

**TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER**  
**FROM: ROBERT A. LATA, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**  
**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO REMOVE ONE OAK TREE – 1733 MESA ROAD (GOMEZ)**  
**DATE: MAY 3, 2005**

**Needs:** For the City Council to consider a request to remove one Blue Oak tree.

- Facts:**
1. The City has received a written request from Tara Gomez to remove one 16-inch Blue Oak tree on her property located at 1733 Mesa Road.
  2. An Arborist Report was performed by arborist Ted Elder concluding that the tree is in very poor condition (rated D: “Almost dead” to “Soon to be dead”). The arborist recommends that the tree be removed as soon as possible. (See attached report.)
  3. Ted Elder indicates that the outer bark of the tree is in bad shape, “destroyed” as a result of past fire damage, shows signs of rot and burrowing insects, as well as having an infestation of woodworm.

**Analysis  
And Conclusion:** Arborist Ted Elder has concludes that the tree is in very poor condition and appears to have been in poor condition prior to the construction of the home.

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

**Fiscal  
Impact:** None.

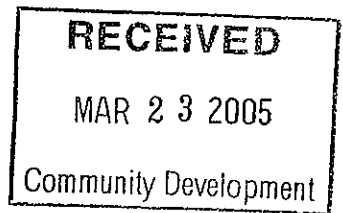
- Options:**
- A. Adopt Resolution No. 05-xx approving the oak tree removal request based on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Arborist Report to remove the tree as a result of it being in poor condition, and require three (3) 1.5-inch diameter replacement trees be planted at the direction of the arborist;
  - B. Amend, modify or reject the above option.

Attachments:

1. Attachment A, Arborist Report
2. Resolution to Approve

3-6-2005  
Job #200510

# Tree Analysis of Hazardous Oak Tree



**Prepared For:**

**Tara Gomez,  
1733 Mesa Road,  
El Paso de Robles, CA 93446  
(805) 712-4872**

**Prepared By:**

**Elder & Elder Ltd. – Consulting Arborists/ Landscape Architects  
1207 Grassy Hollow Way,  
El Paso de Robles, CA 93446  
(805) 238-3750**



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# Elder & Elder Ltd

*Landscape Architecture • Recreation & Site Planning • Arboriculture*

## **Abstract.**

After viewing the Blue Oak Tree (*Quercus douglasii*) in question we feel that it is in such bad/poor condition that it should be taken down immediately if not sooner. The tree is in a total setting that a great deal of fire damage has been encountered over the years and many of the trees are in poor condition. The next-door neighbor has removed two (2) trees on their property due to poor tree conditions and she has many children on her property. This property does not have as many children present, however, we were informed that many children visit the property each week.

## **Analysis**

### **The Tree in Question:**

We visited the site and undertook an evaluation of the tree in question and the following is our assessment and recommendation.

1. The tree is in very poor condition and using the ISA's letter assessment scale we would place it as a 'D' (almost dead to soon to be dead).
2. The distance views indicate that the lower area of the tree is destroyed possibly by fire.
3. The closer views show total destruction of the outer bark and cambium layer almost continuously around the tree.
4. The second page of pictures indicates rot, woodworm, scat from the burrowing insects and destroyed support system of the total tree. All areas that have died or have been injured have a large infestation of woodworm throughout. We did not think that it was necessary to drill the tree to see the extent of rot and death but upon knocking on the tree the damage is deep.

**Existing Tree Protection During Development:**

1. A wall was constructed, approximately 4' high, around the tree at what appears to be the dripline and possibly greater at great expense to protect this tree. I did not work and major funds were wasted on something that was going to die.
2. We cannot believe that this tree was in great condition several years ago, when the original tree report was undertaken, for the damage looks too old. We are not privy to the old tree report but we think that the money would have been better spent on upgrading the neighborhood with more plantings of new Oak trees than trying to protect the existing poor ones.

**When the Tree Fails:**

1. Depending upon the winds in the area depends upon the direction the tree will fall. If it goes directly away from the house probably nothing will take place that is detrimental. If it falls towards the house it will do damage to the house. If it falls alongside the house it possibly will remove one deck and balcony. If it falls towards the street the fence will be damaged.
2. The main item that really concerns this office is that children often play in this yard and if the tree decides to fall when they are playing they could be injured or worse.

**Recommendation:**

As stated in the abstract we recommend that this tree be removed as a health hazard.

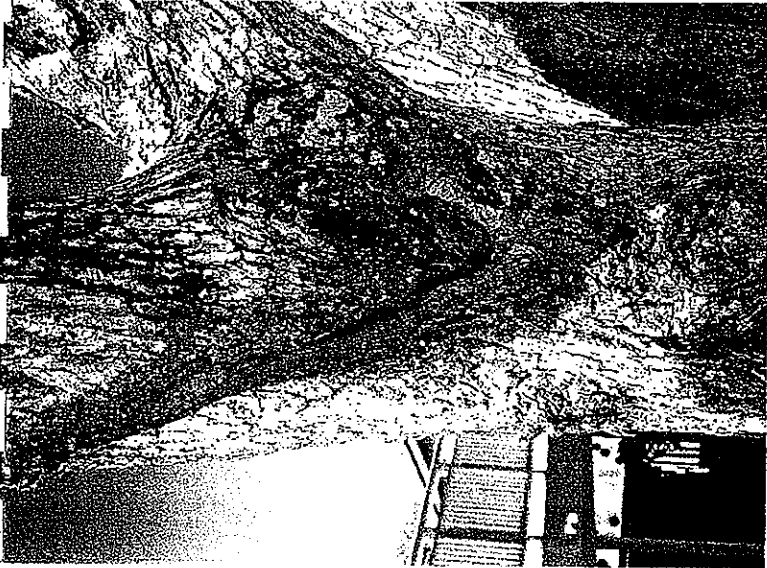
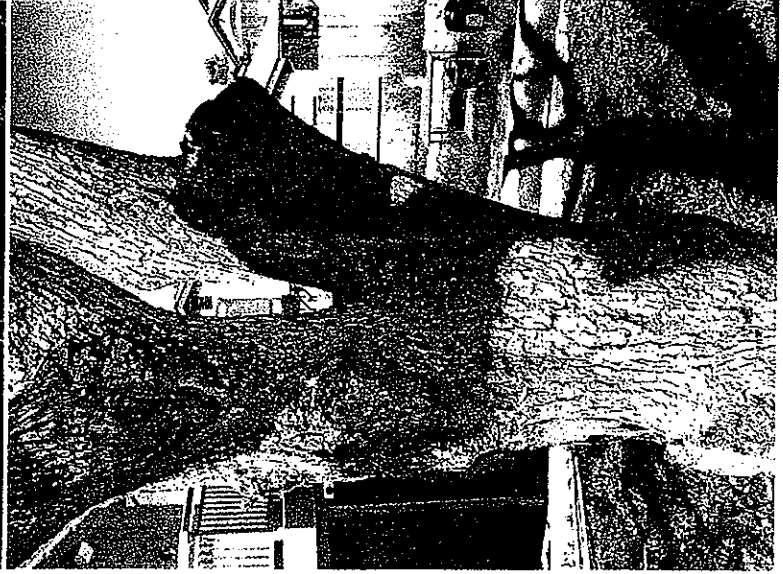
Yours sincerely  
Elder & Elder Ltd.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Elder', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Ted Elder  
Principal

Member of the International Society of Arboriculture #2301  
WCISA Certification #1490  
State of California Landscape Architect License #1402  
State of California Landscape Master Water Auditor





RESOLUTION NO. 05-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES  
AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF ONE OAK TREE AT 1733 MESA ROAD (GOMEZ)

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WHEREAS, the City has received an application submitted by Tara Gomez to remove one (1) 16-inch diameter Blue Oak tree located at 1733 Mesa Road; and

WHEREAS, Ted Elder prepared an Arborist Report received on March 23, 2005, stating that the tree is in very poor condition (Rated D: almost dead to soon to be dead) and needs to 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) Blue Oak tree at 1733 Mesa Road.
2. The applicant is required to install "like species" at a replacement requirement of 4-inches (16" removed x 0.25 replacement factor). This requirement could be satisfied by planting two (2) 2-inch trees, or other combinations that add up to the 4-inch requirement based on 1.5 -inch being the minimum tree size. The Arborist shall be involved with the planning of the trees on site to insure proper install and location of replacement trees. The trees may also be donated to the City for future planting in public area.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May 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