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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS  
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April 24, 1987

Transportation and Community Development Committee  
Budget and Finance Committee  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Street Tree Task Force Final Report to Council

#### SUMMARY

This report provides the City Council with information on the Street Tree Task Force's final report and requests that the Council approve the Task Force's recommendations. The final report from the Street Tree Task Force is attached.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The City Council requested that the Department of Parks and Community Services establish the Street Tree Task Force in January 1986 to serve as a temporary public hearing body to review City policies regarding the Elm Reforestation Program and new street tree plantings. The Street Tree Task Force met monthly from January 1986 through March 1987 and prepared the attached final report containing their findings and recommendations. The Street Tree Task Force voted unanimously to support this final report.

The Street Tree Task Force consists of seven members: two arborists, Austin Carroll and James Sweeney; two horticulturists, Pamela Bone and Ray Tretheway; and three interested citizens, David Herbert, elected chairperson, Charlsey Cartwright, and Jacob Jackson.

The Street Tree Task Force has decided not to endorse the continuation of the Elm Reforestation Program, but instead recommends the development of a comprehensive Tree Management Plan for Sacramento. This Plan will not only address the care of Sacramento's elm trees, but all of the City's street trees. The purpose of the Tree Management Plan will be to conserve, protect and renew Sacramento's street and park trees. The Street Tree Task Force envisions that the Tree Management Plan will ensure that Sacramento continues its heritage of large canopy trees, provides tree care which conforms to the best accepted arboriculture practices, and plants the right street tree in the right location. Guidelines for the Tree Management Plan were developed by the Task Force and are attached as Exhibit A.

The Street Tree Task Force also recommends a system for evaluating declining and nuisance trees through the use of two new tree evaluation forms to be used by the City Arborist (Exhibits B and C). These evaluation forms provide detailed documentation of a tree's condition. The evaluation system allows for the continued removal of hazardous trees and the reforestation of the community with new street trees.

The Parks Superintendent and City Tree Services staff have worked with the Task Force throughout the past year, providing resources and guidance as their work progressed. Parks Division staff concurs with the Street Tree Task Force's final recommendations.

Although the work of the Street Tree Task Force is complete, the Department recommends that the members meet in an advisory role during the review process of the Tree Management Plan. The Task Force members are experts in tree care and will be highly qualified and experienced resources to assist the Department during the Plan's review.

#### FINANCIAL DATA

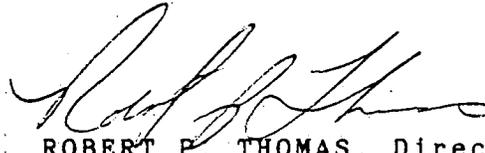
The Street Tree Task Force recommends in their report to continue funding for City Tree Services to maintain current service levels. They further recommend the development of the Tree Management Plan for Sacramento which will be prepared jointly by City staff and a consultant team. The Task Force believes the report can be produced for \$100,000. The Parks Division has proposed this expenditure in the City's five-year Capital Improvement Program. Due to budget constraints, staff will investigate alternative funding sources including grants and private donations in order to augment General Fund resources.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Transportation and Community Development Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee approve the attached final report from the Street Tree Task Force and forward the following recommendations to the City Council, and that the City Council, by Resolution:

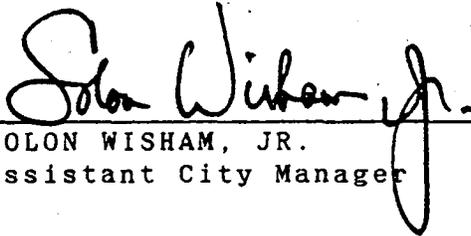
1. Approve the Street Tree Task Force Final Report.
2. Recognize the accomplishments of the Street Tree Task Force and thank them for their valuable contribution to the community.
3. Dissolve the Street Tree Task Force as a City advisory body because their work is complete.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT P. THOMAS, Director  
Parks and Community Services

Recommendation Approved:



SOLON WISHAM, JR.  
Assistant City Manager

May 5, 1987  
All Districts

RPT:jb

Attachments

# RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL ON DATE OF

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE STREET TREE  
TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT, COMMENDING THEM  
FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND DISSOLVING  
THEM AS A CITY ADVISORY BODY.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO:

1. That the final report of the Street Tree Task Force is hereby accepted.
2. That the Street Tree Task Force is hereby commended for their accomplishments and thanked for their valuable contribution to the community.
3. That the Street Tree Task Force is hereby dissolved as a City advisory body.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK

April 24, 1987

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Street Tree Task Force Final Report

SUMMARY

The City Council requested that the Department of Parks and Community Services establish the Street Tree Task Force in January, 1986. The Task Force was created to serve as a temporary public hearing body to review policies regarding the City's Elm Reforestation Program which had been adopted in 1982 and policies regarding new street tree plantings. Public concern had been expressed about the necessity to remove elms and about the quality of the replacement tree plantings. The mission of the Street Tree Task Force has been to provide greater public participation in the review of the City's street tree policies.

The Street Tree Task Force consists of seven members: two arborists, Austin Carroll and James Sweeney; two horticulturists, Pamela Bone and Ray Tretheway; and three interested citizens, David Herbert, elected chairperson, Charlsey Cartwright, and Jacob Jackson.

The Street Tree Task Force has conducted monthly meetings from January 1986 through March 1987. Concerns addressed by the Task Force over the past year include disease control, threat of Dutch Elm Disease in Sacramento, nuisance pests such as the Elm Leaf Beetle, potentially hazardous tree conditions and their relationship to public safety, damage to trees from construction, tree value to the neighborhood, future tree plantings, treescape plans, and planting the right tree in the right location.

Finally, the Street Tree Task Force requests that they reconvene at a future date to meet with the consultant team and City staff when the draft Tree Management Plan is completed. The Street Tree Task Force will review the draft and make recommendations for the final Plan.

#### TREE EVALUATIONS

Through their review of the Elm Reforestation Program, the Street Tree Task Force and City staff have developed two evaluation forms to guide the City Arborist and the community when dealing with elms and other trees. These evaluation forms will be an integral part of the Tree Management Plan's section on evaluation (see Exhibits B and C).

The first form, the Parks Division Guide for Evaluating Tree Condition, will be used by City tree inspectors to evaluate a range of tree conditions. A point scale will be used to determine the recommended action for each tree that is inspected.

The second form, the Parks Division Nuisance Tree Evaluation, will assist Tree Services, property owners and neighbors in evaluating nuisance trees. After the evaluation has been completed, neighbors and City staff can discuss possible solutions.

This system of tree evaluation will enable tree inspectors and the community to accurately assess a tree's condition, recommend necessary action, and implement the recommended action. All non-emergency tree removals will be scheduled after a 30-day public notice period has been observed. Notice of the proposed tree removals will be submitted for publication in Sacramento newspapers and posted at City Hall.

The Street Tree Task Force supports the use of these two evaluation forms as a tool to critically analyze and evaluate all trees considered for removal. These forms will result in a uniform and approved method of determining tree condition which is essential for public acceptance of the tree removal policy in the Tree Management Plan.

#### CITY TREE SERVICES BUDGET

The Street Tree Task Force supports the continuation of current Parks Division Tree Services programs based on the best accepted arboriculture practices. The Street Tree Task Force recommends that funding for the City's elm tree pesticide and necessary removal operations be continued at current service levels. These programs are essential for the safety of the community as well as for the preservation of existing elm trees. The Street Tree Task Force also supports continued City budget funding of Tree Services personnel and operations necessary for street tree maintenance, planting, and trimming programs at current service levels.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

The Street Tree Task Force also recognizes the value of citizen volunteers and recommends continuing the following City Parks Division volunteer programs:

1. Tool Loan Program;
2. Neighborhood Self-Help Program;
3. Neighborhood Tree Specialist Program; and
4. Gifts to Share Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon careful review and consideration of the Elm Reforestation Program and street tree plantings in the City of Sacramento, the Street Tree Task Force recommends the following:

1. Replacement of the Elm Reforestation Program with a Tree Management Plan for Sacramento to be produced by a consultant team and City staff during FY 1987-88.
2. Appropriation of \$100,000 to the Parks Division Budget in FY 1987-88 for development of the Tree Management Plan for Sacramento.
3. Review of the draft Tree Management Plan for Sacramento by reconvening the Street Tree Task Force to provide appropriate review and comments to the Plan before it is finalized.
4. Continuation of the high quality tree services provided by the City of Sacramento through the appropriation of adequate funding of Parks Division Tree Services to maintain the current level of street tree care in Sacramento.
5. Continuation of current Parks Division Tree Services personnel and operations including the \$200,000 program for elm tree pesticide management and necessary removals based on the new evaluation form.
6. Commitment by the City to implement the policies developed in the new Tree Management Plan for Sacramento by providing the necessary funding and staff levels critical for success.

CONSULTANT'S GUIDELINES FOR SACRAMENTO'S  
TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN

INTRODUCTION (City & Consultant)

- A. History of Plan
- B. Background of City Tree Care
- C. Street Tree Task Force

I. Existing Trees (City)

- A. Growing Conditions
  - 1. Geography
    - a. Soils
  - 2. Climate
- B. Tree History
- C. Existing Tree Cover
  - 1. Tree Inventory
  - 2. Present Condition of Trees

II. Design Criteria/Treescape Plan (Consultant)

- A. Species Selection
  - 1. Uniform Species (per block)
  - 2. Mixed Species (blocks with existing trees)
  - 3. Species Size Considerations
    - a. Building Setbacks
    - b. Depth of Soil
    - c. Size of Planting Area
    - d. Utilities-Underground and Overhead
    - e. Visual Obstructions
    - f. Solar Access

### III. Planting (City)

#### A. Planting Specifications

1. Size and Depth of Hole
  - a. Penetrating Hardpan
2. Backfill Material
3. Fertilizer
4. Staking
5. Water Basins
  - a. Grates (Consultant)
6. Containers (Consultant)
7. Root Barriers (Consultant)

#### B. City Nursery

### IV. Maintenance (City)

#### A. Young Tree Care

1. Watering
2. Pruning
3. Fertilizing
4. Tree Well and Street Median Weed Control
5. Tree Staking Policy

#### B. Mature Tree Care

1. Pruning
  - a. Thinning
  - b. Crown Reduction
2. Removing
  - a. Tree Evaluations
  - b. Public Review
  - c. Stump Removal

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
PARKS DIVISION GUIDE FOR EVALUATING TREE CONDITION

|       |                |       |                        |
|-------|----------------|-------|------------------------|
| _____ | DATE           | _____ | TREE SPECIES           |
| _____ | ADDRESS        | _____ | DIAMETER BREAST HEIGHT |
| _____ | PROPERTY OWNER | _____ | CROWN SPREAD           |
| _____ | INSPECTOR      | _____ | TOTAL HEIGHT           |

Sketch of Tree Location Attached; Yes \_\_\_\_\_

CONDITION CATEGORIES AND CORRESPONDING POINT VALUES

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Good Condition.....86 to 100 points | Very Poor Condition.....31 to 50 points |
| Fair Condition.....71 to 85 points  | Removal Recommended.....20 to 30 points |
| Poor Condition.....51 to 70 points  | Removal Required....less than 19 points |

|                            |                                    |                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>EVALUATION CRITERIA</u> | <u>CHECK CONDITIONS THAT APPLY</u> | <u>POINT VALUE</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|

**General View:**

Overall appearance of tree is representative of species . . . . . ( ) . . . . .(10) \_\_\_\_\_

Overall appearance of tree deviates from that which is representative of species . . . . .( ) . . . . .( 5) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Location:**

Adequate space is available for development of structures and form characteristic of species . . . . .( ) . . . . .(10) \_\_\_\_\_

Adequate space is not available for development of structures and form characteristic of species . . . . .( ) . . . . .( 5) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Root Area:

- No visible defects observed . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- Invasive roots damaging private property . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Roots lifting sidewalk creating minor displacement of normal grade . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- Roots lifting sidewalk creating major displacement of normal grade . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Roots displacing curb or gutter from normal alignment . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Extensive portions of the root system have been cut . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-10) \_\_\_\_\_
- Crown root area displays signs or symptoms of wood deterioration . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-5) \_\_\_\_\_
- Crown root area decayed more than 30% of tree's cross-section . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-25) \_\_\_\_\_
- Root area subject to over watering . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Trunk Area:

- No visible defects observed . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- Bark missing from trunk;
  - Less than 10% of trunk circumference . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 8) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 10% to 30% of trunk circumference . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 5) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Greater than 30% of trunk circumference . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- Trunk displays signs or symptoms of wood deterioration . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-5) \_\_\_\_\_
- Trunk area decayed more than 30% of tree's cross-section . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-10) \_\_\_\_\_
- Unequal weight distribution due to trunk lean . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Trunk crack(s) observed . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-10) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Canopy Features:**

- Canopy full and balanced . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- Canopy full and unbalanced . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- Canopy unbalanced . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Full canopy lacking . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Foliage concentrated in the upper 1/3 of the tree . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Canopy dieback . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Foliage is representative of species . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- Foliage is not representative of species . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Twig Growth:**

- Current twig growth more than 6 inches . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- Current twig growth between 2 to 6 inches . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- Current twig growth less than 2 inches . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 5) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Insect and Disease:**

- No pests observed . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- Signs or symptoms of one pest observed . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- Signs or symptoms of two or more pests observed . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- Pests create an intermittent and temporary nuisance . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Pests create a recurring and permanent nuisance . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Pests threaten well-being of adjacent trees . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Onset of Canopy:

- No visible defects observed . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrow angles of branch attachment  
and/or embedded bark observed . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Branch(es) nearly as large  
as main trunk . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Branch attachment area displays  
signs or symptoms of wood deterioration . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-15) \_\_\_\_\_
- Decay in more than 30% of cross-section . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-25) \_\_\_\_\_
- Crack(s) observed . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-5) \_\_\_\_\_
- Evidence of split-out scaffolds . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-5) \_\_\_\_\_
- Cluster of multiple branches;  
uncharacteristic of species . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Double leader . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

Limb Structure:

- No visible defects observed . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- One major or several minor dead limbs . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- Two or more major dead limbs . . . . . ( ) . . . . . ( 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- Signs or symptoms of wood deterioration . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-5) \_\_\_\_\_
- Decay in more than 30% of  
limb's cross-sectional area . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-10) \_\_\_\_\_
- Crack(s) observed . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-5) \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrow angles of branch attachment  
and/or embedded bark observed . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Large horizontal branches . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Evidence of split-out branch(es) . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- Multiple branches from heading cuts . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (-1) \_\_\_\_\_
- COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

**Impact on Block:**

Tree significantly impacts shade, aesthetics  
and architectural design of block . . . . . ( ) . . . . . (10) \_\_\_\_\_

Tree does not significantly impact shade,  
aesthetics and architectural design of block . ( ) . . . . . ( 5) \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL POINTS \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION(S) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PARKS DIVISION NUISANCE TREE EVALUATION

5/15/86

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Inspector

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tree Species

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pest(s)

Describe pest problem? \_\_\_\_\_

|  |             |                          |                 |
|--|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Is the pest infestation in this tree more serious than in neighboring trees? | Remove      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Comments: _____ |
|  | Unknown     | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |
|  | Re-evaluate | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |
|  | No          | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |

|   |             |                          |                 |
|---|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Has the City attempted to control the pest? Describe the control and the results. | Remove      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Comments: _____ |
|   | Unknown     | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |
|   | Re-evaluate | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |
|   | No          | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |

|   |             |                          |                 |
|---|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Is the tree likely to be infested from neighboring trees? Please comment. | Remove      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Comments: _____ |
|   | Unknown     | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |
|   | Re-evaluate | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |
|   | No          | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |

|  |             |                          |                 |
|--|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Is the pest present three or more months out of the year? List the months. | Remove      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Comments: _____ |
|  | Unknown     | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |
|  | Re-evaluate | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |
|  | No          | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |

|  |             |                          |                 |
|--|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Does the presence of the pest interfere with the resident's lifestyle? Please comment. | Remove      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Comments: _____ |
|  | Unknown     | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |
|  | Re-evaluate | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |
|  | No          | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____           |

Has the homeowner attempted to control the pest? Describe control and results. Remove  Unknown  Re-evaluate  No  Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there evidence of property damage due to the pest's activity? List. Remove  Unknown  Re-evaluate  No  Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Has the property value been lowered by the pest's activity? Please comment. Remove  Unknown  Re-evaluate  No  Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Would removal of the tree have a positive effect on the surrounding environment? Comment. Remove  Unknown  Re-evaluate  No  Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the property owner willing to have the tree removed and replaced? Remove  Unknown  Re-evaluate  No  Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Are other residents willing to have the tree removed and replaced? Remove  Unknown  Re-evaluate  No  Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspection recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_