

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Meeting Agenda Announcement

On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 361, which allows Brown Act bodies to attend meetings telephonically. Please be advised that some Whittier Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commissioners may attend this meeting telephonically.

Speakers must limit their comments to three minutes. Please note, by order of the presiding officer, public comments minutes may be reduced if at their discretion a surplus of public speakers is present at the meeting.

To submit Public Comments/Questions:

- Email: gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400
- Live Audio via Zoom: Only those members of the public who have 'raised their hand' on Zoom will be in the queue for speaking.
- In person at City Hall 13230 Penn St., Whittier, CA 90602, City Council Chamber

To view live meetings remotely:

- Video and audio: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86955588397>
- Audio only: Dial 1 (720) 707-2699 (Meeting ID: 869 5558 8397)

Please submit email comments by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails received by 5:00 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails received after 5:00 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

**AGENDA
CITY OF WHITTIER
PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 13230 PENN STREET
APRIL 16, 2025, 6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Elizabeth Apodaca, Commissioner
Tiffany Givens, Commissioner
Don Mrla, Commissioner
Joseph Westrup, Commissioner
Victoria Pacheco, Vice Chair
Robert Sera, Chair

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is invited to address the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission regarding any item of business, or any matter within the body's subject matter jurisdiction. Consistent with Executive Order No. N-29-20 public comments can be made via:

- Email: gonzalezr@cityofwhittier.org
- Voicemail: (562) 567-9400

Please submit email and voicemail public comments by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting to ensure Commissioners receive and have time to review them. All emails and voicemails received by 5:00 p.m. are forwarded to the Commission. Emails and voicemails received after 5:00 p.m. but before the conclusion of public comments will be entered into the record.

Pursuant to State law, the Commission cannot take action or express a consensus of approval or disapproval on any communications which do not appear on the printed agenda.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

5.A. Tree Appeal – Palm Avenue Improvement Project from Beverly Boulevard to Whittier Boulevard

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission:

- 1) Conduct a Public Hearing to consider the ten (10) appeals received regarding the proposed removal of Aleppo Pine trees located along Palm Avenue from Beverly Boulevard to Whittier Boulevard.

- 2) Deny the ten (10) tree appeals regarding the removal of Aleppo Pine trees along Palm Avenue.
- 3) Recommend the City Council authorize removing the trees pursuant to Section IX of the Parkway Tree Manual.

6. STAFF REPORTS

7. SECRETARY COMMENTS

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND CONFERENCE REPORTS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Disability-related services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting, consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Spanish interpreters are also available. For information or to request services, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Department at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at (562) 567-9400.

The agenda packet is available three days before the meeting in the PRCS Department at City Hall (13230 Penn Street), Whittier Central Library (7344 Washington Avenue) and East Whittier Branch Library (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Additionally, the agenda packet can be viewed on the City's website. Materials distributed to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission within 72 hours of the Commission meeting are available for public inspection in the PRCS Department's Office.

Los servicios relacionados con la discapacidad están disponibles para permitir que las personas con discapacidad participen en esta reunión, de conformidad con la Ley Federal de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades de 1990. También hay intérpretes en español disponibles. Para obtener información o para solicitar servicios, comuníquese con el Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad al menos de 24 horas antes de la reunión al (562) 567-9400.

El paquete de la agenda está disponible tres días antes de la reunión con El Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad en el Ayuntamiento (13230 Penn Street), Biblioteca Central de Whittier (7344 Washington Avenue) y Biblioteca sucursal del este de Whittier (10537 Santa Gertrudes Avenue). Además, el paquete de la agenda se puede ver en el sitio web de la Ciudad. Los materiales distribuidos al Comisión de parques, recreación y servicios comunitarios dentro de las 72 horas de la reunión del Concejo Municipal están disponibles para inspección pública en la con El Departamento de Recreación y Parques al Servicio a la Comunidad.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements. Regular and Adjourned Regular meeting agendas may be amended up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Dated this 11th day of April 2025.

/s/ Roxanne Gonzalez

Roxanne Gonzalez, Administrative Secretary



Agenda Report

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

Date: April 16, 2025

To: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission

From: Virginia Santana, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Subject: Tree Appeal – Palm Avenue Improvement Project from Beverly Boulevard to Whittier Boulevard

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission:

- 1) Conduct a Public Hearing to consider the ten (10) appeals received regarding the proposed removal of Aleppo Pine trees located along Palm Avenue from Beverly Boulevard to Whittier Boulevard.
- 2) Deny the ten (10) tree appeals regarding the removal of Aleppo Pine trees along Palm Avenue.
- 3) Recommend the City Council authorize removing the trees pursuant to Section IX of the Parkway Tree Manual.

BACKGROUND

On April 26, 2016, the City Council and WUA Board of Directors awarded a Professional Services Agreement to CivilSource, Inc. for the design of the Palm Avenue Improvement Project between Beverly Boulevard and Whittier Boulevard. During the design period, CivilSource, Inc. was acquired by NV5, Inc. (NV5). NV5 completed the water, sewer, and pavement reconstruction design and provided plans, specifications, and estimates to the Public Works Department. At design completion, there was a lack of funds to complete the pavement reconstruction portion of the project, and the project was shelved until sufficient funds became available.

On April 28, 2017, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 was signed into law to provide funding for transportation infrastructure. This bill increased gas fuel tax, and vehicle registration fees to establish the funds known as the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account (RMRA) or SB-1 Funds for roadway rehabilitation projects. On May 24, 2022, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2022-36, approving Palm Avenue as the street to utilize RMRA funding.

On February 28, 2023, City Council and WUA Board of Directors awarded a Professional Services Agreement to NV5, Inc. for the design of an expanded scope of services and updating the plans, specifications, and estimates to current standards and costs.

On September 12, 2023, the City Council approved plans and specifications and the City Clerk was authorized to advertise for construction bids.

Agenda Item No. 5.A.

On March 12, 2024, City Council awarded the construction to Big Ben Engineering for the construction of the Palm Avenue Improvement Project.

DISCUSSION

The City of Whittier's Public Works Department is actively engaged in a comprehensive project to redesign the reconstruction of the water, sewer and pavement along Palm Avenue from Beverly Boulevard to Whittier Boulevard. These improvements will include a new sewer line, new water line, street paving, and sidewalk/driveway replacement.

In the final phase of this project fourteen trees will be negatively affected. The Public Works Department made a request on December 10, 2024, to have an arborist evaluate the trees. Certified Arborist, Eric Gorsuch, from V & E Tree Service performed a written tree Risk Assessment on eleven trees that he has determined will become a Moderate to High-Risk failure if root shaving and/or root pruning is performed on any of these fourteen trees (Attachment A).

An evaluation conducted by our Arborist, which identified 14 trees of concern, underscored the challenges of conducting the needed improvements on the water line, sewer line, and pavement while preserving the tree's stability (Attachment B). The necessary improvements would entail the cutting back of substantial buttress roots to the root collar, a measure that risks destabilizing the tree. Moreover, the trees' proximity to the driveways of nearby residents' homes makes it impractical to adjust the curbs around the trees effectively.

Therefore, the Public Works Department made a formal request for the removal of fourteen parkway trees, grounded in the guidelines outlined in the Parkway Tree Manual Section IX (Attachment C). Specifically, the "Hazardous Condition Removal" section is pertinent to this situation. One key criterion within this section is hardscape damage, which justifies removal when hardscape repairs cannot be carried out without causing severe harm to the root system or the tree itself.

While some of the parkway trees currently show no signs of decline, the unavoidable removal of roots back to the buttress collar, as revealed in the Arborist's report, creates a potential destabilization and subsequent failure risk for the tree. The Arborist's findings dictate that the removal of the trees appears to be the only viable option to perform the necessary improvements.

In compliance with the Parkway Tree Manual guidelines, the trees in question were officially posted for removal on **January 21, 2025**. Subsequently, a joint appeal from two Whittier residents was submitted during the appeal period, concerning 10 of the trees. (Attachment D).

To ensure a fair and transparent process, the appellants and the neighboring property owners were formally notified of the scheduled hearing on April 3-4, 2025, through standard mail.

The appeal process, as outlined in Section XII of the Parkway Tree Manual, encompasses the following criteria:

- The appellant must reside within the City of Whittier.
- The Appeal must be filed within the thirty (30) day posting period.
- The completed appeal form must be submitted to the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department.
- The appeal hearing will be included on the first available Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission Agenda.

Following the conclusion of the appeal hearing, the Commission will provide a recommendation to the City Council. This recommendation will then be presented on the first available City Council Agenda as a consent item, culminating in the final determination of the appeal by the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL

Goal 4: Transparent & Open Government

ATTACHMENTS

- A. V&E Arborist Tree Evaluation
- B. City Arborist Tree Evaluation
- C. Section IX of the Parkway Tree Manual
- D. Appeal Forms



Palm Ave - Initial Report

V&E Tree Service

October 16, 2024 |
Total Tree Count: 11

Aleppo pine Tree ID #1

6261 Palm Avenue

Tree Details

Scientific Name:	Pinus halepensis
Common Name:	Aleppo pine
Genus:	Pinus
Condition:	Fair
Status:	Alive
Number of Stems (Multi Calc):	1
DBH:	28
DBH Range:	24-30in
Height Range:	50ft-75ft
Priority:	
Crown Spread:	25
Canopy Shape:	Asymmetrical
Observations- Characteristics:	Over pruned, Dieback, Girdling Root
Observations-Biotic Pest:	
Observations-Abiotic:	
Observation Comments:	ROOT PRUNING AT CLOSE PROXIMITY TO TRUNK ON 2 SIDES
Tree Work-Other:	
Last Modified:	10/16/2024
Notes:	

Tree Location

Longitude:	-118.054711
Latitude:	33.984622
Land Use:	Single Family
Address:	6261 Palm Avenue
City:	Whittier
Land Type:	Parkway
Location on Site:	

Photos Street View Map View



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10/14/2024

Aleppo pine Tree ID #2

6251 Palm Avenue

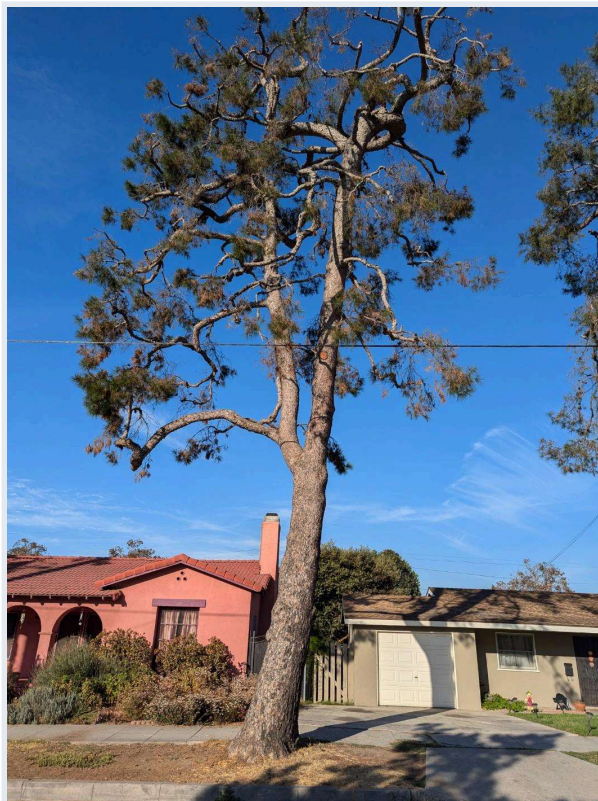
Tree Details

Scientific Name:	Pinus halepensis
Common Name:	Aleppo pine
Genus:	Pinus
Condition:	Fair
Status:	Alive
Number of Stems (Multi Calc):	1
DBH:	27
DBH Range:	24-30in
Height Range:	50ft-75ft
Priority:	
Crown Spread:	25
Canopy Shape:	Asymmetrical
Observations- Characteristics:	Over pruned, Dieback
Observations-Biotic Pest:	
Observations-Abiotic:	
Observation Comments:	ROOT PRUNING AT CLOSE PROXIMITY TO TRUNK
Tree Work-Other:	
Last Modified:	10/16/2024
Notes:	

Tree Location

Longitude:	-118.054723
Latitude:	33.984918
Land Use:	Single Family
Address:	6251 Palm Avenue
City:	Whittier
Land Type:	Parkway
Location on Site:	

Photos Street View Map View



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10/14/2024

Aleppo pine Tree ID #3

6241 Palm Avenue

Tree Details

Scientific Name:	Pinus halepensis
Common Name:	Aleppo pine
Genus:	Pinus
Condition:	Fair
Status:	Alive
Number of Stems (Multi Calc):	1
DBH:	41
DBH Range:	>30in
Height Range:	50ft-75ft
Priority:	
Crown Spread:	30
Canopy Shape:	Asymmetrical
Observations- Characteristics:	Dieback, Over pruned
Observations-Biotic Pest:	
Observations-Abiotic:	
Observation Comments:	ROOT PRUNING AT CLOSE PROXIMITY TO TRUNK
Tree Work-Other:	
Last Modified:	10/16/2024
Notes:	

Tree Location

Longitude:	-118.054728
Latitude:	33.985127
Land Use:	Single Family
Address:	6241 Palm Avenue
City:	Whittier
Land Type:	Parkway
Location on Site:	

[Photos](#) [Street View](#) [Map View](#)



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10/14/2024

Aleppo pine Tree ID #4

5571 Palm Avenue

Tree Details

Scientific Name: Pinus halepensis

Common Name: Aleppo pine

Genus: Pinus

Condition: Fair

Status: Alive

Number of Stems
(Multi Calc): 1

DBH: 44

DBH Range: >30in

Height Range: 50ft-75ft

Priority:

Crown Spread: 30

Canopy Shape: Asymmetrical

Observations-
Characteristics: Dieback, Cavity, Over
pruned, Trunk Decay

Observations-Biotic
Pest:

Observations-Abiotic:

Observation
Comments: ROOT PRUNING ON 2
SIDES AT CLOSE
PROXIMITY TO TRUNK

Tree Work-Other:

Last Modified: 10/16/2024

Notes:

Tree Location

Longitude: -118.054790

Latitude: 33.994483

Land Use: Single Family

Address: 5571 Palm Avenue

City: Whittier

Land Type: Parkway

Location on Site:

Photos Street View Map View



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10/14/2024

Aleppo pine Tree ID #5

11505 Monte Vista Drive

Tree Details

Scientific Name: *Pinus halepensis*

Common Name: Aleppo pine

Genus: *Pinus*

Condition: Fair

Status: Alive

Number of Stems
(Multi Calc): 1

DBH: 44

DBH Range: >30in

Height Range: 50ft-75ft

Priority:

Crown Spread: 40

Canopy Shape: Asymmetrical

Observations-
Characteristics: Over pruned, Dieback

Observations-Biotic
Pest:

Observations-Abiotic:

Observation
Comments: ROOT PRUNING AT
CLOSE PROXIMITY TO
TRUNK - SIGNIFICANT
AMOUNT OF HOLDING
ROOTS

Tree Work-Other:

Last Modified: 10/16/2024

Notes:

Tree Location

Longitude: -118.054644

Latitude: 33.995247

Land Use: Single Family

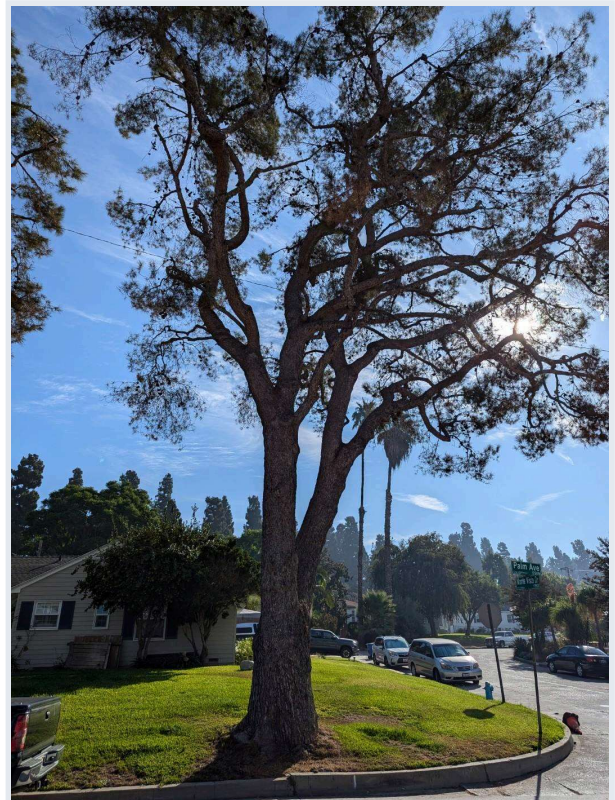
Address: 11505 Monte Vista
Drive

City: Whittier

Land Type:

Location on Site:

Photos Street View Map View



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10/14/2024

Aleppo pine Tree ID #6

11505 Monte Vista Drive

Tree Details

Scientific Name: Pinus halepensis

Common Name: Aleppo pine

Genus: Pinus

Condition: Fair

Status: Alive

Number of Stems
(Multi Calc): 1

DBH: 41

DBH Range: >30in

Height Range: 50ft-75ft

Priority:

Crown Spread: 40

Canopy Shape: Asymmetrical

Observations-
Characteristics: Dieback, Over pruned

Observations-Biotic
Pest:

Observations-Abiotic:

Observation
Comments: COVERED IN IVY ROOT
PRUNING AT CLOSE
PROXIMITY TO THE
TRUNK

Tree Work-Other:

Last Modified: 10/16/2024

Notes:

Tree Location

Longitude: -118.054664

Latitude: 33.995366

Land Use: Single Family

Address: 11505 Monte Vista
Drive

City: Whittier

Land Type:

Location on Site:

Photos Street View Map View



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10/14/2024

Aleppo pine Tree ID #7

5542 Palm Avenue

Tree Details

Scientific Name: *Pinus halepensis*

Common Name: Aleppo pine

Genus: *Pinus*

Condition: Fair

Status: Alive

Number of Stems
(Multi Calc): 1

DBH: 32

DBH Range: >30in

Height Range: 50ft-75ft

Priority:

Crown Spread: 25

Canopy Shape: Asymmetrical

Observations-
Characteristics: Root Decay, Over
pruned, Leaning trunk,
Dieback

Observations-Biotic
Pest:

Observations-Abiotic:

Observation
Comments: DRIVEWAY PAVERS
UPLIFT

Tree Work-Other:

Last Modified: 10/16/2024

Notes:

Tree Location

Longitude: -118.054664

Latitude: 33.995611

Land Use: Single Family

Address: 5542 Palm Avenue

City: Whittier

Land Type:

Location on Site:

Photos Street View Map View



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10/14/2024

Aleppo pine Tree ID #8

5524 Palm Avenue

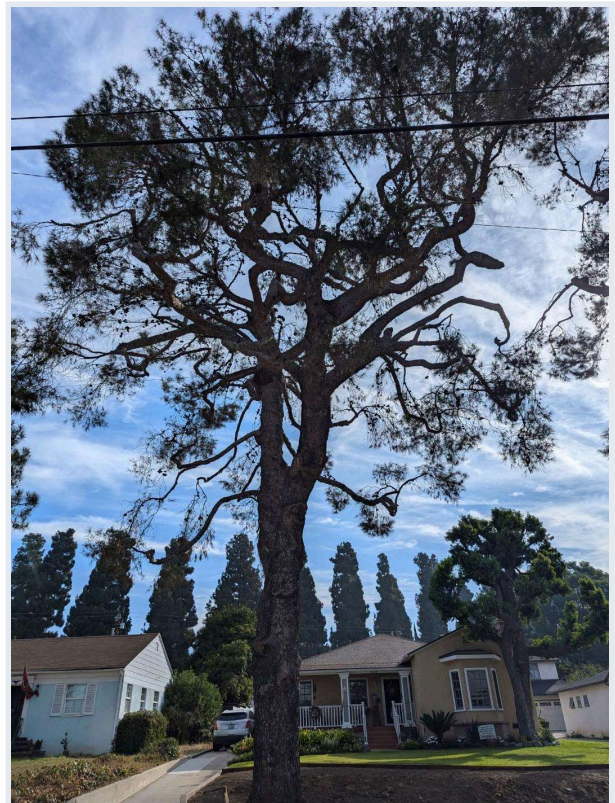
Tree Details

Scientific Name:	Pinus halepensis
Common Name:	Aleppo pine
Genus:	Pinus
Condition:	Fair
Status:	Alive
Number of Stems (Multi Calc):	1
DBH:	38
DBH Range:	>30in
Height Range:	50ft-75ft
Priority:	
Crown Spread:	40
Canopy Shape:	Asymmetrical
Observations- Characteristics:	Dieback, Over pruned
Observations-Biotic Pest:	
Observations-Abiotic:	
Observation Comments:	DRIVEWAY UPLIFT CURB DAMAGE
Tree Work-Other:	
Last Modified:	10/16/2024
Notes:	

Tree Location

Longitude:	-118.054671
Latitude:	33.995717
Land Use:	Single Family
Address:	5524 Palm Avenue
City:	Whittier
Land Type:	
Location on Site:	

[Photos](#) [Street View](#) [Map View](#)



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10/16/2024

Aleppo pine Tree ID #9

11347 Illinois Street

Tree Details

Scientific Name:	Pinus halepensis
Common Name:	Aleppo pine
Genus:	Pinus
Condition:	Fair
Status:	Alive
Number of Stems (Multi Calc):	1
DBH:	22
DBH Range:	18-24in
Height Range:	30ft-50ft
Priority:	
Crown Spread:	20
Canopy Shape:	Asymmetrical
Observations-Characteristics:	Branch Damage, Trunk Decay, Over pruned, Dieback, Leaning trunk
Observations-Biotic Pest:	Fungus
Observations-Abiotic:	Mechanical Damage
Observation Comments:	ROOT PRUNING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO TRUNK
Tree Work-Other:	
Last Modified:	10/16/2024
Notes:	

Tree Location

Longitude:	-118.054801
Latitude:	33.995989
Land Use:	Single Family
Address:	11347 Illinois Street
City:	Whittier
Land Type:	Parkway
Location on Site:	

Photos Street View Map View



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10/14/2024

Aleppo pine Tree ID #10

11342 Indiana Street

Tree Details

Scientific Name:	Pinus halepensis
Common Name:	Aleppo pine
Genus:	Pinus
Condition:	Fair
Status:	Alive
Number of Stems (Multi Calc):	1
DBH:	27
DBH Range:	24-30in
Height Range:	50ft-75ft
Priority:	
Crown Spread:	30
Canopy Shape:	Asymmetrical
Observations- Characteristics:	Topped, Over pruned, Root Decay, Dieback
Observations-Biotic Pest:	
Observations-Abiotic:	
Observation Comments:	ROOT PRUNING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO TRUNK
Tree Work-Other:	
Last Modified:	10/16/2024
Notes:	

Tree Location

Longitude:	-118.054809
Latitude:	33.996118
Land Use:	Single Family
Address:	11342 Indiana Street
City:	Whittier
Land Type:	Parkway
Location on Site:	

Photos Street View Map View



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10/14/2024

Aleppo pine Tree ID #11

11514 Palm Avenue

Tree Details

Scientific Name:	Pinus halepensis
Common Name:	Aleppo pine
Genus:	Pinus
Condition:	Fair
Status:	Alive
Number of Stems (Multi Calc):	1
DBH:	26
DBH Range:	24-30in
Height Range:	50ft-75ft
Priority:	
Crown Spread:	40
Canopy Shape:	Asymmetrical
Observations- Characteristics:	Dieback, Leaning trunk, Over pruned, Cavity
Observations-Biotic Pest:	
Observations-Abiotic:	
Observation Comments:	IVY OBSCURES BASE AND SURROUNDING AREA
Tree Work-Other:	
Last Modified:	10/16/2024
Notes:	

Tree Location

Longitude:	-118.054668
Latitude:	33.996705
Land Use:	Multi Family
Address:	11514 Palm Avenue
City:	Whittier
Land Type:	
Location on Site:	

Photos Street View Map View



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10/14/2024



City of Whittier

5500-6200 Palm Ave. Aleppo Pine (*Pinus Halepensis*)
(1) Tree Evaluation – (14) trees
01/14/2025

Submitted To:

Virginia Santana
Director of Parks, Recreation and
Community Services

Prepared By:

Wayne McBurney
Tree Maintenance Supervisor
Certified Arborist WE-10322A

January 14, 2025

Attention: Virginia Santana

RE: 5500-6200 Palm Ave.

Mrs. Santana

The City of Whittier Public Works Department currently has a street improvement project underway on Palm Ave. in the section between Beverly Blvd. and Whittier Blvd. The improvements include a new sewer line, new water line, street paving, and sidewalk/driveway replacement. During the final phase of the project (paving/hardscape replacement) there are approximately (14) Parkway pine trees that will be affected in a negative way. On December 10, 2024, we received the official request to evaluate the (14) Parkway pine trees.

As part of the project, Public Works contractors are required to have a Certified Arborist on site. The Certified Arborist, Eric Gorsuch, from V & E Tree Service performed a written Tree Risk Assessment on (14) Parkway pine trees that he has determined will become a Moderate to High Risk of failure if root shaving and/or root pruning is performed on any of these (14) trees.

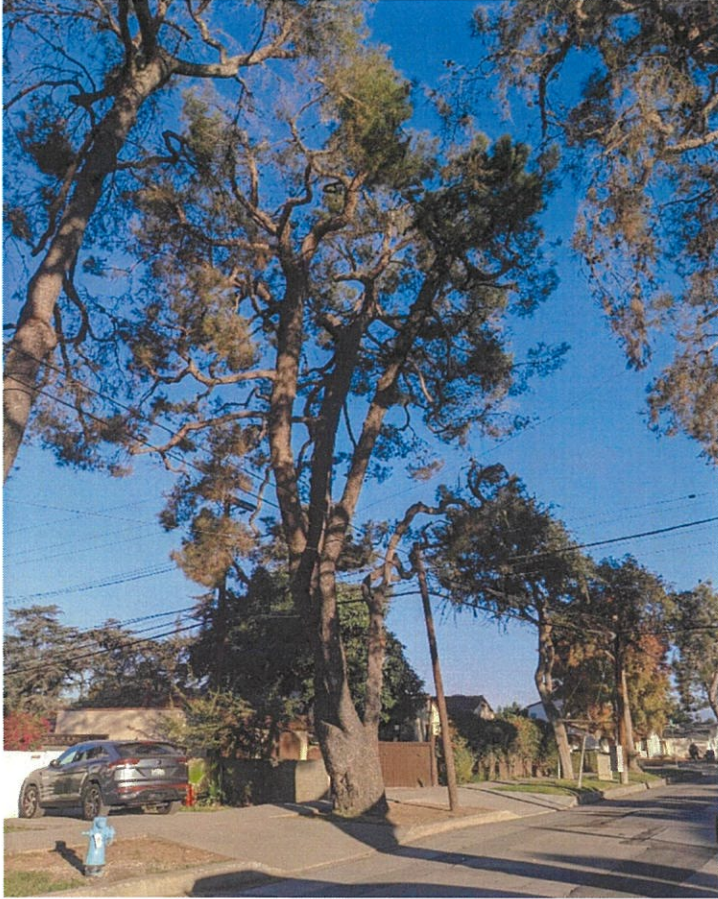
The purpose of this evaluation is to confirm that the contracted Arborist report from V & E Tree Service will coincide with the City Arborists findings.

This level of assessment includes a 360-degree ground based visual inspection of the tree crown, trunk, trunk flare, above ground roots, and site conditions around the tree.

For reference, all of these pine trees are 80ft. tall and were likely planted in the 1940's as the stamping on the hardscape would indicate. These trees have been growing in this untouched environment since that time. The root systems are big and massive. Unfortunately, some were planted in bad locations. Others have just gotten so big that they have outgrown the Parkway.

The evaluation of these trees will reflect those concerns and what potential effect the new construction will have on and around these trees.

5571 Palm Ave.



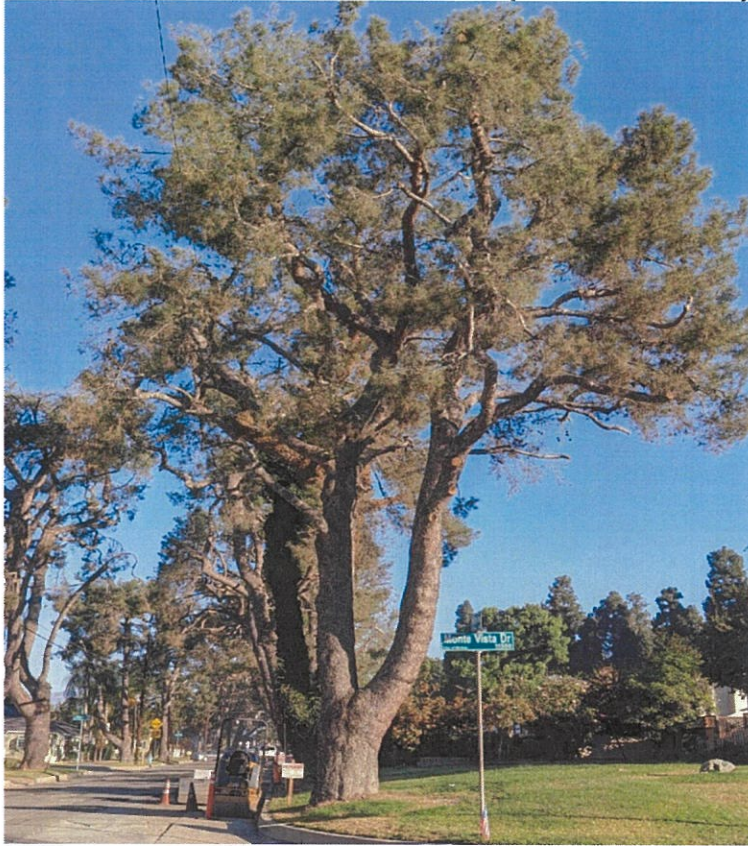
The Aleppo Pine at 5571 Palm Ave. has outgrown the Parkway. The tree is less than 2'ft. from the damaged hardscape that surrounds the tree on three sides.

Due to the enormous size and weight of this tree, I would not recommend disturbing the natural hardscape environment on all three sides of the tree. Doing so would increase the likelihood of failure along with the root pruning that would need to be done to replace the hardscape properly.



The sidewalk, curb and gutter, and driveway approach are all damaged and will need to be replaced for this project. The tree and its root system will be disturbed which may lead to tree failure in the future.

11505 Monte Vista Drive (South Tree)



There are (2) Aleppo Pine trees at this address. This tree is the southern tree on the corner of Palm Ave. The tree has a root system that has grafted into the curb and gutter and has a slight lean towards the property.

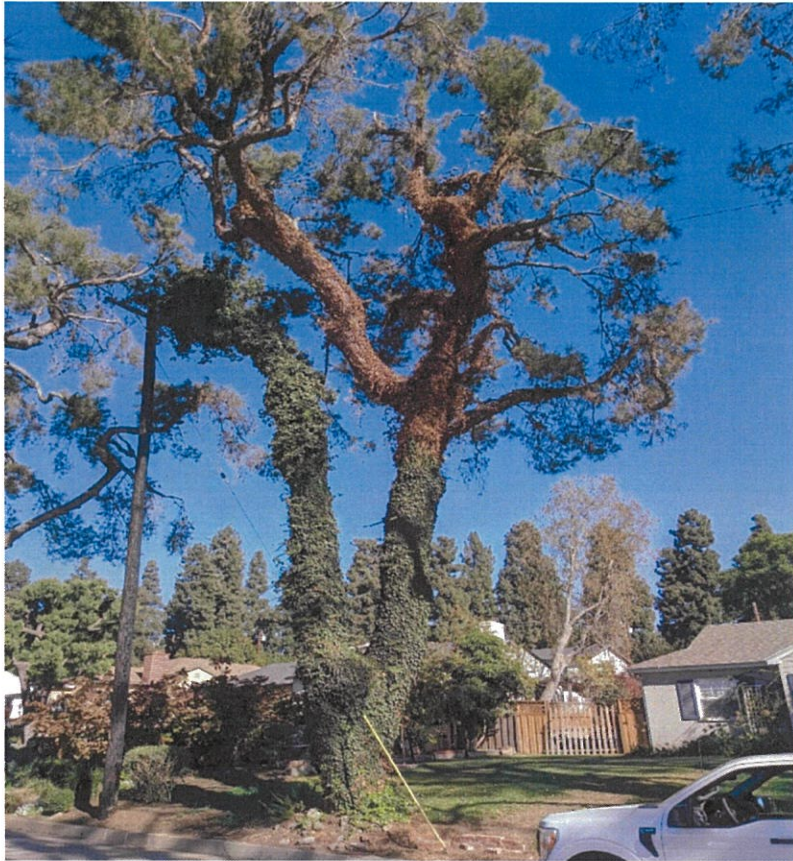
Removal of the hardscape may disrupt the structural integrity of the tree.



A big giant root ball has grafted and is uplifting the curb.

The stamp on the curb reads WPA 1940. The trees have been grafted into this hardscape for a long time.

11505 Monte Vista Drive (North Tree)



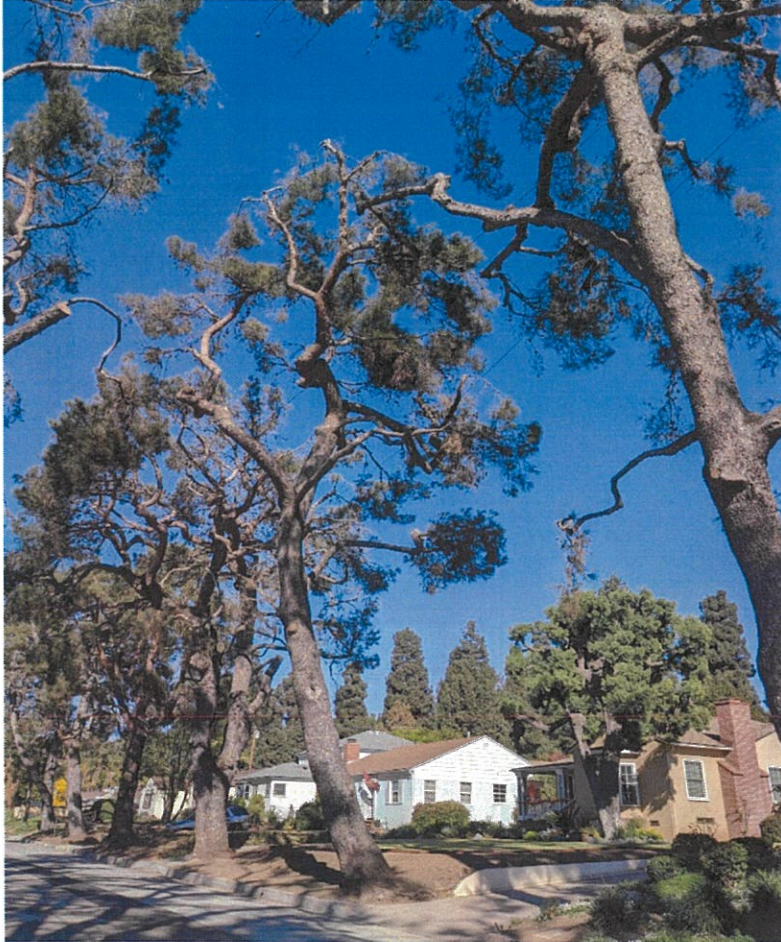
This pine tree is the second pine tree on this property that sits North of the other pine.

Along with the ivy growing up through most of the tree, there is also dirt and rock piled around the base that may be choking the tree.



This tree also has a very large root flare. Root pruning at a close proximity to the trunk would cause the tree to be compromised.

5524 Palm Ave. (South Tree)



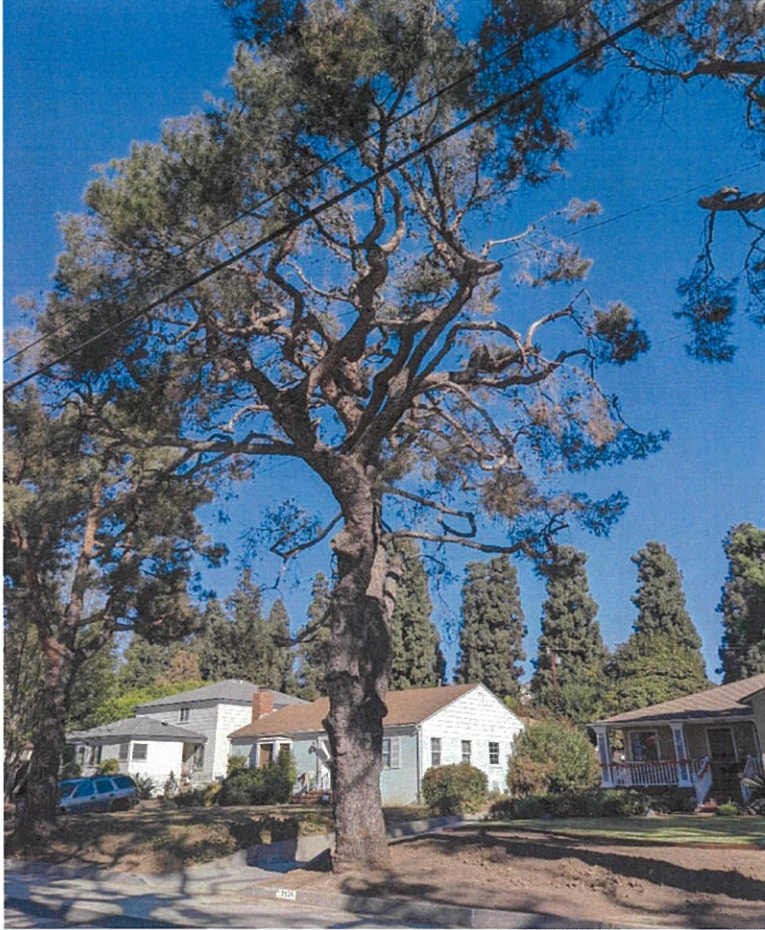
The pine tree at this address is currently surrounded by hardscape along two sides of the tree right up to the root ball. The tree also has a decent lean to the North likely from past root pruning.



In the past it appears as though the old concrete driveway was replaced with pavers. The pavers are now beginning to uplift.

It appears that some type of root pruning may have been performed in order to get the pavers close to the tree. Removal of the curb, gutter, and driveway would really impact this tree in a negative way.

5524 Palm Ave. (North Tree)

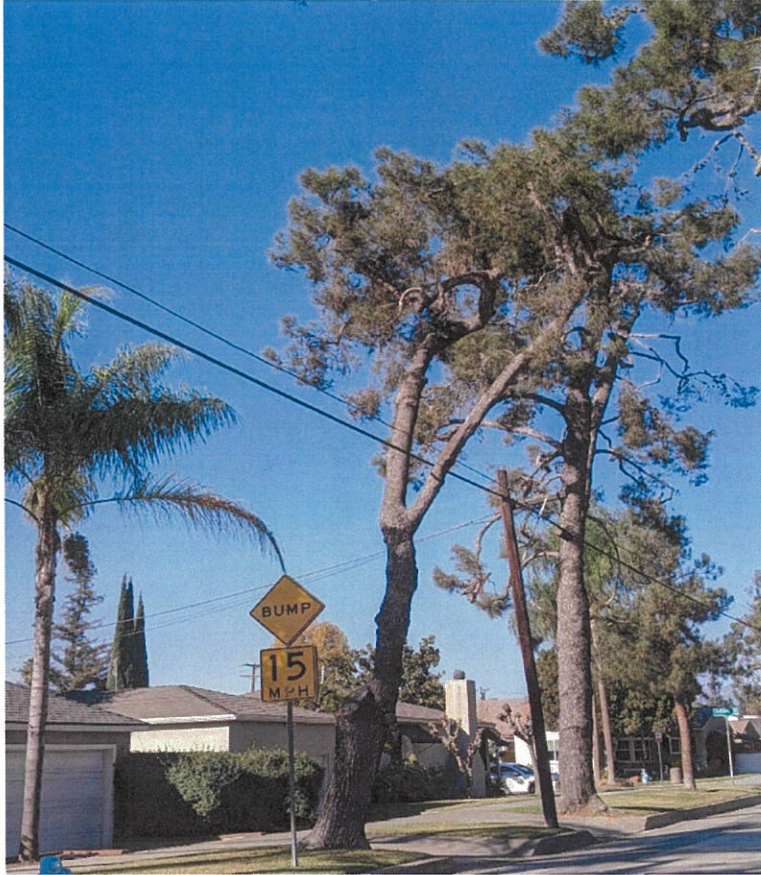


This Parkway pine tree is North of the other pine at this residence. The root flare expands out right to the curb. The tree is roughly 3ft. from another driveway, but this driveway does not need repair.



Roots were likely pruned to set a new water meter and run a new line. Removing the curb and gutter would impact the stability of this tree.

11347 Illinois St. (On Palm Ave.)



This Aleppo Pine tree located on the Palm Ave. side of Illinois is currently in poor health with some indication of decay in the trunk and limb dieback. The tree was planted right next to a driveway and has a lean toward the driveway.



The pine tree is boxed in on three sides with hardscape. The driveway approach, curb and gutter are scheduled for replacement. Removing the old hardscape so close to the tree would likely compromise the stability of this tree.

11342 Indiana St. (On Palm Ave.)

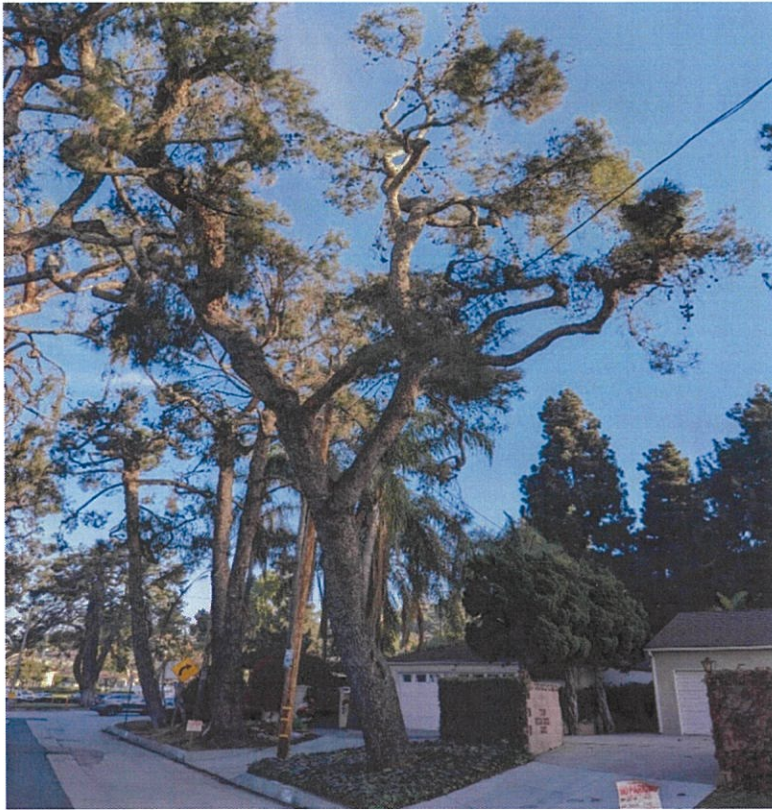


The Parkway pine tree at this location is another one that was planted right next to a driveway approach. The tree has some mild signs of root decay and dieback.



The root flare of this pine tree is grafted into the driveway approach and one foot away from the existing curb. Removal of the surrounding hardscape would damage and destabilize the Parkway tree.

11514 Palm Ave

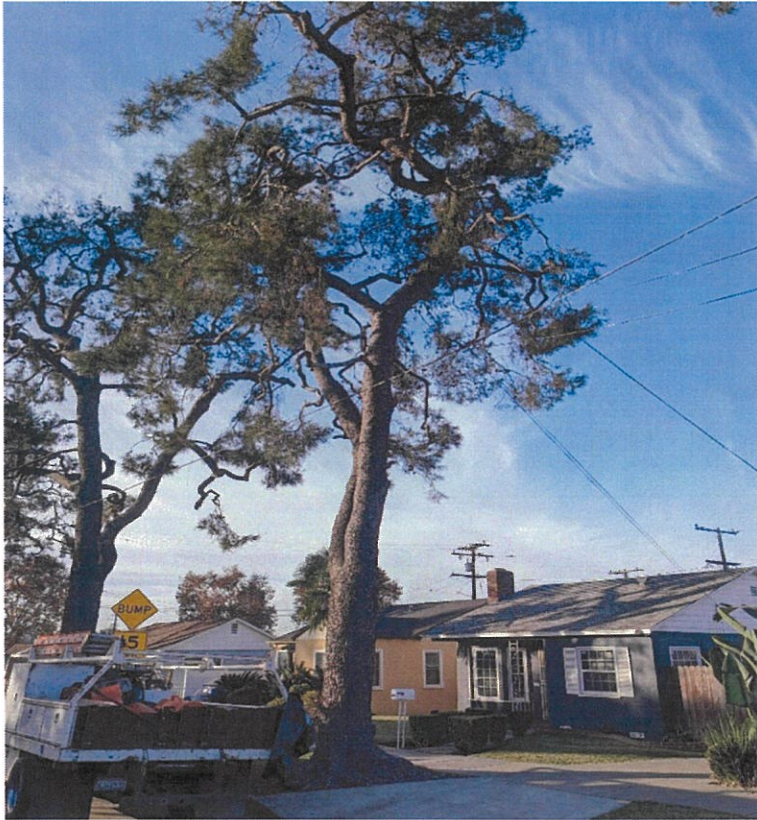


This pine tree at the above address on Palm Ave has a very heavy lean to the South and some signs of trunk decay. The driveway has also been replaced and likely roots may have been pruned at that time.

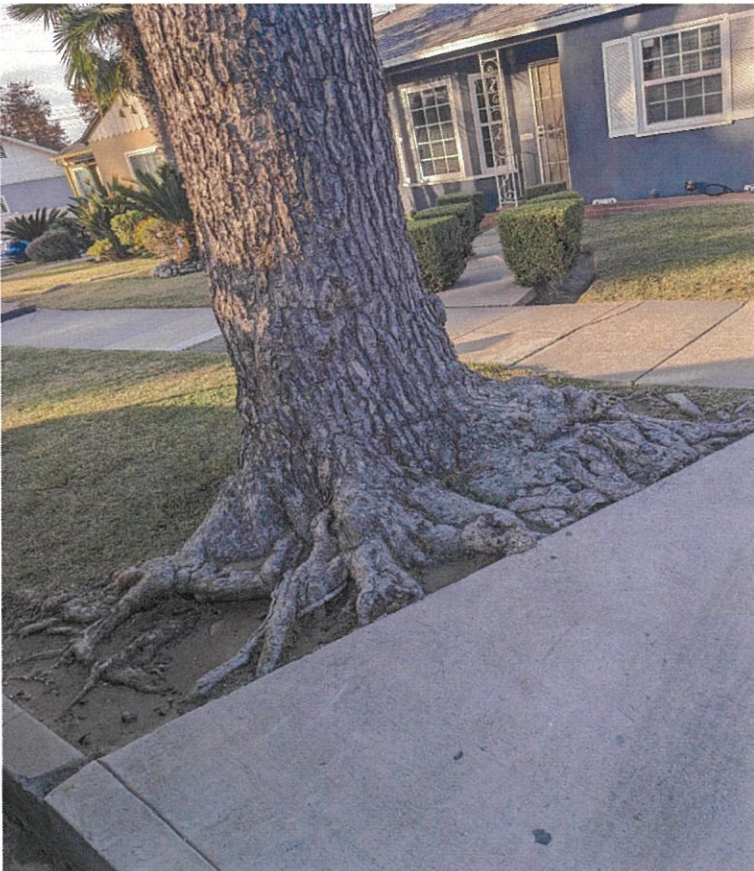


There is ivy covering the root ball making it difficult to see the root structure. Overall, the trunk lean is the main concern with this tree.

6261 Palm Ave.



The pine tree at 6261 Palm Ave. has a massive root ball that has far outgrown the Parkway. There is hardscape along three of the four sides of the tree. This tree was planted in the wrong spot, right next to the driveway approach.



The tree has grafted itself into the hardscape. I would not recommend disturbing this environment that the tree has become a part of. Doing so may cause the tree to become unstable.

6251 Palm Ave.

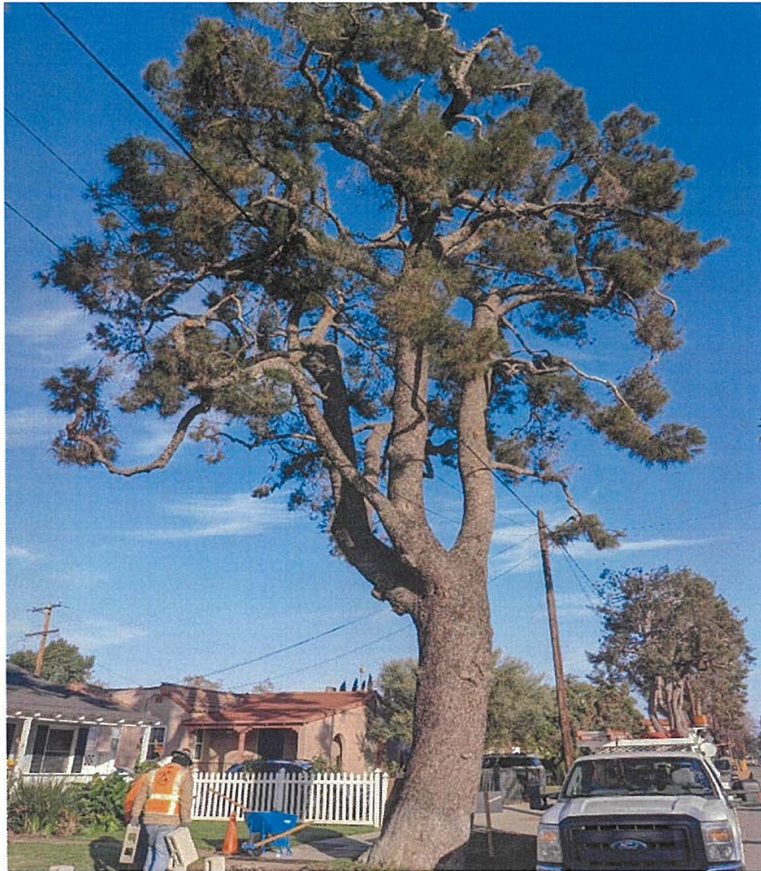


The pine tree located at 6251 Palm Ave. has a heavy lean to the house side and was also poorly planted right next to the driveway.



Hardscape surrounds the tree along three of the four sides. Attempting to replace the hardscape with the tree in place may cause the tree to become unstable.

6241 Palm Ave.

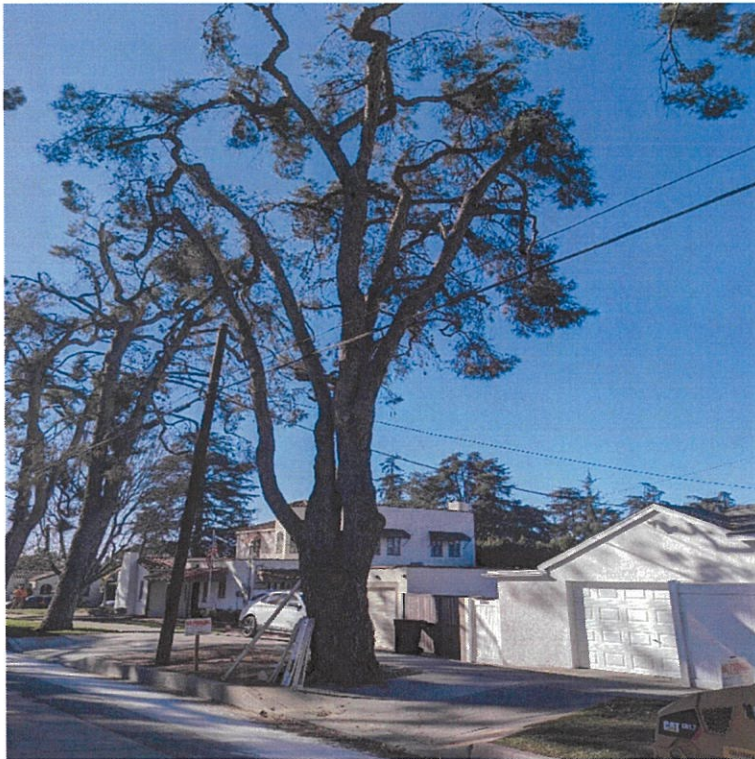


The pine tree here at 6241 Palm Ave. has already been removed. The contractors excavated a deep trench less than one foot from the tree and pruned some large roots. The tree was compromised at that point.

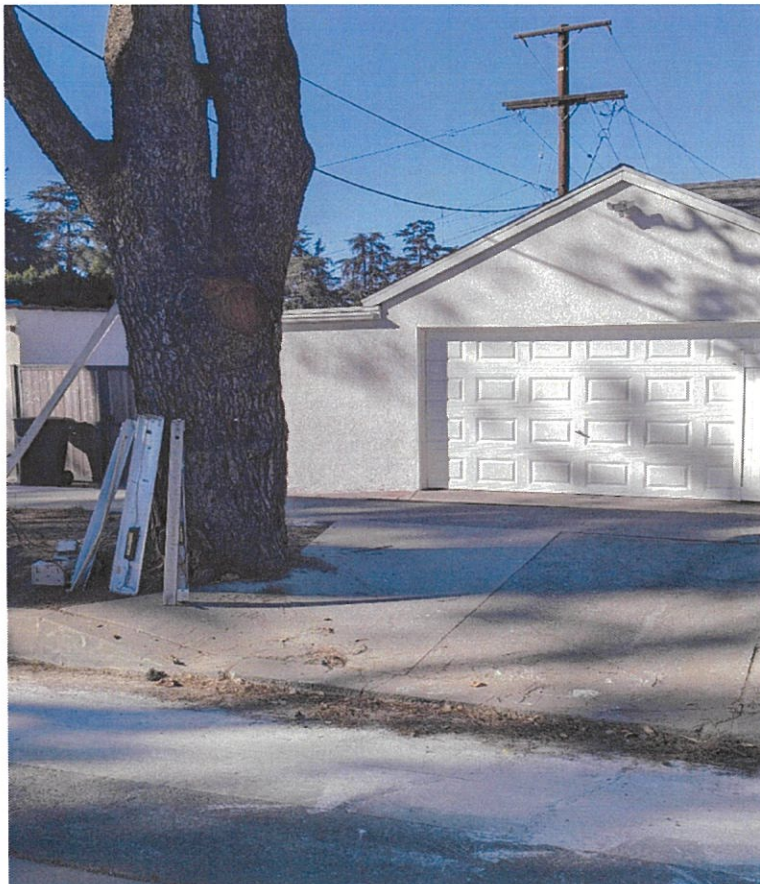


A visual of the large roots that were pruned. This is an example of what we do not want to happen to the other (14) trees in this report.

11148 Illinois (on Palm Ave.)



This Parkway pine tree at the above address is not on the V&E Tree Services Tree Risk Assessment. It is my opinion that the construction that is needed to be performed around this tree will compromise the tree.



The tree was planted right next to the driveway and has outgrown its environment. The curb/gutter and driveway need to be replaced as part of the project. Doing so will compromise the structural integrity of the tree due to all the roots that would need to be removed in order to replace the concrete.

5453 Palm Ave.

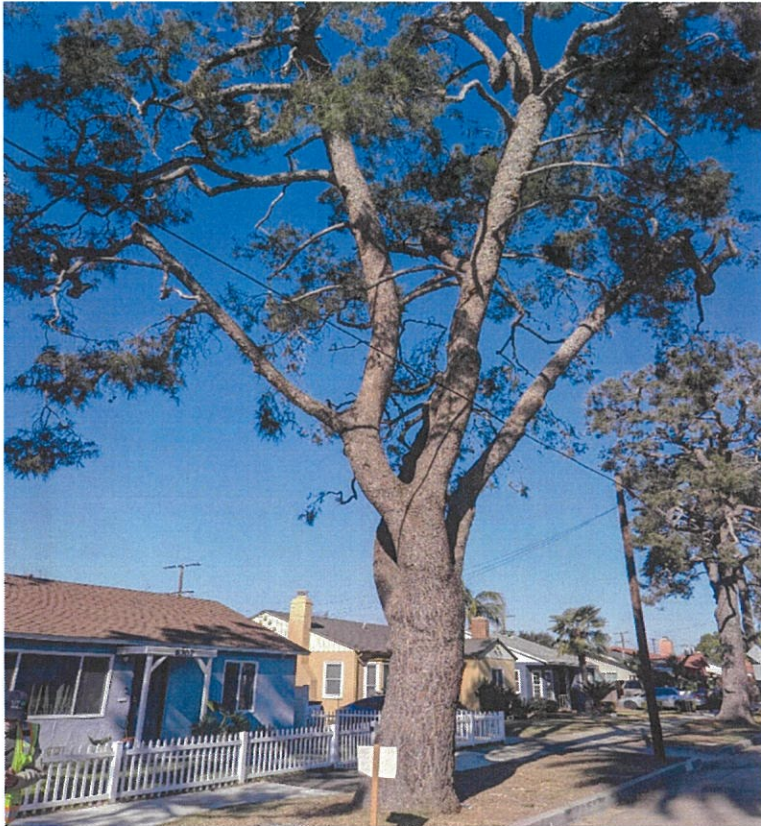


This pine tree located at 5453 Palm Ave. is also not on the V&E Tree Service report. The tree at this location will also be compromised due to construction that has to be performed around the tree. The tree was planted right next to the driveway and has outgrown its environment. Curb/gutter and driveway need to be replaced.



In order to replace this driveway, the tree would have to undergo some large buttress root pruning that would cause the tree to become unstable.

6307 Palm Ave.



This pine tree at 6307 Palm Ave. is another tree that is not on the V&E report. The tree currently has a sidewalk meander that is not ADA compliant. Replacement of the sidewalk would mean cutting of the roots that were protected by the meander. The root pruning would compromise the structural integrity of the tree.



Photo of the meander that is now out of ADA compliance.



City of Whittier

Tree Evaluation Glossary

Barrier Zone – A chemical and anatomical barrier formed by the cambium present at the time of wounding in response to wounding. Inhibits the spread of decay into xylem tissue formed after the time of wounding.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) – The International Society of Arboriculture has developed a series of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the purpose of interpreting tree care standards and providing guidelines of practice for arborists, tree workers, and the people who employ their services.

Canopy – The part of the crown composed of leaves and small twigs (Harris, Clark, and Matheny 526).

Cavity – An open wound, characterized by the presence of decay and resulting in a hollow (Harris, Clark, and Matheny 527).

Codominant. – Equal in size and relative importance, usually associated with either the trunks/stems or scaffold limbs/branches in the crown (Harris, Clark, and Matheny 527).

Compartmentalization – Natural defense process in trees by which chemical and physical boundaries are created that act to limit the spread of disease and decay organisms.

Crown – The leaves and branches of a tree measured from the lowest branch on the trunk to the top of the tree (Harris, Clark, and Matheny 527).

Decay – Process of degradation of woody tissues by fungi and bacteria through the decomposition of cellulose and lignin (Harris, Clark, and Matheny 527).

Dieback – The gradual dying of plant shoots starting at the tips as a result of disease, physiological dysfunction, or climatic conditions such as drought.

Epicormic Sprouts – Epicormic buds lie dormant beneath the bark, their growth suppressed by hormones from active shoots higher up the plant. Under certain conditions, they develop into active shoots, such as when damage occurs to higher parts of the plant, or light levels are increased following removal of nearby plants.

Failure – Breakage of stem, branch, roots, or loss of mechanical support in the root system (Smiley, Matheny, and Lilly 48).

Fungal Fruiting Bodies – Any complex fungal structure that contains or bears spores.

Included Bark – Pattern of development at branch junctions where bark is turned inward rather than pushed out (Harris, Clark, and Matheny 529).

Response Growth – New wood produced in response to loads to compensate for higher strain in outermost fibers; includes reaction wood and woundwood.

Risk – The combination of the likelihood of an event and the severity of the potential consequences. In the context of trees, risk is the likelihood of a conflict or tree failure occurring and affecting a target, and the severity of the associated consequence – personal injury, property damage, or disruption of activities (Smiley, Matheny, and Lilly 50).

Root Flare – The root flare is the area at the base of the trunk that swells out to become buttress roots entering the soil; and is also known as the root collar (Wikipedia).

Stem – The main trunk of a tree or other plant (Harris, Clark, and Matheny 533).

Target – People, property, or activities that could be injured, damaged, or disrupted by a tree (Smiley, Matheny, Lilly 50).

Target zone – The area where a tree or branch is likely to land if it were to fail (Smiley, Matheny, Lilly 50).

IX. TREE REMOVAL GUIDELINES

It is the City's policy to preserve and protect healthy trees that provide valuable benefits to our environment and the quality of life of the City of Whittier. Tree removal requests are therefore only granted if the request is reasonable and is in the City's best interest as determined by the Director or his/her representative. To better determine when the City may remove a tree the following guidelines have been developed.

Hazardous Trees/Roots – Trees and roots that are declared a hazard to public safety by virtue of being a high risk factor (i.e. falling or large limb breaking, exposed root systems, etc.) or have a potential damage and/or injury shall be removed.

Hazardous Condition Removal – If a tree causes a serious visibility hazard (i.e. a corner tree that blocks the visibility of a stop sign/light), it may be removed. Removal will be considered if the pruning to correct the hazard would seriously disfigure the tree or where the continuing cost of repeated pruning would outweigh the value of the tree. Other examples where a hazardous condition may warrant removal are:

- a. Hardscape damage – if hardscape repairs cannot feasibly be completed without severe root/tree damage.
- b. Facility damage or maintenance.
 1. If a tree is causing serious structural damage to a building and the condition cannot be corrected without removing the tree.
 2. If a tree is causing extensive damage to private facilities and cannot be corrected without removing the tree.

Diseased/Insect Infested Trees – Trees that are diseased and that possess dead or damaged foliage, branches, roots or trunk tissue may be determined to be a hazard and require immediate removal. Trees diseased that are declared a serious threat to other trees nearby may be removed if removal is the best pest control option. An example would be a tree infected with Dutch Elm disease. Any tree that has been declared “dead” by the City's Certified Arborist may be removed without public posting.

Emergency Removals – Healthy trees may be removed immediately if an emergency exists and tree removal is the best option available. An example would be to gain access in an emergency situation created by an earthquake or to allow repair of a broken water main located directly under the tree trunk or to remove a tree split by a storm or other incident where the tree cannot be feasibly restored to a safe condition.

Permits – Trees may be removed to allow construction through the City's permit process if all mitigation measures have been exhausted and/or deemed impractical, the tree may be removed pending a written evaluation by a certified arborist stating that the tree must be removed in order to proceed with the project. If the tree(s) is removed solely to accommodate a

construction project, the full appraised value per ISA standards must be paid prior to removal and the tree(s) shall be replaced. The contractor will also be responsible for costs related to the removal and replanting of the tree. Removals related to City construction projects shall be handled on a case-by-case basis and will require a permit.

Contractor Qualifications – All contractors are required to have a state contractor's license and provide workers' compensation insurance with statutory limits, comprehensive automobile liability insurance and comprehensive general liability insurance in compliance with City specifications as outlined in the Tree Removal Guidelines and the Trimming/Removal Permit.

Notification of Removal – The City will simultaneously give a thirty (30)-day written notice to the owner(s), occupant(s), or agent(s) and to the immediate neighbors of the affected property via standard mail of the intention to remove a healthy or diseased Parkway tree, and post a notice upon the affected tree upon which the described condition exists. If possible, trees that are deemed dead or hazardous may be removed following a ten (10)-day posting. Trees that are deemed to be an imminent hazard, i.e. due to storm damage, traffic collision, etc., may be removed immediately without prior posting. Hazardous tree and emergency removals are not subject to the appeal process.

Reasons That Are Not Valid For Removal

1. Debris including leaves and messy fruit
2. Debris clogging rain gutters
3. Roots clogging sewers (unless all options have been exhausted)
4. Hardscape (see Hazardous Condition Removal)

Before a tree is considered for removal, the Director will not only consider all of the above criteria, but will also conduct an inspection of each tree. Refer to the checklist used to evaluate each tree.

(Revised 11/2015)



CITY OF WHITTIER
CITY CLERK

CITY OF WHITTIER

APPEAL/OBJECTION FORM

2025 FEB 19 PM 2:11

Completed form must be submitted to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department no later than thirty (30) days following posting of tree designated for removal. Objection form must be filed within ten (10) days of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission meeting.

CO-APPELLANTS:

JAMES BECERRA/CONNOR MCORMACK

Date: FEB 19 2025

Name: JAMES BECERRA/CONNOR MCORMACK Phone: (562) 201-4571 / (213) 216-6569

Address: 13730 RIDGE RD, WHITTIER, CA 90601
6799 WOODHAM DR, WHITTIER 90602

Location of tree posted for removal: 11347 ILLINOIS ST (ON PALM AVE), WHITTIER

Date of tree posting: JAN 21, 2025

Will appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

(SEE ATTACHED)

Will understand that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission will hear this appeal at the next available Regular Meeting and make its recommendation to City Council.

Signature of Appellant

Connor McCormack

Signature of Co-appellant

For office use only:

Date

Feb 19, 2025

Received by:

William Martinez

Date:

2/19/25

Comments:

We appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

Whittier's Parkway trees are publicly-owned trees that belong to all residents of the City of Whittier. Removal of any of these trees must meet the criteria specified in Whittier's Tree Manual Ordinance. This tree is one of 11 Aleppo Pine trees tagged on January 21, 2025 by the City of Whittier for removal in the area of 5500-6200 Palm Av. The City contracted with V & E Tree Service to assess these trees. Their report, dated Oct. 16, 2024, included several paragraphs in the introduction describing a criteria *Likelihood of Failure* within the next two years: Improbable, Possible, Probable & Imminent. Their detailed description and assessment of the Condition of this tree, and each of these 11 trees, is listed as "Fair/Alive". None of the trees includes any V & E assessment of likelihood of failure.

The City's report on these 11 trees, dated Dec. 10, 2024, describes the Public Works Department's current, multi-phase street improvement project underway on Palm Ave. The new sewer line and new water line are completed. Street paving, curbs and sidewalks are the anticipated final phase. We contend that street paving and curb/sidewalk repairs are frequently done adjacent to Whittier's parkway trees without requiring tree removal. Many recent examples exist.



CITY OF WHITTIER
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CO - APPELLANTS:

JAMES BECERRA / CONNY MCCORMACK

Date: Feb 19, 2025

Name: JAMES BECERRA / CONNY MCCORMACK Phone: (562) 201-4571 / (213) 216-6569

Address: 13730 RIDGE RD, Whittier 90601 / 6799 WORTHAM DR, Whittier 90602

Location of tree posted for removal: 6261 PALM AV, WHITTIER

Date of tree posting: JAN. 21, 2025

I appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

(SEE ATTACHED)

I understand that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission will hear this appeal at the next available Regular Meeting and make its recommendation to City Council.

Signature of Appellant

Signature of Co-Appellant

For office use only:

Feb 19, 2025

Date

Feb 19, 2025

Received by:

William Martinez

Date:

2/19/25

Comments:

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CO-APPELLANTS

JAMES BECERA/CONNIE MCCORMACK

Date: FEB 19, 2025

Name: JAMES BECERA/CONNIE MCCORMACK Phone: (562) 201-4571/(213) 216-6569

Address: 13730 RIDGE RD, WHITTIER, CA 90601/
6799 WOODHAM DR, WHITTIER, CA 90602

Location of tree posted for removal: 6251 PALM AV, WHITTIER

Date of tree posting: JAN 21, 2025

We appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

(SEE ATTACHED)

We understand that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission will hear this appeal at the next available Regular Meeting and make its recommendation to City Council.

Signature of Appellant

Connie McCormack

Signature of Co-Appellant

FEB 19, 2025

Date

FEB 19, 2025

For office use only:

Received by:

William Martinez

Date:

2/19/25

Comments:

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CITY OF WHITTIER CITY CLERK

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CO-APPELLANTS:

JAMES BECERRA/CONNOR MCCORMACK

Date: Feb 19, 2025

Name: JAMES BECERRA/CONNOR MCCORMACK Phone: (562) 201-4571 / (213) 216-6569

Address: 13730 RIDGE RD, WHITTIER, CA 90601 / 6799 WORSHAM DR, WHITTIER, CA 90602

Location of tree posted for removal: 5524 PALM AV, WHITTIER (SOUTH TREE)

Date of tree posting: JAN 21, 2025

I appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

(SEE ATTACHED)

I understand that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission will hear this appeal at the next available Regular Meeting and make its recommendation to City Council.

Signature of Appellant:

Signature of co-appellant

For office use only:

Feb 19, 2025
Date

Feb 19, 2025

Received by: William Martinez Date: 2/19/25

Comments:

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CITY OF WHITTIER
CITY CLERK

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CO-APPELLANTS:

JAMES BECERRA/CONNOR MCCORMACK

Date: Feb 19 2025

Name: JAMES BECERRA/CONNOR MCCORMACK Phone: (562) 201-4571 (213) 214-6569

Address: 13730 RIDGE RD, WHITTIER, CA 90601 / 6799 WORTHAM DR, WHITTIER, CA 90602

Location of tree posted for removal: 5524 PALM AV, WHITTIER (NORTH TREE)

Date of tree posting: JAN. 21, 2025

I appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

(SEE ATTACHED)

I understand that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission will hear this appeal at the next available Regular Meeting and make its recommendation to City Council.

Signature of Appellant

Signature of Co-appellant
For office use only:

Date

Received by:

Date:

Comments:

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CITY CLERK

APPEAL/OBJECTION FORM PM 2:11

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CO-APPELLANTS:
JAMES BECERRA/CONNOR
McCORMACK

Date: Feb 19, 2025

Name: JAMES BECERRA/CONNOR McCORMACK Phone: (562) 201-4521 / (213) 216-6569

Address: 13730 RIDGE RD, WHITTIER, CA 90601 /
6799 WORSHAM DR, WHITTIER, CA 90602

Location of tree posted for removal: 11505 MONTE VISTA DR, WHITTIER
(NORTH TREE)

Date of tree posting: _____

W I appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

(SEE ATTACHED)

W I understand that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission will hear this appeal at the next available Regular Meeting and make its recommendation to City Council.

Signature of Appellant

Connor McCormack

Signature of CO-APPELLANT
For office use only:

Feb 19, 2025

Date

Feb. 19, 2025

Received by: William Mortimer

Date: 2/19/25

Comments:

We appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

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CITY OF WHITTIER
CITY CLERK

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CO-APPELLANTS:

JAMES BECERRA / CONNY MCCORMACK

Date: Feb 19, 2025

Name: JAMES BECERRA / CONNY MCCORMACK Phone: (562) 201-4571 / (213) 216-6569

Address: 13730 RIDGE RD, WHITTIER, CA 90601
~~11505 MONTE VISTA DR~~

6799 WOODSHAM DR, WHITTIER, CA 90605

Location of tree posted for removal: 11505 MONTE VISTA DR, WHITTIER
(SOUTH TREE)

Date of tree posting: JAN. 21, 2025

☒ I appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

(SEE ATTACHED)

☒ I understand that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission will hear this appeal at the next available Regular Meeting and make its recommendation to City Council.

Signature of Appellant

Conny McCormack

Signature of Co-appellant

For office use only:

Date

Feb 19, 2025

Received by:

William Martinez

Date:

2/19/25

Comments:

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CITY CLERK

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CO-APPELLANTS:

JAMES BECERRA / CONNY MCCLERMACK

Date: Feb 19 2025

JAMES BECERRA / CONNY MCCLERMACK

(562) 201-4591 / (213) 216-6569

Name:

Phone:

13730 RIDGE RD, WHITTIER 90601

Address: 6799 WORSHAM DR, WHITTIER 90602

Location of tree posted for removal: 11514 PALM AV, WHITTIER

Date of tree posting: JAN 21, 2025

I appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

(SEE ATTACHED)

I understand that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission will hear this appeal at the next available Regular Meeting and make its recommendation to City Council.

Signature of Appellant

Signature of Co-Appellant

For office use only:

Date

Feb 19, 2025

Received by:

William Martinez

Date:

2/19/25

Comments:

We appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

Whittier's Parkway trees are publicly-owned trees that belong to all residents of the City of Whittier. Removal of any of these trees must meet the criteria specified in Whittier's Tree Manual Ordinance. This tree is one of 11 Aleppo Pine trees tagged on January 21, 2025 by the City of Whittier for removal in the area of 5500-6200 Palm Av. The City contracted with V & E Tree Service to assess these trees. Their report, dated Oct. 16, 2024, included several paragraphs in the introduction describing a criteria *Likelihood of Failure* within the next two years: Improbable, Possible, Probable & Imminent. Their detailed description and assessment of the Condition of this tree, and each of these 11 trees, is listed as "Fair/Alive". None of the trees includes any V & E assessment of likelihood of failure.

The City's report on these 11 trees, dated Dec. 10, 2024, describes the Public Works Department's current, multi-phase street improvement project underway on Palm Ave. The new sewer line and new water line are completed. Street paving, curbs and sidewalks are the anticipated final phase. We contend that street paving and curb/sidewalk repairs are frequently done adjacent to Whittier's parkway trees without requiring tree removal. Many recent examples exist.



CITY OF WHITTIER
CITY CLERK

APPEAL/OBJECTION FORM 2:11

Completed form must be submitted to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department no later than thirty (30) days following posting of tree designated for removal. Objection form must be filed within ten (10) days of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission meeting.

CO-APPELLANTS:

JAMES BECERRA / CONNY MCCORMACK

Date: FEB 19, 2025

Name: JAMES BECERRA / CONNY MCCORMACK Phone: (562) 201-4571 / (213) 216-654

Address: 13730 RIDGE RD, WHITTIER, CA 90601
6799 WORSHAM DR, WHITTIER, CA 90602

Location of tree posted for removal: 5571 PALM AV, WHITTIER, CA

Date of tree posting: JAN 21, 2025

We appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

(SEE ATTACHED)

Wunderstand that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission will hear this appeal at the next available Regular Meeting and make its recommendation to City Council.

[Signature]
Signature of Appellant

FEB 19, 2025
Date

[Signature]
Signature of Co-Appellant

FEB 19, 2025

For office use only:

Received by: William Montano

Date: 2/19/25

Comments:

Location of tree posted for removal: 5571 Palm Av

We appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

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CITY OF WHITTIER
CITY CLERK

APPEAL/OBJECTION FORM
FEB 19 PM 2:11

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CO- APPELLANTS :

JAMES BECERRA / CONNY
MCCORMACK

Date: FEB 19, 2025

Name: JAMES BECERRA / CONNY (562) 201-4571 / (213) 214-6569
MCCORMACK Phone:

Address: 13730 RIDGE RD, WHITTIER 90601
6799 WORSHAM DR, WHITTIER 90602

Location of tree posted for removal: 11342 INDIANA ST (ON PALM AV)
WHITTIER

Date of tree posting: JAN 21, 2025

I appeal/object to the removal of the parkway tree for the following reason(s):

(SEE ATTACHED)

I understand that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission will hear this appeal at the next available Regular Meeting and make its recommendation to City Council.

Signature of Appellant

Conny McCormack
Signature of Co-appellant

For office use only:

FEB 19, 2025
Date

FEB 19, 2025

Received by: William Montano Date: 2/19/25

Comments:

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