## CITY OF ALBANY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISION STAFF REPORT

Agenda date: September 13, 2012

**TO: Park and Recreation Commission** 

FROM: Tony Wolcott, Urban Forester

SUBJECT: 834 Pomona Avenue - Urban Forester report on two existing

Cinnamomum camphora (camphor) trees located in front of the

**property** in the public right-of-way

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The camphor trees in question should be removed and replaced with a more suitable approved tree species.

#### **BACKGROUND**

There are actually four trees within a relatively small front yard area at 834 Pomona Avenue. Besides the two street trees (*Cinnamomum camphors*) there are two large evergreens (1 *Sequoia sempervirens* and 1 *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*). These two magnificent trees are on property.

#### **ANALYSIS**

We seem to lose camphor trees on a regular basis in Albany. This is partly due to the over mature age of these trees planted in the 1950's. We can normally hang on to these broadleaf evergreen trees until they are too far gone to keep them. These particular trees do have some health issues, and they have caused sidewalk repair in two prior instances. However, removal recommendation is due to the conflict with the larger and quite distinct redwoods. The *Metasequoia* or dawn redwood is a fine specimen of this quite deciduous conifer. The coast redwood is one of the largest in Albany at present. Both are impinged by the large and round canopies of the two camphors.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

Cost of removal will be close to \$2000, grinding the stumps- \$300. Two new trees, stakes, soil - \$300. There will be maintenance savings as these new trees will not have the large amount of deadwood in these two camphors.

### **Conclusion**

The two camphors should be removed and replaced with suitable species; new trees should be more compatible with the redwoods and the space allotted for them.

# City of Albany Community Development & Environmental Resources Application to Remove a City Tree

| Owners Name: BRUCE JOHNSTON & ANDREA RECHTIN   |
|--|
| Property Address: 834 POMONA AVE  Phone Number: 510 908 -1928 OEL Email: bsjconst@ aol-com   |
| Phone Number: (510) 908-1928 au Email: bsjconst@ aol-com   |
| Number of City trees requested to be removed:  |
|  |
| Reason for removal request:  |
| ☐ Tree is dead   |
| Tree is storm damaged, vandalized, diseased or infested beyond reclamation   |
| Tree is a potential safety hazard and liability  |
| Tree is causing substantial damage to adjacent subsurface gas and/or water service   |
| Tree has damaged the adjacent sidewalk to an extent that constitutes a tripping hazard, and the City tree has caused the property owner to has repaired the adjacent sidewalk on at least one property documented occasion                                 |
| Tree is detrimental to the public safety or materially injurious to the property owner or improvements in the vicinity   |
| ☐ Tree does not conform to the approved plan for the area in question  |
| I understand that removal of a tree that does not constitute a hazard to public or private property requires review by the Parks & Recreation Commission at a public meeting. Enclosed is the \$200 fee to review the removal of City trees at my address. |
| Signature Date Date  |
|  |
| Return to: City of Albany Community Development & Environmental Resources Department,<br>1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany, CA 94706   |
| City Action  |
| Application #: Fee Received (Receipt #):   |
| Approved: Neclined: Nate:  |





