RESOLUTION NO. 17-050

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF ONE 38" VALLEY OAK TREE
AT 515 21st STREET
(OTR 17-005 / LINDA THORNDYKE) APN: 008-221-006

WHEREAS, Linda Thorndyke has filed a request for the removal of one 38" Valley oak tree located adjacent to the house located at 515 21st Street; and

WHEREAS, an Arborist Report prepared by Rodney Thurman, Certified Arborist has been provided which concludes that the tree has structural issues that make it prone to failure; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Director could not make the determination that the tree is "clearly dead or diseased beyond correction," and therefore, Section 10.01.050.C of the Oak Tree Ordinance would consider the tree "healthy" and require that the City Council make the determination of whether the tree should be removed or not, after consideration of the factors listed in Section 10.01.050.D; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. All of the above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. Findings: Pursuant to Paso Robles Municipal Code section 10.01.050.D., and based on the entire record including all written and oral evidence presented, the City Council finds as follows:

1. Having considered the factors outlined in Section 10.01.050.D.1. of the Paso Robles Municipal Code, and the information provided by the Arborist in Exhibit A, the City Council finds that allowing the removal of the tree would seem to be consistent with finding D.1, based on the trees being in poor condition, and allowing for the removal of the tree would prevent the possibility of the tree falling into the fairway where golfers and golf course employees are present throughout the day. Mitigation trees/fees will be required.

Section 3: Approval. The City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles does hereby:

1. Authorize the removal of one 38" Valley Oak tree located adjacent to the house at 515 21st Street, based on the trees being in poor health and prone to failure, as indicated in the Arborist Report, attached as Exhibit A;
2. Require one (1) 1.5-inch diameter Live Oak replacement tree on site and payment into the City's replacement fund for the remaining (5) replacement trees.

APPROVED this 18th day of April, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES: Strong, Hamon, Gregory, Reed, Martin
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Steven W. Martin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kristen L. Buxkemper, Deputy City Clerk

Exhibit A: Arborist Report

Whit's-Turn
Tree Care
P.O. Box 1784 Templeton, CA 93465
Telephone: 805-434-9630 Fax: 805-434-9610

March 10, 2017

Re: Tree Risk Assessment for Linda Thorndyke 515 21st Street in Paso Robles, CA

To: Darin Nash- City of Paso Robles Community Development Director

From: Rodney Thurman- Whit's Turn Tree Care

Dear Mr. Nash,

This letter is to inform you of the current tree health and structural stability of one (1) Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) located on the east side of 515 21st street. I visited the property on February 13, 2017 and did a ground based inspection of the tree and found the following:

Observations:

- The tree is a single stem measuring 38 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH), measured at 4.5 feet above ground level. The tree height is approximately 50 feet tall with a crown spread of approximately 40 feet. **See Appendix A- Photo1**
- The critical root zone (CRZ) has had been covered approximately 50% by a cement driveway and parking area. Another 30% of the CRZ is covered by the footprint of the house. Open yard area for root growth is approximately 20%. **See Appendix A- Photos2&3**
- The tree is located 5.5 feet east of the foundation of the house and the root crown is making contact with the cement parking pad of the carport. **See Appendix A- Photos 3**
- The root crow has been buried below grade at least 12 inches. **See Appendix A- Photos 3**
- A large branch has been removed has been removed from the lower trunk of the tree on the north side. The wound created by the cut is approximately 18 inches X 24 inches and is showing signs of decay. **See Appendix A- Photo 4**
- The tree has a 30 degree lean west toward the home. **See Appendix A- Photos 1&4**
- The tree has been topped in the past and no lateral branches are left. Only epicormic re-sprouts are forming the canopy. **See Appendix A- Photo 5**

Discussion and Conclusions:

Up to 80% of the CRZ of this tree is covered by cement and the footprint of the house. The driveway and parking pad for the carport appears to have been reconstructed since the house was built in the mid 1940's. Because of these construction activities, grading and soil movement occurred. Roots were potentially damaged and the original grade of the soil around the tree was raised at least 12 inches. When soil depth is changed and soil is placed against the trunk of a tree, the stem can suffocate and begin to decay. Often times structural roots rot over many years due to the suffocation. Secondary or adventitious roots form to feed the tree but provide no structural support and make the tree prone to failure.

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A large branch was removed from the north side of the tree 10 or more years ago. It is located approximately 6 feet above ground. The original diameter of the branch was approximately 36 inches. The open wound that remains is approximately 18 inches x 24 inches. The wound is callusing over, however decay has begun to form. It is not likely that the wound will seal over before decay advances significantly into the stem of the tree. The main stem of the tree above the wound has a lean of approximately 30 degrees to the west and over the house. The length of the stem above the wound is approximately 45 feet. The weak area of the stem with the large wound and decay combined with the lean and height of the stem make the possibility of stem failure at the wound point somewhat likely.

This tree has been topped significantly in the past. By my estimation of the re-growth, the work occurred in the last 10 years. Most of the lateral branches were removed leaving only 3 main scaffolds and some stubbed secondary branches. As a response to topping, epicormic shoots or "suckers" have re-grown from the topping points. Epicormic shoots originate from beneath the surface of the bark and are typically weakly attached to the parent branches. As these shoots gain height and diameter, they tend to fail during wind events.

I used the ISA Tree Risk Assessment Form to determine the risk rating for each part of the tree. The rating for the roots was moderate, the risk rating for failure of the stem was also moderate. The risk rating for branch failure was low. No mitigations short of full removal can be done to lower risk of root or stem failure. Removal of the epicormic shoots from the canopy would temporarily remove the risk of small branch failure; however that action would further stress the tree.

This tree is in very close proximity to the home and should not have been retained when the house was constructed. No doubt the tree was smaller in the 1940's but because of its potential mature size it was a poor choice to keep in the location. In an effort to live with the tree in the tight location, the owners of the tree have had it pruned significantly. The tree has been reduced to no more than a stem with a few branches covered with re-sprout growth. The tree has outgrown its space and now has structural issues that make it prone to failure at the roots, stem and canopy. I believe the risk in keeping this tree outweighs the benefits the tree provides.

Recommendation: I recommend full removal of this tree.

Sincerely,

Rodney D. Thurman
ISA Certified Arborist PN 2684AUM
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification

Appendices: Photographs, ISA Tree Risk Assessment Form

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Appendix A- Photos

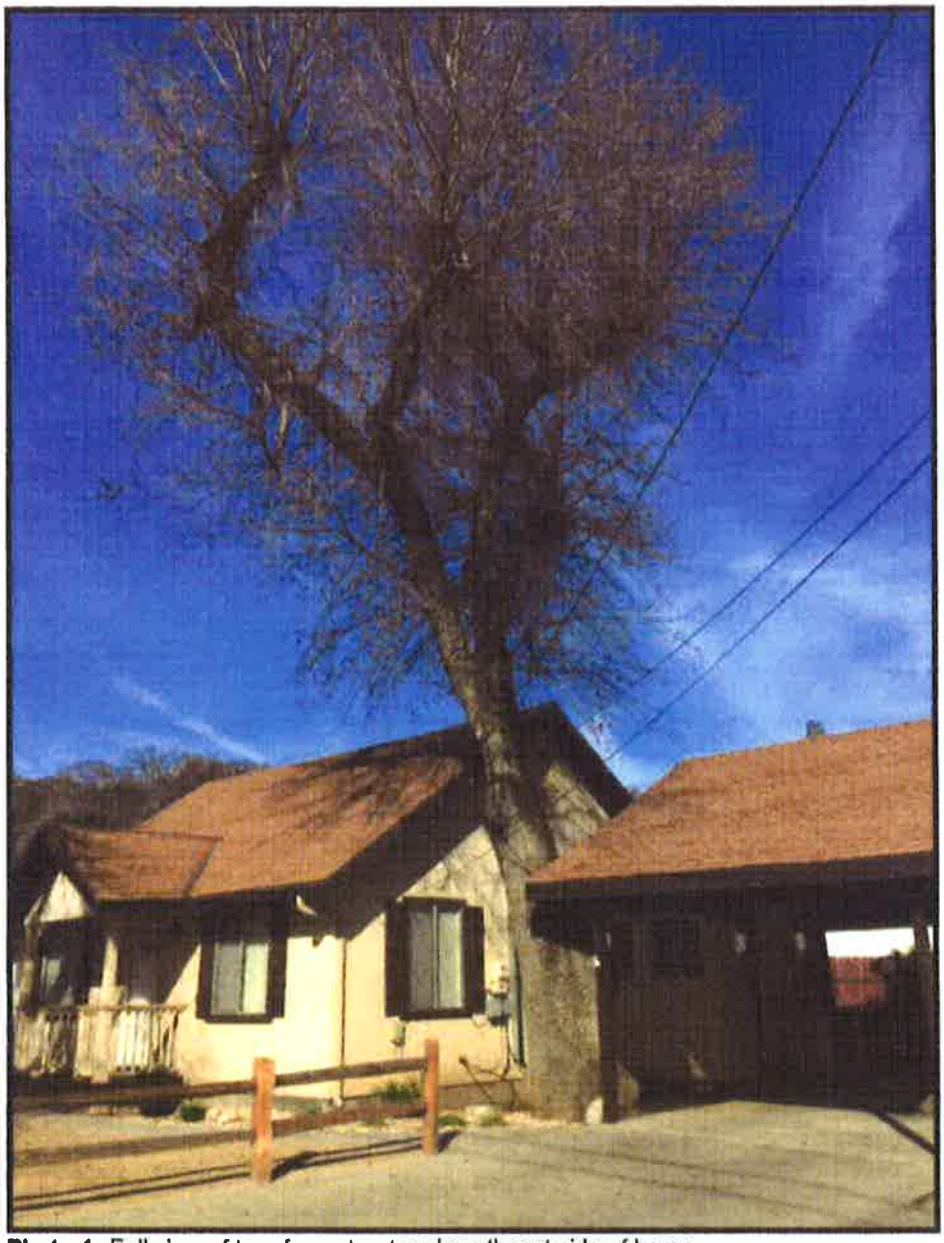

Photo 1- Full view of tree from street and southeast side of home

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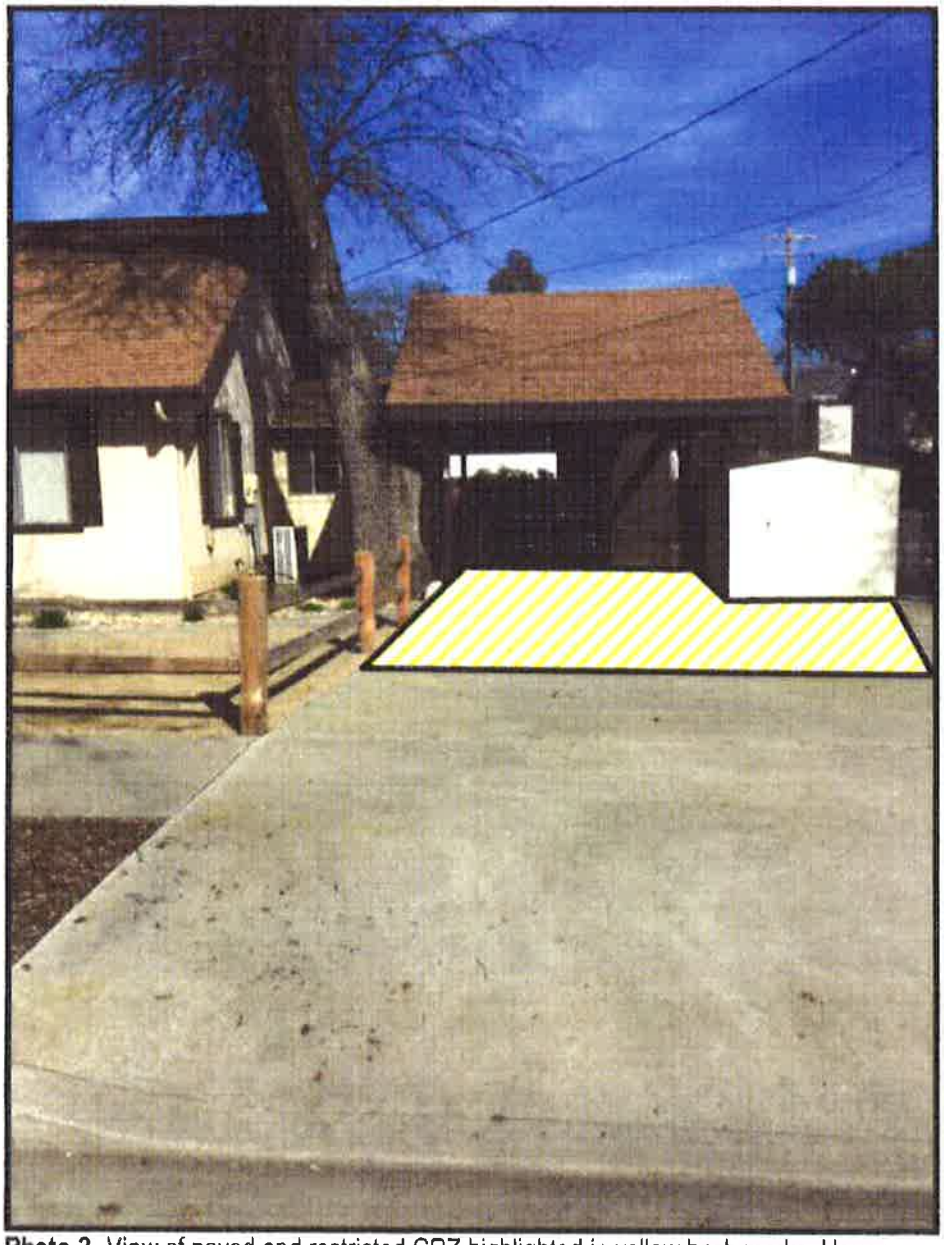

Photo 2- View of paved and restricted CRZ highlighted in yellow hash marks. House footprint also contributes to restricted root-space.

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Photo3- Close-up of grade buried root crown and restricted root space.

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Photo 4- Close-up of large wound on north side of tree. Arrow indicates formation of decay.

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Photo 5- Epicormic shoots growing form topping points.

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Appendix B- Forms

ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form

Client: Linda Thornblyke — Date 2/13/2017 — Time 1 pm

Address / Tree location 316 2nd Street, Paso Robles, CA — Tree no. 1 — Sheet 1 of 2

Tree species Valley Oak - Quercus lobata — dbh 48" — Height 50 — Crown spread dia. 40'

Assessor(s) Rodney Thornell — Time frame — Tools used Sounding Mallet

Target Assessment

Target number	Target description	Target within drip line	Target within 1x ht.	Target within 1.5x ht.	Occupancy rate	Practical to move targets?	Mitigation practical?
1	house	✓	✓		3	no	no
2	driveway	✓	✓		3	no	no
3	sidewalks	✓	✓		2	no	no
4	people						

Site Factors

History of failures none noted — Topography Flat ☒ Slope ☐ — % Aspect

Site changes None ☐ Grade change ☒ Site development ☐ Changed soil hydrology ☐ Root cuts ☐ Describe root crown buried - due to soil movement

Soil conditions Limited volume ☐ Saturated ☐ Shallow ☐ Compacted ☐ Pavement over roots ☒ 50 % Describe current driveway

Prevailing wind direction NW — Common weather Strong winds ☐ Ice ☐ Snow ☐ Heavy rain ☐ Describe winter storms

Tree Health and Species Profile

Vigor Low ☐ Normal ☐ High ☐ — Foliage None (seasonal) ☒ None (dead) ☐ Normal % Chlorotic % Necrotic %

Pests none noted — Abiotic

Species failure profile Branches ☒ Trunk ☐ Roots ☒ Describe large branches fail when overextended, roots fail due to root rot

Load Factors

Wind exposure Protected ☐ Partial ☐ Full ☒ Wind funneling ☐ — Relative crown size Small ☐ Medium ☒ Large ☐

Crown density Sparse ☐ Normal ☐ Dense ☐ Interior branches Few ☒ Normal ☐ Dense ☐ Vines/Mistletoe/Moss ☐

Recent or planned change in load factors none noted

Tree Defects and Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Failure

— Crown and Branches —

Unbalanced crown ☐ — Dead twigs/branches ☐ — Hangers/Hangers — Over-extended branches ☐

Pruning history: Crown cleaned ☐ Thinned ☐ Raised ☐ Reduced ☐ Topped ☒ Non-failed ☐ Flush cuts ☐

Main concern(s) failure of epicormic shoots

Cracks ☐ — Lightning damage ☐ — Codominant ☐ — Included bark ☐ — Weak attachments ☒ — Cavity/New hole — Previous branch failures ☐ — Similar branches present ☐ — Dead/Missing bark ☐ — Cankers/Galls/Burls ☐ — Sapwood damage/decay ☐ — Conks ☐ — Heartwood decay ☐ — Response growth

Load on defect N/A ☐ Minor ☐ Moderate ☒ Significant ☐

Likelihood of failure Improbable ☐ Possible ☒ Probable ☐ Imminent ☐

— Trunk —

Dead/Missing bark ☐ — Abnormal bark texture/color ☐ — Codominant stems ☐ — Included bark ☐ — Cracks ☐ — Sapwood damage/decay ☐ — Cankers/Galls/Burls ☐ — Sap flow ☐ — Lightning damage ☐ — Heartwood decay ☐ — Conks/Mushrooms ☐ — Cavity/Hole limit: ____ % circ. Depth ____ — Poor taper ☐

Lean 30° — Response growth good

Main concern(s) heavy 24 large branch removed 8 feet over gr

Load on defect N/A ☐ Minor ☐ Moderate ☐ Significant ☒

Likelihood of failure Improbable ☐ Possible ☒ Probable ☐ Imminent ☐

— Roots and Root Collar —

Color buried/not visible ☒ — Depth 12 inches — Stem girdling ☐ — Dead ☐ — Decay ☐ — Conks/Mushrooms ☐ — Lean ☐ — Cavity ☐ — Cracks ☐ — Cut/Damaged roots ☐ — Distance from trunk ____ — Root plate lifting ☐ — Soil weakness ☐

Response growth

Main concern(s)

Load on defect N/A ☐ Minor ☐ Moderate ☐ Significant ☒

Likelihood of failure Improbable ☐ Possible ☒ Probable ☐ Imminent ☐

Page 1 of 2

Page 1- ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form

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Risk Categorization

Condition number	Tree part	Conditions of concern	Part size	Fall distance	Target number	Target protection	Likelihood: Failure: Improbable	Failure: Possible	Failure: Probable	Failure: Imminent	Impact: Very low	Impact: Low	Impact: Medium	Impact: High	Failure & Impact: Unlikely	Failure & Impact: Somewhat likely	Failure & Impact: Likely	Failure & Impact: Very likely	Consequences: Negligible	Consequences: Minor	Consequences: Significant	Consequences: Severe	Risk rating of part (see Matrix 2)
1	root crown	multi-stem buried, possible root rot	12"	60'	1-4	no		●						●		●						●	mod
2	stem	decay area in stem	38"	50	1-4	no		●						●		●						●	mod
3	branches	failure of weakly attached epicormic shoots due to wind	3"	50'	1-4	no			●				●			●				●			low
4																							

Matrix 1. Likelihood matrix.

Likelihood of Failure	Likelihood of Impacting Target: Very low	Low	Medium	High
Imminent	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely	Very likely
Probable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely
Possible	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely
Improbable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely

Matrix 2. Risk rating matrix

Likelihood of Failure & Impact	Consequences of Failure: Negligible	Minor	Significant	Severe
Very likely	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Likely	Low	Moderate	High	High
Somewhat likely	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Low

North

Notes, explanations, descriptions _____

Mitigation options * remove tree — Residual risk none
* remove epicormic shoots — Residual risk moderate
Residual risk
Residual risk

Overall tree risk rating Low ☐ Moderate ■ High ☐ Extreme ☐ Work priority 1 ■ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐
Overall residual risk Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High ☐ Extreme ☐ Recommended inspection interval
Data ☐ Final ☐ Preliminary Advanced assessment needed ☐ No ☐ Yes Type/Reason
Inspection limitations ☐ None ☐ Visibility ☐ Access ☐ Vines ■ Root collar buried Describe root collar buried, restricted space for digging

This tree risk rating was developed by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and is endorsed by the Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ) credential. 2013

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Page 2- ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form