

TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER
FROM: ED GALLAGHER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: ADD JEREMY LOWNEY TO THE CITY'S PRE-APPROVED CERTIFIED ARBORIST LIST
DATE: March 20, 2012

Needs: For the City Council to consider adding one new Arborist to the City's Certified Arborist consultant list.

- Facts:
1. Chapter 10.01.040 of the City Municipal code requires that a person who provides services as an Arborist in the City must be certified by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and must be on a list of Certified Arborists approved by the City Council.
 2. The purpose of the pre-approved arborist consultant list is to ensure that only ISA-certified arborists are used by applicants in addressing oak tree issues.
 3. The following Arborist has requested to be added to the City's List to do work within the City boundaries (see Attachment 1, Applicant Letter):

Jeremy Lowney, ISA Certificate Arborist: #3718
 4. Jeremy Lowney has returned a signed statement acknowledging that he understands the conditions under which the City will accept him for approval on the List (Attachment 2).
 5. Staff has confirmed by reviewing the ISA website that Mr. Lowney is listed as an ISA Certified Arborist. Based on the ISA Certification, Mr. Lowney is qualified to provide consulting services and to prepare arborist reports to the City pursuant to Chapter 10.01 requirements.

Analysis
and

Conclusion: The Oak Tree Protection Ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 10.01) was amended in September 2002 to strengthen the protection of oaks in the City of Paso Robles. The amended code requires that an arborist consulting in the City must be certified by the ISA as qualified to determine whether an oak tree is diseased, and able to make recommendations regarding pruning, cutting, and preservation measures.

Mr. Lowney was sent a copy of the Oak Tree Protection Ordinance and Oak Tree Evaluation Criteria, and was asked to sign a statement that she had read the Ordinance and agrees to conform to the City's criteria for evaluation reports. He responded in writing to provide his certification number and current address/telephone and e-mail information. In addition, Mr. Lowney was advised of the need to obtain a City Business License to perform work in the City.

Policy

Reference: Municipal Code Chapter 10.01

Fiscal

Impact: Adopting an updated Arborist Consultant List would expedite the process of selecting a qualified consultant for both the applicant and for City-initiated projects.

Options:

- a. Adopt the attached Resolution adding Jeremy Lowney to the City's pre-approved consultant list.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject above options.

Attachments:

1. Letter of Request
2. Arborist Certification Statement
3. Resolution Approving Revised Consultant List



February 13, 2012

To the City of Paso Robles,

We are Solid Oak Tree Management, owned and operated in San Luis Obispo since 1998.

In 1997 I, Jeremy Lowney, interned with the SLO County Planning Department as a “Tree Specialist” where I became a Certified Arborist (#3718). I also became a member of the Cambria Forest Management Committee and Chaired the first ever Cambria Arbor Day. Through this experience and doing research on Pitch Canker (*Fusarium circinatum*) for my senior project, I became a member of the California State Pitch Canker Task Force. Following my graduation with a B.S. in Forestry at California Polytechnic University, I also became a Landscape Contractor (C27) and started Solid Oak Tree Management.

Today Solid Oak has grown into a small but productive company that provides Arboricultural consulting as well as tree and landscape services. I am also employed at Cal Poly University as the teacher of Urban Forestry (NRM350) where I educate future urban foresters in cutting-edge technology and give them a solid knowledge base which comes from both experience and education. We have retained a close working relationship with SLO County Planning, and also work closely with the City of SLO.

Some of our clients include the following:

- **State / County:** Cal Fire, Avila Fire Safe Council, Cal Poly University, SLO County Departments of Parks, Planning, Agriculture
- **Cities:** San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach, Morro Bay, Grover Beach, etc.
- **Large properties:** Morro Bay Power Plant, San Luis Bay Estates, The Lakes of Atascadero, Baron Canyon ranch.
- **Vineyards:** Meridian, Denner, Plam, Etc.
- **Landscape Companies:** Firma Landscape Architects, K.D. Janni Landscape Inc., Madrone, etc...
- **Environmental:** The Morro Group, Jones & Stokes
- **Property Management:** Goetz Manderley, Farrell Smyth, Yost, Cal West

- **Engineering:** Eric Gobler, Above Grade Engineering, etc...
- **Architects:** John Mitchell, Bill Isaman, John Mack

Solid Oak has established working relationships with many local government entities, writing tree protection plans, inventories and management plans, interpreting tree ordinances and providing monitoring reports. We have the expertise to provide large property surveys and management plans for vineyards, golf courses, shopping centers, schools, housing complexes, parks, etc...

We specialize in Urban Forest Management and Technical Reports, often assisting with taking people through the permit processes of local government for development. Below are listed our services available:

- Tree Protection Plans
- Forest health assessment, hazard trees
- Tree Appraisal
- Monitoring Reports
- Photo and Data Reports
- Urban Forest Management Plans
- Tree Planting Monitoring
- Inventories (Hazard, health, pruning needs, watering, fire hazard, clearance, damage to hardscape, etc)
- Tree Litigation / Professional Witness
- Landscape Planning and Consultation
- Tree fertilization, disease/pest control
- Pruning and Removal Monitoring

We are educated, experienced, and qualified as Urban Foresters. Solid Oak provides excellent service and takes pride in our quality and integrity.

We thank you in advance for the opportunity to serve the City of Paso Robles.

JEREMY LOWNEY, CERTIFIED ARBORIST #3718

805-544-7544

jeremylowney@gmail.com

QUALIFICATIONS:

Faculty, California Polytechnic University – Teacher of Urban Forestry

Certified Arborist WC-3718

California State Landscape and Tree Service Contractor (C27) #757086

Sole Proprietor - Solid Oak Tree Management since 1998

Member of the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture

Former Hazardous Tree Inspector, County of San Luis Obispo

Former Member of the California State Pitch Canker Task Force

Certificates in Tree Risk Management and Lawsuit Prevention, and Tree Appraising and Writing Technical Reports

Bachelors of Science in Forestry and Natural Resource Management,
California Polytechnic State University, SLO

Arborist Certification Statement

I, JEREMY LOWNEY (print name),

of SOLID OAK TREE MANAGEMENT (firm name),

hereby acknowledge that:

- 1. I have read the City of Paso Robles Oak Tree Protection Ordinance (Chapter 10.01) and am aware of its provisions;
- 2. I understand that I will be held accountable for violation of the terms of this ordinance;
- 3. I have read the City's Oak Tree Impact Evaluation Report Guidelines and understand that any report must comply with this criteria or it will be rejected by the City;
- 4. I understand that I require a valid City business license to perform work within the City limits; and,
- 5. I would like to be included on the City's approved list of ISA-certified arborists.

My ISA Certification number is: 3718

Signature: 

Date: 2/20/2012

Please make the following address /phone/e-mail corrections:

jeremy.lowney@gmail.com

805 544-7544

Thank you!

RESOLUTION NO. 12-xxx

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
ADOPTING THE ADDITION OF ONE ARBORIST TO THE CITY'S PRE-APPROVED CERTIFIED
ARBORIST LIST

WHEREAS, Chapter 10.01.040 of the City Municipal code requires that a person who provides services as an arborist in the City must be certified by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and must be on a list of certified arborists approved by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the pre-approved arborist consultant list is to ensure that only ISA-certified arborists are used by applicants in addressing oak tree issues; and

WHEREAS, the City has received a request from Jeremy Lowney to be added to the City's Certified Arborist list; and

WHEREAS, both Arborist is listed as certified by ISA and located within San Luis Obispo County; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with the Oak Tree Ordinance, the City developed Oak Tree Evaluation Report criteria, and a copy of the criteria and the amended ordinance was forwarded to each arborist; and

WHEREAS, staff has reviewed the consultant's Certification Statement, and determined that Mr. Lowney is qualified to prepare arborist reports and provide consultation services to the City; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FOUND, DETERMINED AND RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles to adopt the attached revised pre-approved ISA-Certified Arborist consultant list adding Jeremy Lowney to the list (Exhibit A).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 20th day of March 2012 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk