Arborist Report
- 3. Resolution to Approve

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JAN 04 2005

CITY OF PASO ROBLES

P.O. Box 1311 Templeton, California 93465

December 30, 2004

Sandi Chandler  
3201 Spring Street  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Re: Development at 3201 Spring Street Paso Robles CA. For the Paso Robles Youth Arts Center.

This report is in regards to the proposed lot development listed above. There is one native oak (*Quercus alba*) impacted for this proposed development. Specific attention needs to be given to the age and condition of this native oak tree. The subject tree is over mature and subject to large branch failure. Consideration of tree removal should be done due to the age, condition and possible trenching or over-ex for the structure foundation. If development around the tree goes forward the following mitigation measures must be provided to minimize the impact to the roots and trunk. I suggest that a certified Arborist be on site to observe and monitor the excavation within the critical root zone of the tree.

The owner shall be solely responsible in providing a copy of this tree protection plan to any contractors that need to encroach within the trees critical root zone. The owner shall have all contractors sign this report to acknowledge the mitigation measures necessary to preserve the native tree. The following mitigation measures/methods must be fully understood and followed by anyone working within the tree protection fencing/drip-line of any native tree. Any clarification of this report will be provided by the arborists upon request.

**1. Soil Aeration Methods:** Soils under the drip-lines that have been compacted by heavy equipment and/or construction activities must be returned to their original state before all work is completed. Methods include water jetting, adding organic matter, and boring small holes with an auger (18" deep, 2-3' apart with a 2-4" auger) and the application of moderate amounts of nitrogen fertilizer. The arborist(s) shall advise.

**2. Trenching Within the Drip-line:** All trenching under the drip-lines of native trees shall be hand dug, augured, bored or air spade. All major roots shall be avoided whenever possible. All exposed roots larger than 1" in diameter shall be clean cut with a sharp pruning tool and not left ragged.

**3. Exposed Roots:** Any exposed roots shall be recovered the same day they were exposed. If they cannot, they must be covered with burlap or another suitable material and wetted down 2x per day until re-buried.

**4. Paving Within the Drip-line:** Pervious surfacing is may be preferred within the drip-line of any oak tree. Arborist(s) will advise.

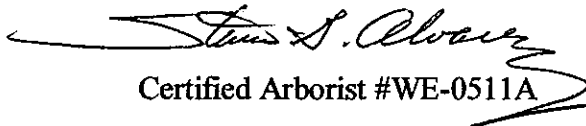
**5. Equipment Operation:** Vehicles and all heavy equipment shall not be driven under the trees, as this will contribute to soil comp action.

**6. Construction Materials and Waste:** No liquid or solid construction waste shall be dumped on the ground within the drip-line of any oak tree.

**7. Arborist Monitoring:** An arborist shall be present for selected activities (trees identified on spreadsheet) and pre-construction fence placement. The monitoring does not necessarily have to be continuous but observational at times during the above activities.

Please let me know if I can be of any future assistance to you for this project.

Steven G. Alvarez

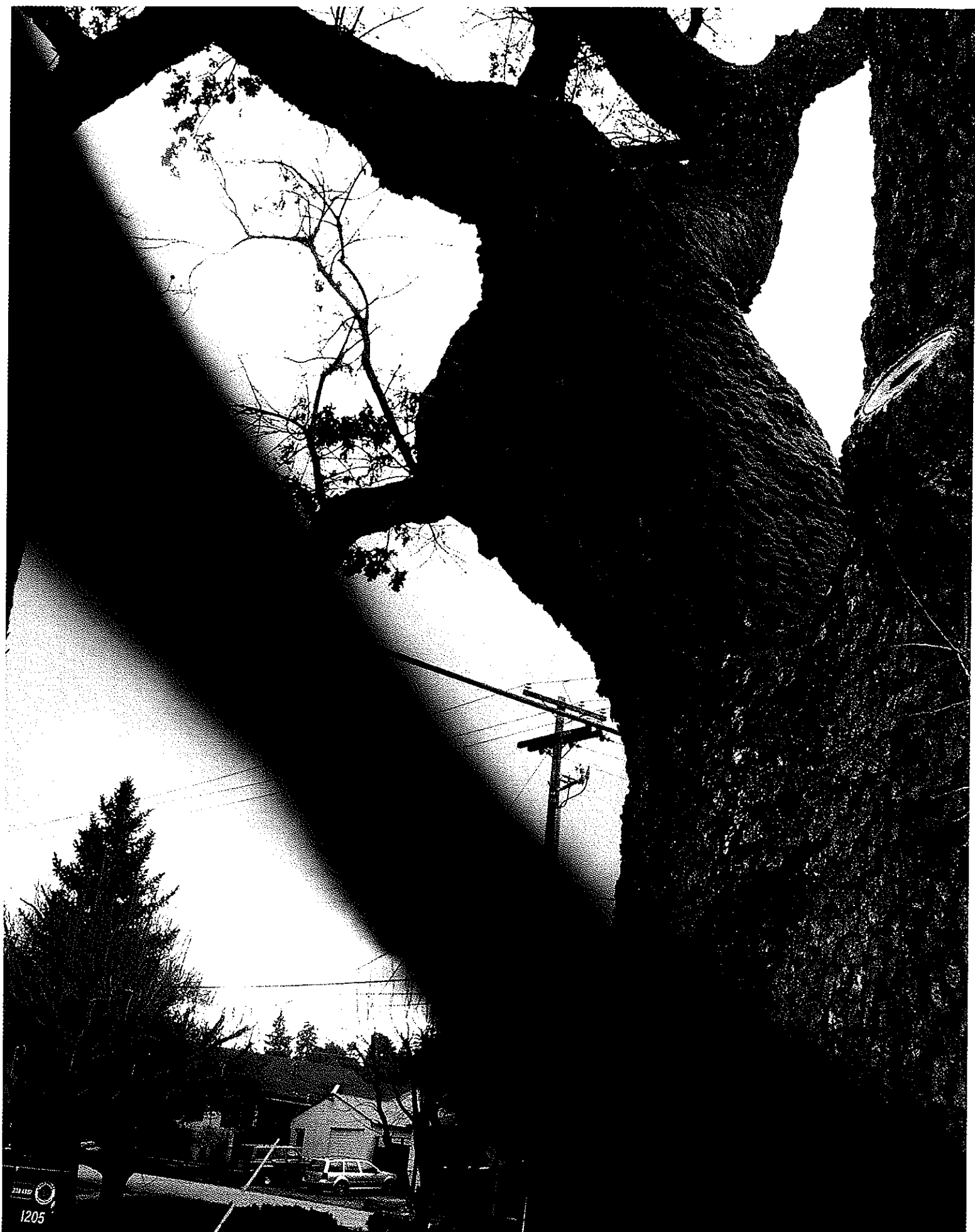


Certified Arborist #WE-0511A

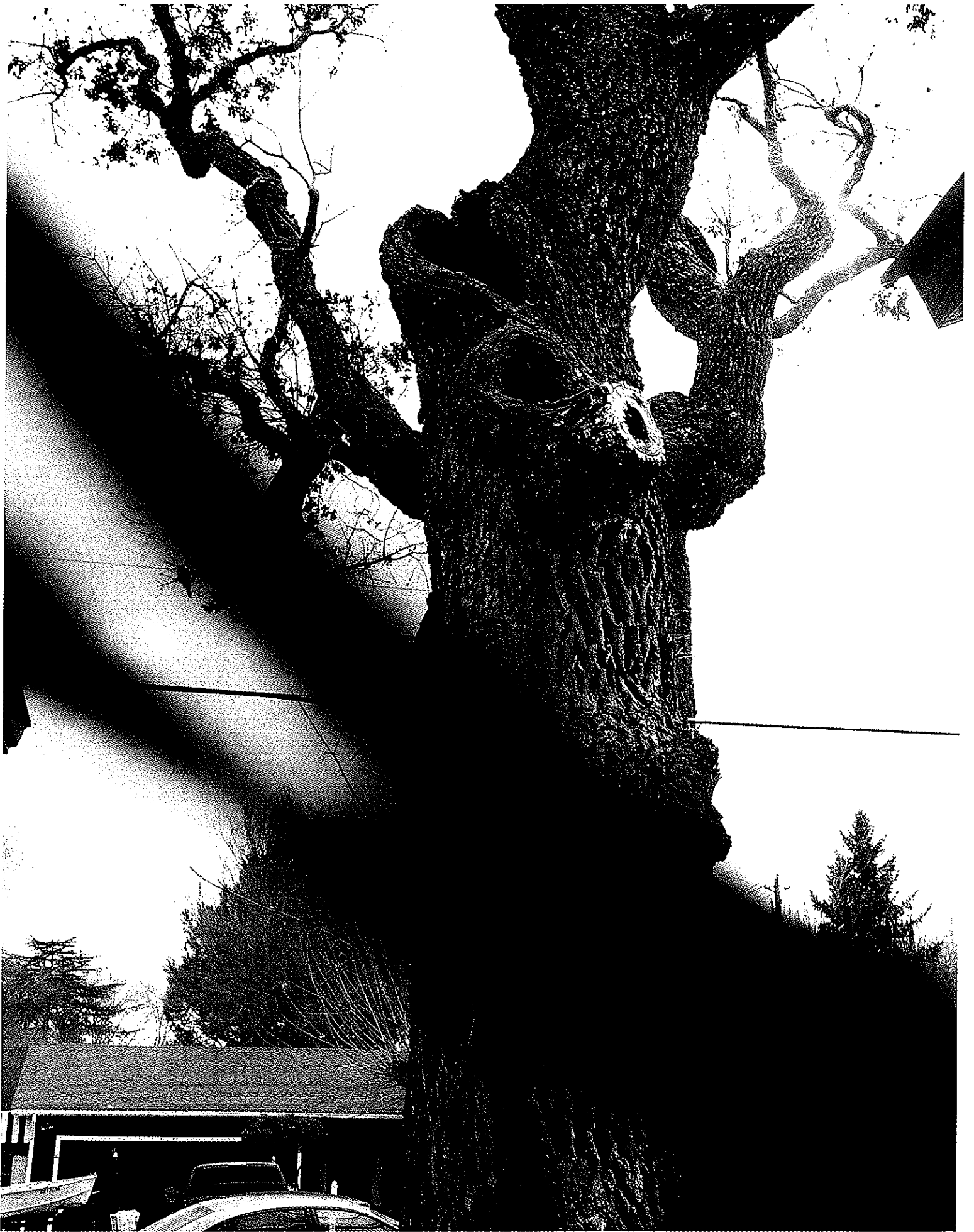










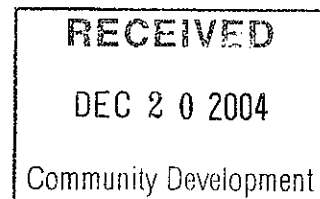




WESTERN		CHAPTER	<p>Jack Brazeal's Tree Consulting 4531 Skipjack Lane Paso Robles, CA 93446 (805) 227-6140 fax i d 248-48-8781</p> <p>WC-0163 California State License No. 619923</p>	
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August 8, 1999

Meg Williamson, Principal Planner  
Community Development Department  
City of El Paso de Robles  
1000 Spring Street  
Paso Robles, CA 93446



RE: Tree Evaluation Report for 3 large oak trees located on the North side of  
32nd Street between Spring and Oak Streets, Paso Robles, Ca.

ASSIGNMENT:

Prepare an assessment/evaluation report of the 3 subject trees to determine their health and structural condition, and the impact that development may have on their survivability.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To determine the feasibility of development within close proximity of the 3 oak trees.

OBSERVATIONS:

The 3 subject trees are existing on a flat, vacant lot that appears to be natural grade. Two of these trees (#1 & (2)) are old (200 plus years) and tree #3 is considered young at approximately 40 to 60 years. There is no sign of maintenance or cultural care for these trees.

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Tree Eval. Rpt./City of Paso Robles

8/8/99

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Tree #1 and tree #2 are over-mature and development within close proximity to these trees would have a negative impact on their health and survival.
2. Over-mature trees are hazardous due to unpredictable branch failure in high target areas, i.e., high pedestrian usage.
- 3. Tree #2 is declining and will not survive any significant impact to the root zone area.
4. Tree #3 is healthy and will tolerate development if proper guidelines are followed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Seriously consider the pros and cons of tree retention and development and tree removal and development.
2. Prune to reduce hazardous conditions of all trees retained on this site.

Jack Brazeal ASCA  
Registered Consulting Arborist # 377

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TREE INVENTORY:

1. 63" diameter valley oak (Quercus lobata) tree. The trunk of this tree is very hollow and has been so for a long time. Heart rot is a natural characteristic of large and old valley oak trees. This tree has had several large branch failures, of which some has occurred in the very recent past and some which are quite old.

Mature valley oaks shed their heavy horizontal branches as they are laden with growth and burdened with heart rot. This tree has a sprawling canopy with large and heavy horizontal branches. The small to medium dead wood is existing in this tree is natural. The leaf and twig growth are moderate with good leaf color and size.

2. 57" diameter valley oak. This tree has large hollows showing about 12 feet above grade which indicates the main trunk is also hollow although no cavities are existing close to the ground. Large horizontal branch failure has occurred in this tree recently.

Most of the large horizontal branches have failed in this tree, leaving a skeleton type branch pattern. Dead branches and twig die back indicate that this tree is declining and is in poor health.

3. 35" diameter valley oak. This tree is young and healthy with good twig growth, leaf size and color. The canopy is full with little to no sign of dead wood or branch failure. The canopy has some moderately heavy and long horizontal branches growing over 32nd Street.

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8/8/99

### DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS:

The physical impacts of development around these trees almost always damages or destroys a part of the tree's root system. The root system of a mature tree in a natural environment can extend up to three times (or more) the width of the tree's canopy. The roots that are damaged the most are the small absorption roots that grow primarily in the first 12 inches of soil. These absorption roots are essential for the uptake of minerals and nutrients from the soil to the leaves and is necessary for the process of photosynthesis (Energy production for tree growth). When the root system is significantly impacted, the production of energy is slowed or stopped. When this happens the tree will use its excess energy that is stored in all the tree parts for growth and survival. If the stored energy is depleted prior to the adequate regrowth of absorption roots, the tree will begin to decline. A tree that is in poor health (i.e., tree #2) will usually not survive a significant loss of absorption roots.

### MITIGATION OF TREE ROOT IMPACTS:

The recommended root zone area of trees to be protected is 1 foot radius for every 1 inch diameter, i.e., a 20" diameter tree equals a 20 foot radius around the tree to be protected. Where large trees are impacted by development, this much area is usually not a feasible option. To mitigate this, the following formula is recommended:

Mature oak tree - 1" diameter = 1 foot radius for root zone protection of healthy trees. This root zone area can be reduced by 25%, i.e. 1" = .75 foot radius if the protected area is conditioned for optimum root growth. Conditioning for optimum root growth may only require the installation of a 4 to 6 inch layer of mulch (wood chips).

### DISCUSSION:

Trees #1 and 2 are over-mature and are subject to large branch failure. Tree #1 has a large sprawling canopy with heavy horizontal branches that could fail at any time. Most of the large horizontal branches have failed in tree #2. Tree #2 is in poor health and is in a state of decline at this time. The area that is recommended for root zone protection will significantly inhibit the proposed area to be developed.

Tree #3 is healthy and will tolerate being impacted by development if adequate tree protection guidelines are followed.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES  
AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF ONE OAK TREE AT 3201 SPRING STREET  
(YOUTH ARTS FOUNDATION)

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WHEREAS, the City has received an application submitted by Steve Alvarez of A&T Arborists, on behalf of the Paso Robles Youth Arts Foundation, to remove one (1) Valley Oak tree (the tree has a diameter of 57-inches) located at 3201 Spring Street; and

WHEREAS, the tree is located towards the west end of the site, between the sidewalk along 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and the existing parking lot; and

WHEREAS, Steve Alvarez of A&T Consulting Arborists has prepared an Arborist Report, dated December 30, 2004, which recommends removal of the tree based on the tree being "over-mature" and in poor condition; and

WHEREAS, Jack Brazeal, in August 1999, in conjunction with the original Youth Arts project, submitted a report that also concluded that the tree was in poor condition and should be removed; 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) 57-inch Valley Oak tree located at 3201 Spring Street;
2. Not require the property owner to plant replacement trees, based on the arborist reports indicating that the trees decline was not at the fault of the owner, that the decline was apparent prior to the construction of the Youth Arts Center.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 2005 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