



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Potential Hazard Trees Removal at 341 East Main Street

CEQA: Categorically Exempt - Section 15301 "Existing Facilities"

Recommendation: That the City Council authorize the removal of approximately 23 Italian cypress trees at 341 East Main Street due to their significant fire hazard risk.

Prepared by: Timothy Kiser, City Manager

Council Meeting Date: September 23, 2025 **Date Prepared:** September 17, 2025

Agenda: Consent

Background Information: The City owns the property at 341 East Main Street, a 0.68-acre parcel formerly occupied by the Old California Restaurant. During recent vegetation inspections, staff identified multiple Italian cypress trees on the site. While commonly planted for their vertical form and aesthetic appeal, Italian cypress trees are considered a significant fire hazard, particularly in wildland-urban interface areas.

Italian cypress contain dense, resinous, and oily wood and foliage that are highly flammable. Their tall, narrow structure allows flames to rapidly climb from the ground to the treetops, creating a "torch effect" that can produce intense heat, embers, and firebrands capable of spreading fire to nearby structures. When planted in groups or close to buildings, they can act as a vertical fuel ladder and dramatically increase the risk of fire spread. For these reasons, fire prevention professionals routinely identify Italian cypress as one of the highest-risk ornamental tree species in fire-prone communities.

To reduce fire risk on City-owned property and set a model for private property owners, staff recommend the following best practices:

- **Tree Removal:** Remove Italian cypress trees from the property to eliminate the vertical fuel hazard.
- **Community Education:** Use this City-owned property as an opportunity to educate the public about the risks of Italian cypress and other flammable species in high-fire-risk areas.

Council Goals/Objectives: This action executes portions of work tasks towards achieving/maintaining the Strategic Plan - Public Safety.

Fiscal Impact: No additional fiscal impact than budgeted expenses for FY 2025/26.

Funds Available: Yes

Account #: General Fund

Reviewed by: ___ City Manager