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**CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

NEIGHBORHOOD
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
NORTH/CENTRAL REGION

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- PARKS
- RECREATION
- TREES
- SPORTS
- CAMP SACRAMENTO

February 11, 1994

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Elm Leaf Beetle Infestation Strategy for 1994

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:

City Wide.

RECOMMENDATION:

This report is provided for information only.

CONTACT PERSON:

**Martin Fitch, Superintendent for Tree Services,
264-6258**

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:

February 22, 1994

SUMMARY:

This report reviews the method of treatment for Elm Leaf Beetle infestation during the 1994 season and strategy for expanding the program to include treating infected trees on private property.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Elm Leaf Beetle attacks continue to impact the health of the City's Elm tree population.
- Last season, without the availability of the chemical treatment Bidrin, a replacement chemical Metasystox-R (MSR) was used with only limited effectiveness.
- Alternative chemicals are not yet approved by the EPA, therefore, City Tree Services will use MSR again in the 1994 season.
- To enhance the effectiveness of MSR, staff recommends concentrating the number of seasonal employees for this purpose during a reduced time frame thereby doubling the number of seasonal employees for the 1994 season. This will allow a more rapid treatment of the Elms with the intent of stopping the first generation of insects on most elm trees.
- As a secondary measure, Tree Services will treat elm trees on private property. Tree Services will ask permission of property owners to treat trees. The current City Tree Ordinance Title 45.01.005 allows work on private trees for health and safety reasons or in the detection of Dutch Elm Disease. Untreated Elm trees located on private property are a primary source of reinfestation of City Elm trees as the short-lived effects of MSR diminish. Because of early summer defoliation caused by the Beetle, signs of Dutch Elm Disease are masked making its detection difficult. Tree Services will continue to encourage private treatment of private trees where the property owners choose to do so. Tree Services will not attempt to treat private trees without written permission from residents.
- Staff anticipates the additional steps to treat infected elm trees may reduce the level of defoliation experienced last season. Staff will also continue to research other options available for control of Elm Leaf Beetle.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

No additional expenditures are expected. The proposed changes in treatment for Elm Leaf Beetle will be accomplished with existing resources.

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POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

The treatment of private trees is provided for under the current City Tree Ordinance, Title 45, with regard to public health and safety as well as Dutch Elm Disease control.

MBE/WBE:

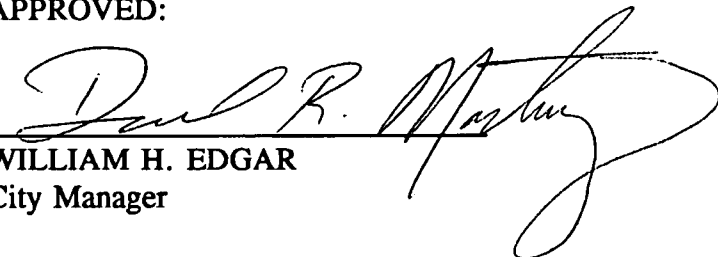
None.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Victor L. Edmisten, Manager
Parks and Recreation, North/Central Region

APPROVED:



for: WILLIAM H. EDGAR
City Manager