

File

SPECIAL MEETING

SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO
HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO
PARKING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO

I HEREBY CALL Special Meetings of the Sacramento City Council, Redevelopment Agency of the City of Sacramento, Housing Authority of the City of Sacramento, and Parking Authority of the City Sacramento to be conducted concurrently with the Council committee meetings listed below, which are incorporated herein by reference. The Special Meetings are called to permit Members who are not on the listed committees to attend the meetings and participate in the discussions.

The meetings will be held at the date, time and place indicated below and on the reverse side of this page, and the subjects to be considered and acted upon shall be those below and on the following pages.

Issued: May 9, 1985

ANNE RUDIN
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LORRAINE MAGANA
CITY CLERK

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEK
MAY 13, 1985 THROUGH MAY 17, 1985

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1985

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

3:00 PM

City Council Chambers
915 I Street
Sacramento, CA

- SUBJECT:
1. Elm Tree Reforestation Program
 2. Budget Amendment for an Environmental Impact Report for South Sacramento Community Plan Update (M-85033)
 3. 1983-84 Annual Financial Statements for City of Sacramento
 4. Budget Workshop (Please bring your budget)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Lynn Robie (Chair), Doug Pope, David Shore, Joe Serna, Jr.



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The Sacramento elm tree removal program continues as another 200 giant trees were cut down in 1984--leaving many streets with far less of their former character and beauty. To my thinking, severely damaging our proud and stately tree canopy, for any but the most dire circumstance, is an immense tragedy.

Why are we doing this? The reasons, given by City officials (Gene Robinson, Bob Thomas, & others)--together with a comment-- are:

- 1) Looming fear of a sudden Dutch elm disease attack and removal expense.
*As of late 1984, Don Eckeles, General Park Supervisor for tree services, affirms that Dutch elm disease (D.E.D.) is now virtually driven from our State due to the success of the recent State of California D.E.D. eradication program.
- 2) It would be unfair to leave the burden of older tree removal to a future City Council.
* Elm trees can live twice as long as the current age of Sacramento's elms. No one future City Council need face such a burden.
- 3) The elms are too big and could blow over in a big storm with property damage and perhaps personal harm.
* The combination of trees, soggy ground, and high winds has always posed this possibility--everywhere in the world and throughout history. Isn't a beautiful Sacramento worth a small risk?
* The mature elms great size and resulting 80 foot canopy is a primary reason the elm has long been considered one of the most ideal urban street trees & an American favorite for 200 years.
- 4) City inspections show rot and defects in older elms requiring replacement with more hardy tree varieties.
* Who or what among us is without defects? Over and over the promised trouble-free tree varieties have proved surprisingly defective with time.
* Though called a hazard by some City officials, City records show no serious injury from an elm tree. By comparison, defective human judgement is causing personal injury & property damage by the thousands every year in our traffic.
- 5) Complaints of insect nuisance.
* We have the means to minimize this nuisance--bolstering tree popularity in the process. Is not such financial support deserving in, of all places, Sacramento--City of Trees?

Is city living making us forget nature's ordinary ways? Yards cluttered with leaves, seasonal bugs, fallen limbs, flocks of roosting birds--all bring complaints. Our ancestral pride in a graceful & beautiful Sacramento is falling away--meeting the ax of City Hall's bottom line.

Other California communities have a different attitude. A 1982 State of California D.E.D. progress report documents elm tree preservation county by county. It reads, "Clearly, the importance of protecting this resource (elm trees) can not be over-emphasized." Also, "A recent poll of Los Angeles residents places trees above all other city services." Can you imagine Marin cutting down their old venerable elms?

Sacramento is stripping away its best known environmental feature. What's more, the smaller tree varieties used for replanting will never replace the large tree canopy.

It doesn't have to be this way. It's our decision.