



## City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

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**Title:** Potential Hazard Trees between Police Department and City Hall Parking Lot

**CEQA:** Not a Project

**Recommendation:** That the City Council provide direction to staff on the potential removal of three large redwood trees in the City Hall Parking Lot.

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**Prepared by:** Timothy Kiser, City Manager

**Council Meeting Date:** 01/09/2024

**Date Prepared:** 01/02/2024

**Agenda:** Administrative

**Background Information:** On December 6, 2023, the City hired a consultant "Leaf it To Me, Inc." to look at three redwood trees near the police department, on the west side of the building by the stairs to the parking lot. There was a concern that the trees could fail due to asymmetrical rooting and concern about the root damage to the retaining wall the trees are planted above. The consultant performed a basic, level 2 visual inspection and assessment of the trees.

A Basic, Level 2 Visual Tree Inspection and Risk Assessment following ANSI Standards consists of a qualitative visual inspection of the trees and surrounding site, and a synthesis of the information collected. This Tree Risk Assessment is based on a 5-year inspection interval. Please be aware that Tree Risk Assessment considers known targets and visible tree conditions and represents the conditions of the trees at the time of these inspections.

The basic premise of tree risk assessment is to help tree risk managers make an educated decision on how to reduce their risk to tolerable levels. All trees provide benefits, and all trees pose some risk.

The Consultant concluded that the three redwood trees are at moderate risk for whole tree failure and a high risk for root damage to the hardscape. It is possible within the 5-year timeframe for whole tree failure to occur, and if whole tree failure were to occur, it is somewhat likely to cause severe damage. These trees are at high risk for root damage to the hardscape. It is probable within the next 5-year timeframe that the damage will continue to occur and is very likely to cause severe damage. The consultant recommends these trees be removed and the consultant's written analysis is attached for Council's information.

It is important to note that once these trees have been removed the stumps will either need to be ground out or treated and killed with an herbicide or the trees will grow

back from the stumps and root damage will continue. If trees are replanted, they should be small stature trees more appropriate for the small size of the planting site.

One option for Council consideration would be to leave a sufficient portion of the trunks of trees (10 to 15 feet) to have carved to represent the City of Grass Valley (i.e. firefighter, police officer, etc.)

**Council Goals/Objectives:** The Measure E Oversight Committee executes portions of work tasks towards achieving/maintaining Strategic Plan - Open and Collaborative City Government.

**Fiscal Impact:** The Fiscal Impact to remove the trees would be less than \$4,000 based upon estimates received to date. The cost of carving the trees is not known at this time.

**Funds Available:** Yes

**Account #:** General Fund

**Reviewed by:** \_\_\_ City Manager