

# Folsom City Council Staff Report

<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	2/28/2023
<b>AGENDA SECTION:</b>	New Business
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<p>Landmark Tree Designation - City Arborist Recommendation to Establish Two New Landmark Tree Designations</p> <p>i. Resolution No. 10996 – A Resolution Establishing a Landmark Tree Designation for a Valley Oak Tree in the Front Yard of 710 Sibley Street; and</p> <p>ii. Resolution No. 10997 – A Resolution Establishing a Landmark Tree Designation for an Interior Live Oak Tree in Front of the Dermatology Center of Northern California at 192 Blue Ravine Road</p>
<b>FROM:</b>	Community Development Department

**RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

Adopt Resolution No. 10996 – A Resolution Establishing a Landmark Tree Designation for a Valley Oak Tree in the Front Yard of 710 Sibley Street; and

Adopt Resolution No. 10997 – A Resolution Establishing a Landmark Tree Designation for an Interior Live Oak Tree in Front of the Dermatology Center of Northern California at 192 Blue Ravine Road.

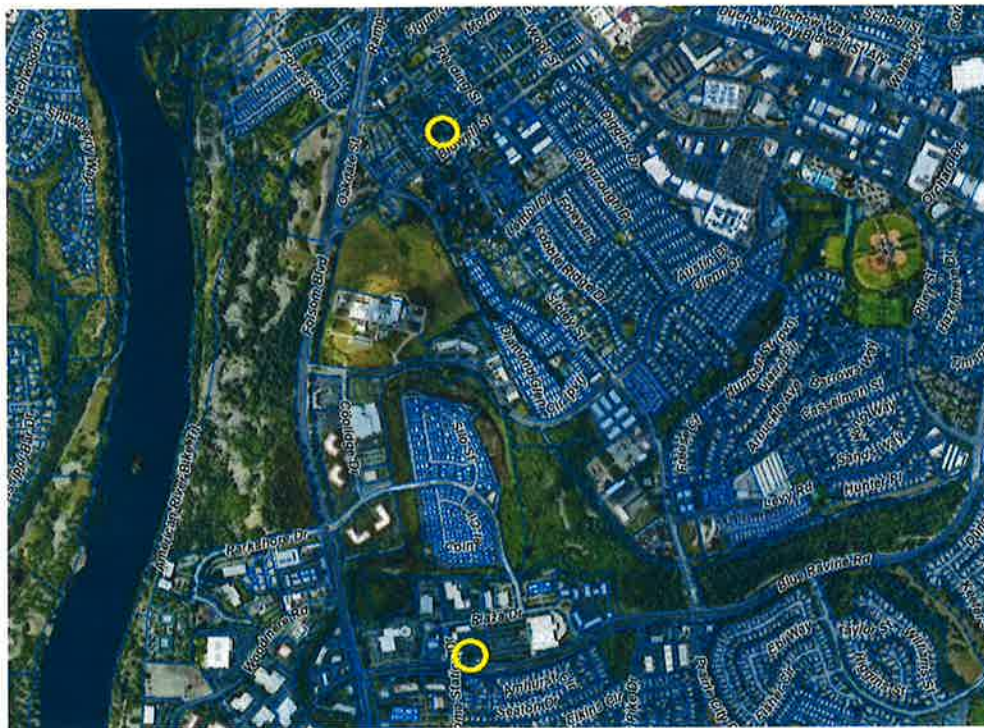
**BACKGROUND / ISSUE**

Trees are both community and environmental assets, unique in their ability to provide a multitude of benefits that appreciate over time. Longstanding trees contribute to the City of Folsom’s character and “Distinctive by Nature” adage. One of the ways in which the City of Folsom shows recognition for particularly noteworthy specimens is through a landmark tree Registry. Landmark trees are trees that have been designated by the City Council as exceptional due to outstanding characteristics, special ecological contributions, or historical importance.

Prior to 2022, the City of Folsom landmark tree program had not added a new tree to the registry since 1999. However, at the urging of staff, last year the California Independent System Operator Corporation (California ISO) became the first applicant in 23 years to submit an application to the City for the establishment of a landmark tree. The subject tree was an impressive interior live oak located on the property, estimated to be at least 150 years old. The application was well received at the February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 City Council meeting; during which, council expressed great interest in revitalizing the landmark tree program and requested staff to look into bringing additional landmark tree proposals forward in the future.

In response to council's request, the City Arborist presented three individual trees and two groves of trees as potential candidates for landmark status at the October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 City Council meeting and asked for direction from council on whether staff should pursue designating landmarks on behalf of the tree owners. Council answered in favor of moving forward on the three individual trees, which included a 41.5" valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) at 710 Sibley Street, a 53" interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*) at 192 Blue Ravine Road, and a 44.5" blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) at 785 Hana Way.

Following council direction, staff reached out to the owners of the abovementioned trees and have received authorization from the owners of 710 Sibley Street and 192 Blue Ravine Road to allow the City to move forward on landmark trees designations. As of the writing of this report, authorization has not been provided to move forward on the blue oak at 785 Hana Way, but staff will continue making efforts to make contact with the owner on this matter.



The two proposed landmark trees are a heritage valley oak located in the front yard of a single family residence at 710 Sibley St, and a heritage interior live oak in a large parking lot planter in front of 192 Blue Ravine Rd.

## **POLICY / RULE**

Section 12.16.170 of the Folsom Municipal Code gives a private property owner or interested party the right to submit an application to the Community Development Department, requesting that the City Council establish by Resolution a tree or group of trees as a landmark tree(s). In order to designate a tree as a landmark tree, the City Council must find that the tree is a significant community benefit because it possesses one or more of the following attributes:

- 1) historical value,
- 2) outstanding habitat value,
- 3) unusual species, or
- 4) superior beauty.

The City Council, on its own motion and without the payment of the application fee, may also commence the process of designating a landmark tree. If the owner of the proposed landmark tree is not the applicant, the Community Development Department shall notify, by first-class mail, the owner of the proposed landmark tree thirty days before the hearing of the application. The owner must provide written confirmation to the city that they support the application.

Section 12.16.170 of the Folsom Municipal Code (FMC) further specifies that, upon the request of a property owner, the city arborist may arrange for a landmark tree to be inspected and a report prepared which assesses the tree's health and provides recommendations for maintenance. Section 12.16.160 grants utilization of the Tree Planting and Replacement Fund for maintenance of landmark trees at the recommendation of the city arborist.

## **ANALYSIS**

In previous years staff had engaged with the owners of 710 Sibley Street and 192 Blue Ravine Road to bring attention to the particularly outstanding trees on their properties and to inform them of the city's landmark tree registry, the benefits of owning a landmark tree, and the process for garnering formal approval for a landmark tree designation. Although the owners had expressed interest in the process during these past interactions with staff, neither had followed through on bringing an application forward. However, both owners were very enthused at the prospect of the City acting as the applicant for landmark tree status on their behalf and forgoing the \$280.00 application fee.

Native oaks over six inches in diameter at standard height (54" above grade) are protected but are not required to receive regular inspections or care in Folsom. However, Section 12.16.170(B) of the FMC allows for landmark trees to receive annual evaluations by the City Arborist upon the request of the property owner as well as maintenance services if the City Arborist deems such actions appropriate. The City Arborist has determined that three of the four findings in Section 12.16.170(A)(2) apply to the valley oak at 710 Sibley Street and interior live oak at 192 Blue Ravine Road. The tree's applicability for each attribute is summarized below:

### *Historical Value*

'Historical value' is a clear factor to consider for mature native oaks. With trunk diameters well beyond the qualifying measurement required to achieve Heritage Tree status, the subject oak trees are both likely in excess of 150 years old, existing long before the establishment of the City of Folsom. The interior live oak tree at 192 Blue Ravine Road has a particularly noteworthy history as it was originally slated for removal in 2002 with the development of the parcel. Fortunately, the developer ultimately agreed to redesign the site to accommodate the tree following community advocacy for preservation. In recent years, the tree has had a bracing and cabling support system installed to manage a codominant stem crack and alleviate weight loads in the outer extensions of the canopy.

With encouragement from staff, the owners of both trees are in favor of celebrating these arboricultural monuments through the designation of Landmark Tree Status.

### *Outstanding Habitat Value*

The design of the Dermatology Center parking lot includes an undisturbed natural area immediately surrounding the subject oak, allowing for many of Folsom's wildlife residents to take refuge in this tree. Interior live oak is a great food source, nesting site, and shelter for wildlife year-round. Additionally, this species is a host to several beneficial butterfly species such as California Sister (*Adelpha bredowii californica*), Dusky-Wing species (*Erynnis*), and Gold-Hunter's Hairstreak (*Satyrrium auretteorum*), which play key roles as pollinators in the greater Sacramento region.

Likewise, the impressive valley oak located in the front yard of the 710 Sibley Street single-family residence sports a similar host of beneficial pollinating insects and also serves as a potential stopover foraging habitat to neotropical migrant bird species like the black-throated gray warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*) and the yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*).

### *Unusual Species*

Interior live oak and valley oak are common species in Folsom.

### *Superior Beauty*

The heritage valley oak at 710 Sibley Street has a unique and instantly recognizable form that sets it apart from others of its species. Many a photograph has been taken beneath its undulating and meandering limbs, which have been carefully manicured over the years to achieve its open, ornate branching structure.

The subject interior live oak at 192 Blue Ravine Road sports an open, picturesque crown when viewed from under the shade of its multiple large codominant stems. Higher up in the canopy, scaffold limbs extend out and divide into intricate branchlets that contribute to the trees rounded, dense silhouette. This form is typical of interior live oak; however, the exceptional size of this tree makes it a striking specimen in comparison to others of its species.



*The Grover Tree – 41.5” valley oak (Quercus lobata) located at 710 Sibley Street and owned by Leo P Grover Trust*



*The Dermatology Tree – 53” interior live oak (Quercus wislizeni) located at 192 Blue Ravine Rd and owned by NickJake LLC*

## **CONCLUSION**

Given the attributes summarized herein of the two subject trees, the City Arborist has determined that the findings for Landmark Tree designations have been met. As such, staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution 10996 – A Resolution Establishing a Landmark Tree Designation for a Valley Oak Tree in the Front Yard of 710 Sibley Street and Resolution No. 10997 – A Resolution Establishing a Landmark Tree Designation for an Interior Live Oak Tree in Front of the Dermatology Center of Northern California at 192 Blue Ravine Road.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The current application fee for establishing a landmark tree designation is \$280.00. By initiating the process for establishing landmark tree designations on behalf of private property owners, the city would waive this application fee.

Upon the request of the property owner, the City Arborist may inspect a landmark tree and prepare a report on the health and recommendations for necessary maintenance. Maintenance activities for landmark trees are funded by the City's Tree Planting and Replacement fund in accordance with FMC 12.16.160.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Landmark tree Classification is an administrative action and not considered a project under the California Environment Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). As a result, the action is exempt from environmental review

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Resolution No. 10996 – A Resolution Establishing a Landmark Tree Designation for a Valley Oak Tree in the Front Yard of 710 Sibley Street
2. Resolution No. 10997 – A Resolution Establishing a Landmark Tree Designation for an Interior Live Oak Tree in Front of the Dermatology Center of Northern California at 192 Blue Ravine Road
3. Photographs
4. Tree Species Specifications
5. Current Landmark Tree Map

Submitted,



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PAM JOHNS  
Community Development Director

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

**RESOLUTION NO. 10996 - A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A  
LANDMARK TREE DESIGNATION FOR A VALLEY OAK TREE IN  
THE FRONT YARD OF 710 SIBLEY STREET**

**RESOLUTION NO. 10996**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A LANDMARK TREE DESIGNATION FOR A VALLEY OAK TREE IN THE FRONT YARD OF 710 SIBLEY STREET**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 12.16 of the Folsom Municipal Code establishes standards and procedures for the protection of trees in Folsom; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Development has recommended that the valley oak located in the front yard of 710 Sibley Street qualifies for landmark tree status based on historical value, outstanding habitat, and superior beauty; and

**WHEREAS**, notice has been given at the time and in the manner required by City Code; and

**WHEREAS**, this project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15307 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

**WHEREAS**, trees are both community and environmental assets, unique in their ability to provide a multitude of benefits that appreciate over time including oxygen, filtration of air pollutants, essential shade, energy savings, reduced urban heat island effect, habitat for wildlife, and carbon sequestration; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council on January 14, 2020 introduced and conducted first reading of the new Tree Preservation Ordinance, which emphasizes tree protection and preservation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Folsom hereby establish a Landmark Tree Designation for a Valley Oak Tree in the front yard of 710 Sibley Street.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023, by the following roll-call vote:

**AYES:** Councilmember(s):  
**NOES:** Councilmember(s):  
**ABSENT:** Councilmember(s):  
**ABSTAIN:** Councilmember(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rosario Rodriguez, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK



## **ATTACHMENT 2**

**RESOLUTION NO. 10997 - A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A  
LANDMARK TREE DESIGNATION FOR AN INTERIOR LIVE OAK  
TREE IN FRONT OF THE DERMATOLOGY CENTER OF  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AT 192 BLUE RAVINE ROAD**

**RESOLUTION NO. 10997**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A LANDMARK TREE DESIGNATION FOR AN INTERIOR LIVE OAK TREE IN FRONT OF THE DERMATOLOGY CENTER OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AT 192 BLUE RAVINE ROAD**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 12.16 of the Folsom Municipal Code establishes standards and procedures for the protection of trees in Folsom; and

**WHEREAS**, Community Development has recommended that the interior live oak located in the parking lot roundabout in front of the Dermatology Center of Northern California at 192 Blue Ravine Road qualifies for landmark tree status based on historical value, outstanding habitat, and superior beauty; and

**WHEREAS**, notice has been given at the time and in the manner required by City Code; and

**WHEREAS**, this project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15307 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

**WHEREAS**, trees are both community and environmental assets, unique in their ability to provide a multitude of benefits that appreciate over time including oxygen, filtration of air pollutants, essential shade, energy savings, reduced urban heat island effect, habitat for wildlife, and carbon sequestration; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council on January 14, 2020 introduced and conducted first reading of the new Tree Preservation Ordinance, which emphasizes tree protection and preservation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Folsom hereby establish a Landmark Tree Designation for an Interior Live Oak Tree in Front of the Dermatology Center of Northern California at 192 Blue Ravine Road.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023, by the following roll-call vote:

**AYES:** Councilmember(s):  
**NOES:** Councilmember(s):  
**ABSENT:** Councilmember(s):  
**ABSTAIN:** Councilmember(s):

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Rosario Rodriguez, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK

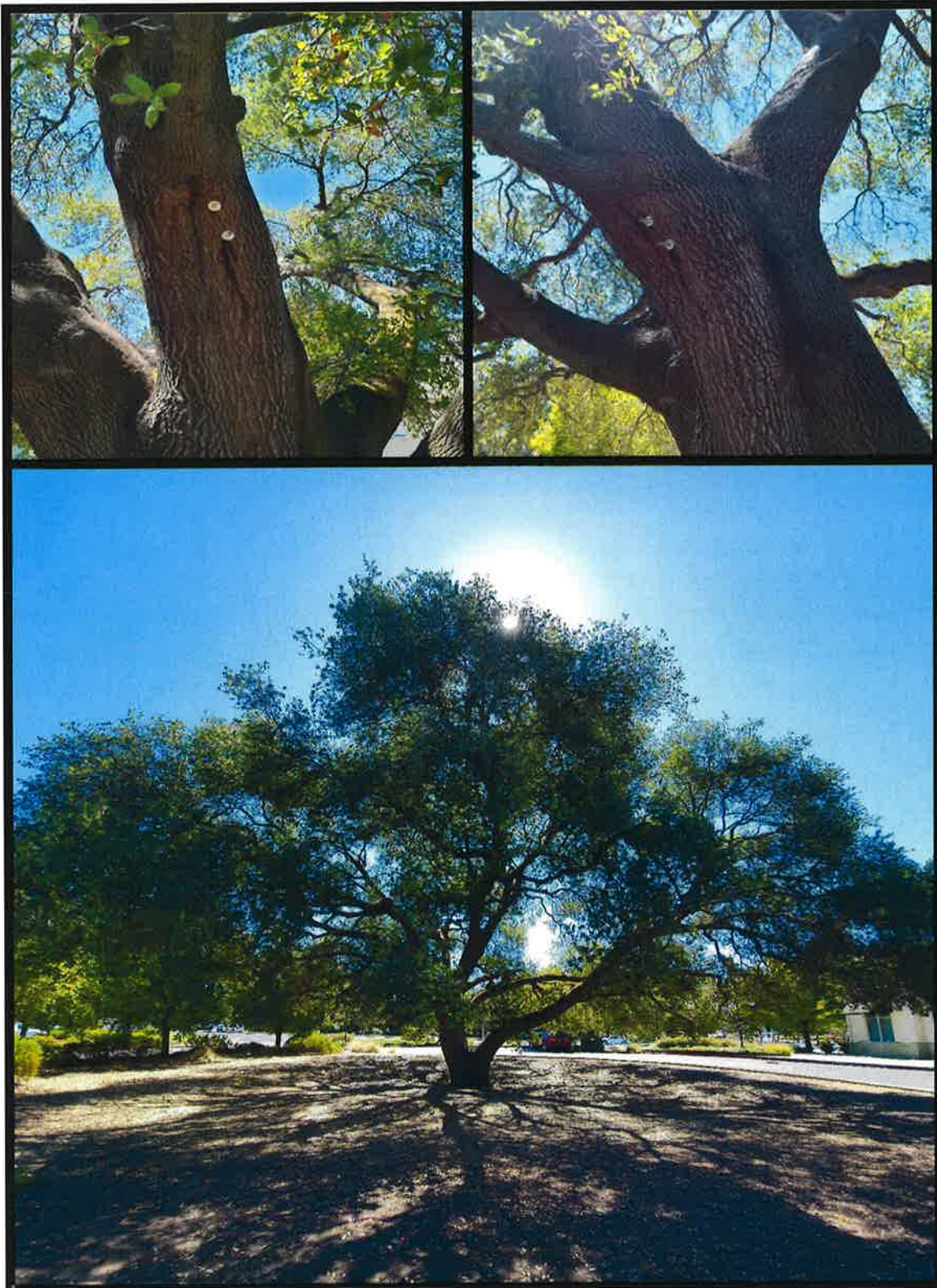
# **ATTACHMENT 3**

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

*The Grover Tree – 41.5" valley oak at 710 Sibley Street*



*The Dermatology Tree – 53” interior live oak at 192 Blue Ravine Road*



# **ATTACHMENT 4**

## **TREE SPECIES SPECIFICATIONS**



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**Calscape**

Restore Nature One Garden at a Time

**Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*)** grows into the largest of North American oaks. It ranges over the hot interior valleys of California where there is a water table within reach of the roots. Valley Oaks grow quickly, reaching 20 feet in 5 years, and 40 feet in 10 years, and up to 60 feet in 20 years. Mature specimens may attain an age of up to 600 years. Its thick, ridged bark is characteristic and evokes alligator hide. The sturdy trunk of the Valley oak may exceed two to three meters in diameter and its stature may approach 100 feet in height.

The branches have an irregular, spreading and arching appearance that produce a profound leafless silhouette in the clear winter sky. During Autumn leaves turn a yellow to light orange color but become brown during mid to late fall. In advancing age the branches assume a drooping characteristic. Its pewter-colored rippled bark adds to the attractive aesthetic of this species. Typically, leaves are five to ten centimeters in length and are roundly and deeply lobed. The leaf width is approximately one half its length. Each leaf is matte green with an underneath pale green appearance; moreover, the leaf is covered with abundant soft fuzz, yielding an almost velvety feeling. When a fresh leaf is rubbed or broken, an aromatic scent is exuded, evoking a forest odor. The wood is a dull brown approaching yellow. Over most of the range, acorns fall in October. A variety of mammals and birds eat them, including the Acorn Woodpecker, Western Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, and California ground squirrel. Like many oaks, Valley Oaks can tolerate wild fires. Although smaller individuals may be top-killed, most resprout from the root crown. Valley oak tolerates cool wet winters and hot dry summers, but requires abundant water. It is most abundant in rich deep soils of valley floors below 600 meters in elevation but can also be found at elevations up to 5,600 ft.. Valley oak is found in dense riparian forests, open foothill woodlands and valley savannas. Commonly associated trees are Coast live oak, Interior live oak, Blue oak, Black walnut, California Sycamore and Ghost pine. Valley oak is distributed in the California Central Valley and many smaller valleys such as the San Fernando Valley.

**Plant Type**

Tree, Shrub

**Size**

60 - 100 ft tall

50 ft wide

**Growth Rate**

Fast, Moderate

**Dormancy**

Winter Deciduous

**Flower Color**

Cream, Green

**Flowering Season**

Winter, Spring



**Wildlife Supported**

Oaks generally are very important to wildlife including birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. Many insects are attracted to Oaks generally, including the following butterflies which use Oaks as host plant: California Sister, Propertius Duskywing, Mournful Duskywing, Golden Hairstreak, and Gold-Hunter's Hairstreak.

**Butterflies & moths hosted ( 14 confirmed , 158 likely \* )**

- Mournful Duskywing (*Erynnis tristis*)
- Gold Hunter's Hairstreak (*Satyrium auretteum*)
- Elegant Sheepmoth (*Hemileuca eglantherina*)
- Fruit-Tree Leafroller Moth (*Archips argyrospila*)
- Western Tent Caterpillar (*Malacosoma californica*)
- *Henricus umbrasasana*
- *Dyseriocrania auricyanea*

**Landscaping Information****Sun**

Full Sun

**Moisture**

Low

**Summer Irrigation**

Max 2x / month once established

**Cold Tolerance**

Tolerates cold to 15° F

**Soil Drainage**

Medium

**Soil Description**

Tolerant of a variety of soils. Soil PH: 6.0 - 8.0

**Common uses**

Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

**Companion Plants**

This oak is compatible with a very wide ranges of native trees, shrubs, vines, perennial herbs and annuals wildflowers.

**Propagation?**

For propagating by seed: Fresh seeds sow in fall outdoors or stratify to hold for spring sowing. (USDA Forest Service 1974).



**Natural Setting****Site Type**

Hillsides, canyons and floodplains across most of California in locations where winters are wet but not freezing and summers are hot and dry.

**Climate**

Annual Precipitation: 5.0" - 91.9", Summer Precipitation: 0.15" - 3.16", Coldest Month: 24.6" - 55.2",  
Hottest Month: 45.5" - 84.1", Humidity: 0.10" - 35.01", Elevation: 7" - 11310"



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**Calscape**

Restore Nature One Garden at a Time

**Interior Live Oak (*Quercus wislizeni*)** is a native tree or shrub in the Fagaceae (Beech) family. Despite the common name it grows near the coast as well as in the Coast Ranges, central valley, and Sierra foothills. It tends to grow at elevations from sea level to 5,000 feet and is a major component of foothill woodland. This is a tall, broad tree with evergreen leaves. The leaves are thick, leathery, and may have either toothed or smooth margins. The long, narrow, pointed acorns sit deep in the cap; the take two years to mature. There are two recognized Varieties: Var. *frutescens* is a shrub form and is more common in the southern portion of the species' range, while var. *wislizeni* is the tree form. Due to its ultimate size, it requires a large garden but is a very rewarding tree to grow.

**Plant Type**

Tree, Shrub

**Size**

15 - 50 ft tall

10 - 50 ft wide

**Growth Rate**

Moderate

**Dormancy**

Evergreen

**Flower Color**

Cream, Green



**Flowering Season**

Winter, Spring

**Wildlife Supported**

Many insects are attracted to Oaks generally, including the following butterflies which use Oaks as host plant: California Sister, Propertius Duskywing, Mournful Duskywing, Golden Hairstreak, and Gold-Hunter's Hairstreak.

**Butterflies & moths hosted ( 14 confirmed , 158 likely \* )**

- Mournful Duskywing (*Erynnis tristis*)
- Gold Hunter's Hairstreak (*Satyrium auretteum*)
- Fruit-Tree Leafroller Moth (*Archips argyrospila*)
- Pacific Tent Caterpillar (*Malacosoma constricta*)
- Andromache Underwing moth (*Catocala Andromache*)
- *Caloptilia reticulata*
- *Chionodes chrysopyla*
- *Dyseriocrania auricyanea*

**Landscaping Information****Sun**

Full Sun, Part Shade

**Moisture**

Very Low, Low

**Summer Irrigation**

Max 1x / month once established

**Cold Tolerance**

Tolerates cold to 10° F

**Soil Drainage**

Fast, Medium, Slow

**Soil Description**

Tolerant of a variety of soils. Soil PH: 5.0 - 7.0

**Common uses**

Bank Stabilization, Deer Resistant, Bird Gardens, Butterfly Gardens

**Companion Plants**

This oak is compatible with a very wide ranges of native trees, shrubs, vines, perennial herbs and annuals wildflowers.

**Propagation?**

For propagating by seed: Fresh seeds sow in fall outdoors or stratify to hold for spring sowing. (USDA Forest Service 1974).

**Natural Setting****Site Type**

Hillsides, canyons and floodplains across most of California in locations where winters are wet but not freezing and summers are hot and dry.

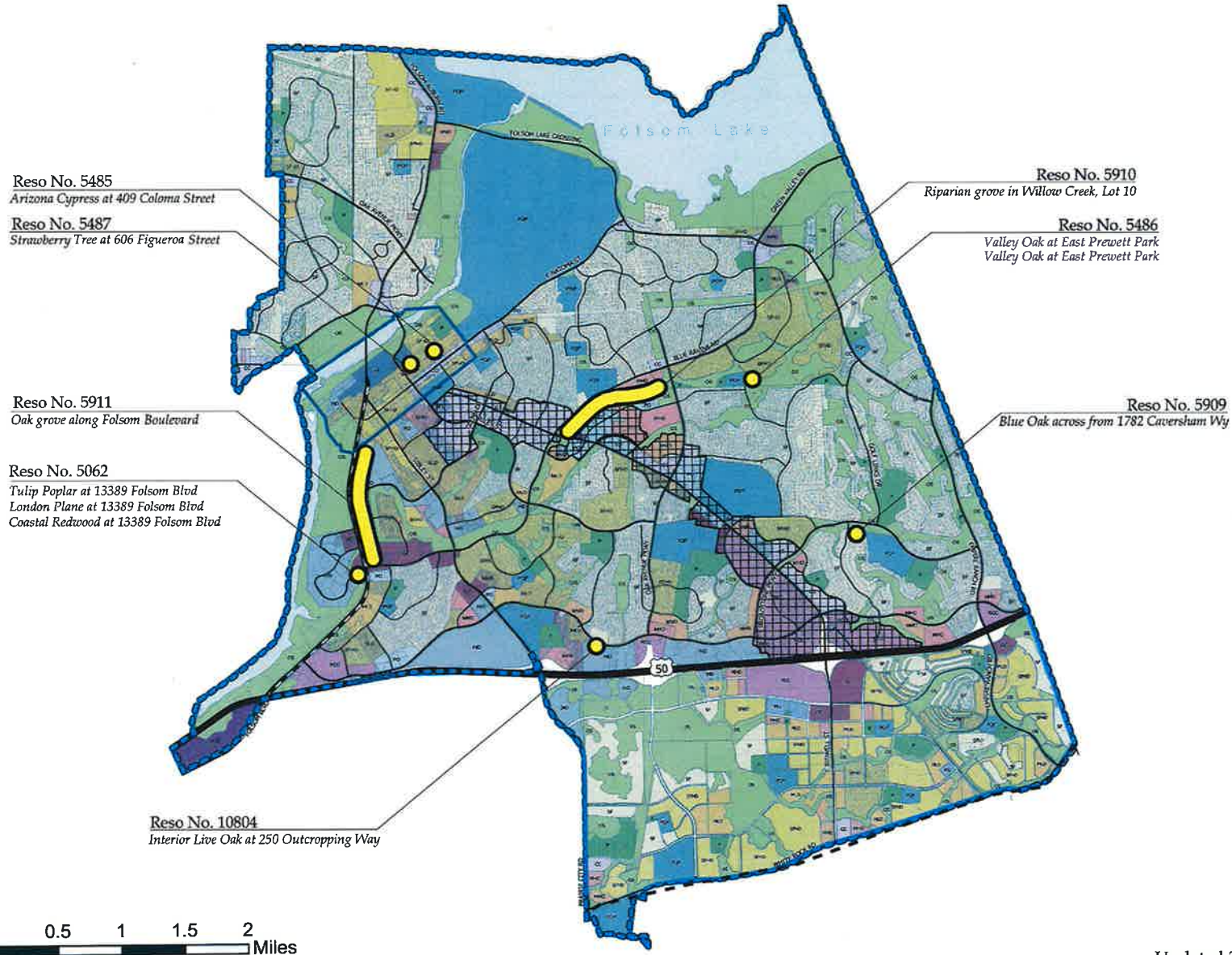
**Climate**

Annual Precipitation: 5.0" - 91.9", Summer Precipitation: 0.15" - 3.16", Coldest Month: 24.6" - 55.2", Hottest Month: 45.5" - 84.1", Humidity: 0.10" - 35.01", Elevation: 7" - 11310"

# **ATTACHMENT 5**

## **CURRENT LANDMARK TREE MAP**

# Folsom Landmark Tree Map



0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

Updated 2/25/2022

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to facilitate double-sided printing.*



CITY OF  
**FOLSOM**  
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE