

CITY OF ALBANY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
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**

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**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.







