



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Potential Hazard Trees adjacent to Police Department and City Hall Parking Lot
CEQA: Not a Project

Recommendation: That the City Council approve the removal of three redwood trees near the Police Department and three deciduous trees adjacent to City Hall and the City Hall parking lot to mitigate structural and safety risks, ensure compliance with the City's vegetation ordinance, and support best fire safety practices.

Prepared by: Timothy Kiser, City Manager

Council Meeting Date: 02/25/2025

Date Prepared: 02/19/2025

Agenda: Administrative

Background Information: On December 6, 2023, the City hired a consultant, *Leaf it To Me, Inc.*, to assess three redwood trees located near the police department, on the west side of the building by the stairs leading to the parking lot. Concerns were raised regarding the potential failure of these trees due to asymmetrical rooting and the risk of root damage to the adjacent retaining wall. To evaluate these concerns, the consultant conducted a Level 2 visual inspection and assessment of the trees.

The consultant's findings indicate that the three redwoods pose a moderate risk for whole tree failure within the next five years. If failure were to occur, it is somewhat likely to cause severe damage. Additionally, the trees present a high risk for continued root damage to the surrounding hardscape, with deterioration expected to progress within the same timeframe and very likely to result in significant damage. Based on this assessment, the consultant has recommended the removal of the trees. A detailed written analysis is attached for the Council's review.

To mitigate the impact of tree removal, staff recommends replanting three dogwoods as replacements. However, with the adoption of the city's new vegetation ordinance, staff has identified three deciduous trees in close proximity to City Hall that extend over the building's roof structure. Given the launch of the City's vegetation inspection program, staff believes it is crucial to lead by example by removing these trees and redesigning the surrounding landscape to align with the ordinance and best fire safety practices.

At a future meeting, Staff intends to present a landscaping plan for City Council approval that will demonstrate fire-wise landscaping options. The goal is to showcase alternatives that eliminate trees in Zone 0 (the 0- to 5-foot area adjacent to a structure) while providing guidance for residents and contractors on creating safer, more resilient landscapes.

Finally, it is important to note that once these trees are removed, the stumps must either be ground out or treated with an herbicide to prevent regrowth. Without proper treatment, the trees will regenerate from the stumps, leading to continued root damage.

Council Goals/Objectives: This item portions of work tasks towards achieving/maintaining Strategic Plan: Community Safety and City Infrastructure Investment.

Fiscal Impact: The Fiscal Impact to remove the trees would be less than \$10,000 based upon estimates received to date.

Funds Available: Yes

Account #: General Fund

Reviewed by: ___ City Manager

Attachments:
A - Pictures of trees proposed to be removed
B - Leaf it To Me, Inc. Report on the Redwoods

Attachment A - Photos Of Trees To Be Removed

