

TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER
FROM: ROBERT A. LATA, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: REQUEST TO REMOVE ONE OAK TREE IN RELATION TO THE UNION ROAD WIDENING PROJECT (CITY INITIATED)
DATE: MARCH 15, 2005

Needs: For the City Council to consider a request to remove one 19-inch Blue Oak Tree.

Facts:

1. Donald Rodrigues, Arborist for Pacific Horticulture was hired by the City to evaluate the oak tree impacts in relation to the Union Road Widening Project. On February 12, 2005, Mr. Rodrigues submitted a Report addressing the impacts to the trees by the project.
2. Mr. Rodrigues concluded that out of the 29 oak trees impacted (23 Blue Oak & 6 Scrub Oak), that only one tree will need to be removed.
3. Tree No. 14, a 19-inch Blue Oak is located at the edge of the road shoulder which will require a 12-inch compacted base with paving over one-half of the root zone of the tree. The construction will severely impact the tree and be detrimental to its future health and survival.
4. The report also indicates the tree currently leans east and exhibits a weak structure, branch cavities, trunk damage and poor form. It has a low health and aesthetic rating of 3 out of 5.

Analysis

And Conclusion: As a result of the Union Road widening project, 29 trees will be impacted and one tree (Tree No. 14) needs to be removed. The other 28 trees will be preserved. Included in the Arborist Report, is a monitoring program to insure proper protection and mitigation. Mr. Rodrigues will be monitoring the project until the completion of the project.

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 it is necessary to remove the tree in relation to the Union Road widening project and based on the tree being in poor condition, and that three (3) 1.5-inch diameter replacement trees be required to be planted at the direction of the Arborist.
 - B. Amend, modify or reject the above options.

Attachments:

1. Vicinity Map
2. Memo from Ditas Esperanza
3. Pacific Horticulture Arborist Report
4. Resolution to Approve

H:\Darren\oaktreeremoval\Union Road Widening Project.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF ONE OAK TREE IN RELATION
TO THE UNION ROAD WIDENING PROJECT
(CITY INITIATED)

WHEREAS, Donald Rodrigues, Arborist for Pacific Horticulture was hired by the City to evaluate the oak tree impacts in relation to the Union Road Widening Project; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2005, Mr. Rodrigues submitted a Report addressing the impacts to the trees by the project; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rodrigues concluded that out of the 29 oak trees impacted (23 Blue Oak & 6 Scrub Oak), that only one tree will need to be removed; and

WHEREAS, Tree No. 14, a 19-inch Blue Oak is located at the edge of the road shoulder which will require a 12-inch compacted base with paving over one-half of the root zone of the tree and the construction will severely impact the tree and be detrimental to its future health and survival; and

WHEREAS, the report also indicates the tree currently leans east and exhibits a weak structure, branch cavities, trunk damage and poor form. It has a low health and aesthetic rating of 3 out of 5.

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) 19-inch Blue Oak tree in relation with the Union Road Widening Project, as shown on Exhibit A to this Resolution;
2. Require the planting of four (4) 1.5-inch diameter replacement blue oak trees, to be placed within the project as directed by the Arborist.

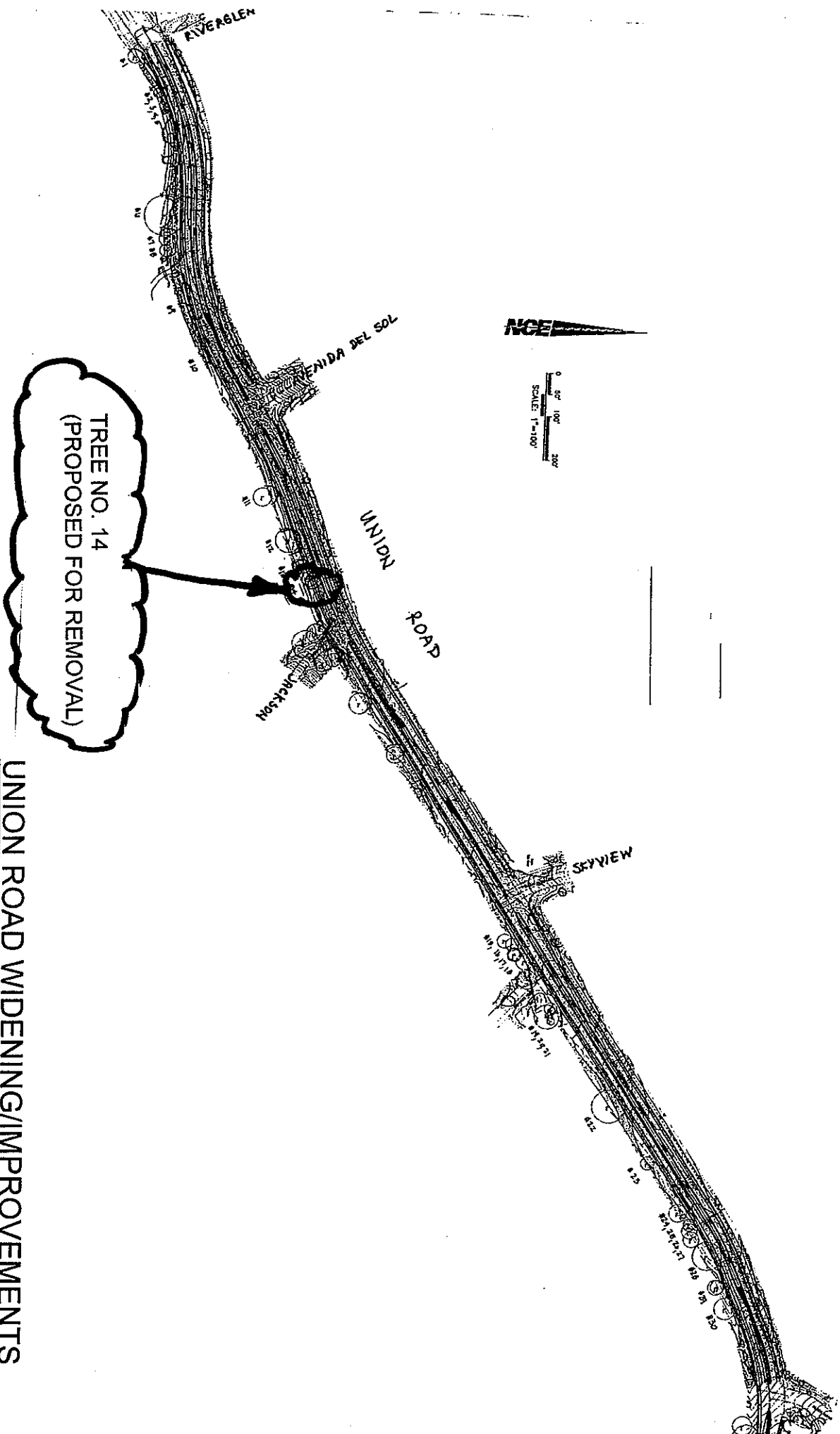
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles this 15th day of March 2005 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

Frank R. Mecham, Mayor

ATTEST:


Sharilyn M. Ryan, Deputy City Clerk



UNION ROAD WIDENING/IMPROVEMENTS
 RIVERGLEN TO KLECK
 OAK TREES LOCATION MAP

March 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: DARREN NASH
FROM: DITAS ESPERANZA 
SUBJECT: UNION ROAD WIDENING—RIVERGLEN TO KLECK
DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2005

Attached is a copy of a report from an arborist who reviewed and surveyed the oak trees adjacent to Union Road between Riverglen and Kleck which maybe impacted as a result of the City's widening/improvement project.

It appears that all but one of the oaks will be preserved. The one tree that needs to be removed is 19-inch diameter. The arborist states that this tree "...leans east and exhibits a weak structure, branch cavities, trunk damage and poor form. It has a low health and aesthetic rating of 3 out of 5."

Would you please prepare the necessary paperwork needed to allow the removal of this oak tree with the Union Road project?

Please let me know if you need anything else to complete this.

Thanks!



PACIFIC HORTICULTURE

DIVISION OF DELTA-PACIFIC HORTICULTURE, INC.

LANDSCAPE AND AGRONOMY CONSULTANTS

February 12, 2005

Ms. Ditas Esperanza, P.E.
Public Works Department
City of El Paso de Robles
1000 Spring Street
Paso Robles, California 93446

Subject: Horticulture Tree Evaluations and Report for Union Road Widening Project – Riverglen to Kleck

Dear Ms. Esperanza:

A site survey and evaluations of the existing trees potentially impacted by the proposed Union Road Widening was completed on February 7, 2005. The tree location map was provided by your office and identified as Union Road Concept 2 prepared by North Coast Engineering dated 12/10/04.

Mr. Greg Jaeger, from North Coast Engineering met me on-site to verify site conditions and also requested that the trees at the corner of Union Road and Avenue Del Sol be included in the evaluations. These latter trees are subject to impacts from the retaining wall and path that is proposed in this area.

A total of thirty-two (32) trees were evaluated. Each specimen is numbered on the tree trunk with an aluminum tag that corresponds to the tree location map and evaluations included herein. In addition, representative photographs are included with this report for each of the evaluated specimens.

The following table summarizes the species identified and evaluated:

<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Quercus douglasii	Blue Oak	23
Quercus berberidifolia	Scrub Oak	6
Prunus ilicifolia 'Ilicifolia'	Hollyleaf Cherry	1
Pinus halepensis	Aleppo Pine	2

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Evaluation Methodology

A field evaluation was completed for each tree at the site. The field evaluations followed the basic diagnostic and evaluation procedures as set forth by the International Society of Arboriculture. All specimens were visually examined for overall physical, biological and aesthetic conditions. The trunk diameters were measured at 4 ½' above existing natural grade. Tree heights were approximated and the canopy spreads measured in eight (8) compass directions utilizing an Optic Laser Range Finder. Each specimen is rated as to overall vigor, health and aesthetics on a scale of 1-5, with one being the highest rating and five being the lowest rating. Recommended treatments or removals are provided for each tree where appropriate. An interpretation to the evaluations is included as a part of this report.

All of the trees were identified on the tree trunk with an aluminum numbered tag that corresponds to the Oak Tree Location Map and evaluations.

In addition, each specimen was evaluated as to the impacts from construction and recommendations are included herein as part of this report.

Tree Species Discussion

Blue Oaks (*Quercus douglasii*)

The majority of the trees are large Blue Oaks (23 trees) that exhibit good health and vigor. Most have thrived due to their location adjacent or within the creek bordering Union Road. This creek has provided an excellent source of water for sustaining these trees. All of the trees have the trunk base covered with soil and/or debris that should be removed to expose the root flare at natural grade. All of the trees also exhibit some deadwood.

Trees numbered 6, 10, 14, 23 and 30 are rated the poorest in health and vigor due to primarily trunk and branch cavities. Trees numbered 14, 19, 23, 29,

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and 30 have leaning trunks. Despite these evident defects, all of these trees are recommended for preservation, except for number 14, which will require removal for the proposed road improvements.

Only one (1) tree is recommended for removal. Tree number fourteen (14) is located at the edge of the road shoulder which requires a 12" compacted base with paving covering one-half of the root zone. This construction would severely impact this tree and be detrimental to its future health and survival. The tree has a 19" diameter trunk with a height and spread of 40' x 37'. The tree leans east and exhibits a weak structure, branch cavities, trunk damage and poor form. It has a low health and aesthetic rating of 3 out of 5.

Oak number 18 is also questionable for preservation. This is a very nice multi-trunk healthy specimen located adjacent to Vista Grande. The existing 24" corrugated metal pipe (CMP-SD) is proposed for replacement with a 48" CPP-SD. The construction is under the tree canopy and within 3' of the tree trunk. Consideration should be given to relocating this pipe to the outside edge of the canopy and all excavation and work within the protected zone (CRZ) shall be conducted by hand tools only under the direct on-site observation of a certified arborist. This tree merits preservation and can be accomplished with the recommended pipe modifications.

The remaining Blue Oaks can be preserved with clearance pruning. This is addressed further in this report.

Scrub Oaks (*Quercus berberidifolia*)

Six (6) Scrub Oak are located within the creek or adjacent to Union Road that will require some pruning mitigation to complete the road improvements. These are primarily multi-trunk specimens with a height and canopy spread averaging 23' x 32'. Overall, the trees exhibit above average health and vigor.

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Tree number 13 has a major basal cavity and leans east. This specimen will require clearance pruning for preservation that will affect the aesthetics of this tree. Due to the tree conditions and that it is a small Scrub Oak, consideration should be given to its removal.

Other Specimens

Tree number 25 is an excellent Hollyleaf Cherry crowded between Blue Oak number 24 and Scrub Oak number 26. This evergreen native plant is commonly found along the coast range. It typically reaches a height of 10' with a canopy spread of 25'. This plant is worthy of preservation with minor pruning required.

Aleppo pines numbered 31 and 32 are located on the slope west of Avenue de Sol. Number 31 has a 14" diameter trunk with a height and spread of 35' x 25'. The tree exhibits a lean south and is in overall good health. Consideration should be given to removal of this tree due to the lean over the proposed walkway. Historically, Aleppo pines are noted for their failure on slopes, especially once a lean develops. Should this tree be considered for preservation, minor lower canopy pruning will be required for an 8' ground clearance.

Aleppo Pine number 32 should be removed. This is a small specimen with a 6" trunk diameter and a height and spread of 17' x 15'. The tree has a significant lean south and would be rated as a future potential failure.

It should be noted that there are also several Liquidambar trees located adjacent to the Pines and on the opposite side of Avenue de Sol that will not require any mitigation for development of the proposed multi-use path.

Mitigations for Preservation

I. Pruning requirements for construction and vehicle passage on Union Road. Lower canopy on road side only. Clearance of 14'-0".

<u>Tree No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Pruning Required</u>
1	Q. douglasii	None	No clearing pruning required
2	Q. douglasii	Clearance	Removal 1-3", 1-4", 2-2" branches
3	Q. berberidifolia	Clearance	Small branches less ½"
4	Q. berberidifolia	Clearance	Small branches less ½"
5	Q. berberidifolia	Clearance	Small branches less ½"
6	Q. douglasii	None	No clearing pruning required
7	Q. douglasii	Clearance	5-4", 5-3", 2-5", minor less ½"
8	Q. douglasii	Clearance	1-5", 1-4", 1-3", 1-2" removals
9	Q. douglasii	Clearance	1-4", 4-3", 1-7" removals
10	Q. douglasii	Clearance	3-4", 2-3", minor less 1" removals
11	Q. douglasii	Clearance	1-3", 1-2 ½", 1-5", 1-4" removals
12	Q. douglasii	Clearance	1-8", 1-4", 2-5", 6-3", 2-2", minor less 1" removals
13	Q. berberdifolia	Clearance	3-2", 1-4", minor less 1" removals
14	Q. douglasii	Construction	Recommend tree removal
15	Q. douglasii	Clearance	1-7", 2-5", 3-4", 3-3", minor less 1" removals
16	Q. berberidifolia	Clearance	Remove N. decayed 13" trunk or 1-8", 1-7", 1-5" branch removals
17	Q. douglasii	Clearance	1-8", 2-5", 3-4", 4-3", minor less 1" removals
18	Q. douglasii	Clearance	6-4", 1-2 ½", 1-5", 3-3" removals
19	Q. douglasii	Clearance	1-7", 1-6", 2-4", 1-5", 5-2" minor less 1" removals
20	Q. douglasii	Clearance	2-3", 1-2" removals
21	Q. douglasii	Clearance	1-5", 1-3" removals
22	Q. douglasii	Clearance	1-7", 2-6", 1-9", 1-8", 2-3", minor less 1" removals
23	Q. douglasii	Clearance	2-4", 2-3", minor less 1" removals

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<u>Tree No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Pruning Required</u>
24	Q. douglasii	Clearance	3-3", 2-2", 1-4", 3-5" removals
25	Prunus ilicifolia	Clearance	Less ½" removals
26	Q. berberidifolia	Clearance	1-5", 1-2", minor less ½" removals
27	Q. douglasii	Clearance	1-3", 1-2", 1-4" removals
28	Q. douglasii	Clearance	3-3", 2-4", 1-7" removals
29	Q. douglasii	Clearance	1-4", 2-3", 2-2" removals
30	Q. douglasii	Clearance	1-5", 1-4" removals

The branch locations generate from the lower canopy and removals should not impact the health and aesthetics of the tree when completed properly.

All pruning shall conform to the standards established by the International Society of Arboriculture and The National Arborist Association.

Pruning cuts shall be to upright laterals or to the point of connection to the main branch. Branch collars shall not be damaged during pruning operations. All cutting tools and saws used shall be kept sharpened to result in final cuts with an unabrasive wood surface and secure bark remaining intact. No climbing spurs will be allowed.

The contractor shall employ a full time permanent certified arborist and all crews performing assigned work shall be trained and qualified according to tree care standards.

The work area shall be kept safe at all times until all operations are completed. Clean-up of pruning debris shall be accomplished daily, and removed and disposed from the site. The area shall be kept clean at all times.

All tree work shall be conducted in a safe manner and not interfere with pedestrian and vehicle use of the area unless appropriate approved barricades and traffic control is provided.

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The contractor shall provide a time schedule for commencement and completion of the work. Once the work is authorized for commencement, work shall be continuous until the total project is completed.

The City of Paso Robles may provide a qualified Arborist for monitoring of all tree pruning work. The Arborist shall have full authority to direct, change, accept, or reject part or all of the work being conducted for this project.

II. Tree Removals

All removals shall include the entire tree including stump grinding to 12" below grade.

Tree removals shall be completed in a manner as to not damage to adjacent plantings, fences, sidewalks, roadways, structures or other amenities that are to remain and be preserved.

All debris from any tree removal operation shall be removed off-site daily, keeping the area clean at all times.

Operations and debris shall not obstruct traffic or pedestrian movement through the site. Pedestrian and vehicular traffic shall be monitored and controlled as required.

No debris shall be allowed to enter the city sewer, storm drain or adjacent creek.

The contractor shall provide a time schedule for commencement and completion. Once the work is authorized for commencement, work shall be continuous until the total project is completed.

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III. Work within the Critical Root Zone (Protected Zone)

All construction and excavations shall be conducted by hand tools unless authorized by the City of Paso Robles. If any roots are encountered, they shall be saved and covered immediately with a minimum of 6" of clean washed sand. Those roots to be severed shall be clean cut and immediately covered with soil then provided irrigation.

All work within the protected zone shall require an encroachment permit and the on-site observation of a Certified Arborist.

All trees within 100' of the construction shall be fenced at the edge of the protected zone with a minimum five (5) foot high chain-link fence prior to site grading or construction and shall not be moved or removed without the permission of the City of Paso Robles.

Landscape planting, irrigation systems and/or utilities shall not be designed and/or installed within the protected tree zone of any oak tree without approval from the City of Paso Robles.

No materials shall be nailed or staked to any oak tree. No materials or equipment shall be stored within the protected zone of any oak tree. No oil, gasoline, chemicals, paints, or other deleterious materials may be used, dumped or stored under the protected zone of any oak tree. No substance shall be deposited into the soil, including waste water that can drain or leach into the oak tree root zone.

During all phases of construction, the health of the trees shall be monitored and maintained as required.

All work conducted on oak trees shall be certified to the City of Paso Robles by the contractors oak tree consultant or appointed city arborist.

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General Comments

The site plan and tree locations are included herein on the general construction plans provided by North Coast Engineering, Inc.

All trees potentially impacted have been evaluated including trunk diameters and canopy spread. Health, vigor and aesthetic conditions including specific physical observations are noted on the Field Evaluation forms. A majority of the trees are in good condition and should have a continuous life expectancy of 30-50 years.

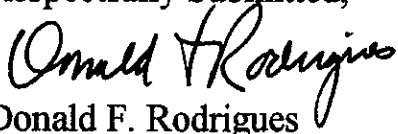
Mitigations for preserved trees are provided on the Field Evaluation forms and discussed in detail in this report. Also discussed herein are specific pruning requirements for clearance, pruning specifications, tree removal specifications protective fencing and work within the critical root zone (protected zone).

Only one (1) oak tree, number 14, is recommended for removal due to adjacent construction impacts. There remains a question as to changing the drain pipe at tree number 18 to lessen the impact and preserve this specimen. The remaining specimens are to be preserved with many requiring lower canopy pruning for clearance.

It is anticipated that based on the proposed road improvement, including the recommended pruning, there will not be a significant impact on the trees providing the protections and mitigations discussed herein are implemented.

Should you have any questions or should you require additional information, do not hesitate in calling me direct.

Respectfully Submitted,



Donald F. Rodrigues
Horticulture Consultant
ISA Certified Arborist 272

PACIFIC HORTICULTURE CONSULTANTS



Oak No. 13 View East



Oak No. 14 View East

FIELD PHOTO REPORT

Project: CITY OF PASO ROBLES UNION ROAD WIDENING

Subject: TREE PHOTOGRAPHS

Exhibit No.: 5

Date: 2-7-05

By: D. F. Rodrigues