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CITY OF ALBANY

NOV 01 2013

PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

City of Albany

Community Development & Environmental Resources

Application to Remove a City Tree

Owners Name JOAN MUSANTE

Phone Number XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Email XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Property Address 956 VENTURA AVE

Number of City trees requested to be removed 1 (BIG OLD NASTY LIQUIDAMBER)

Reason for removal request:

The tree is dead.

The tree is storm damaged, vandalized, diseased or infested beyond reclamation.

The tree is a potential safety hazard and liability. LIMBS HAVE DROPPED.

The tree is causing substantial damage to adjacent subsurface gas and/or water service. - PROBABLY

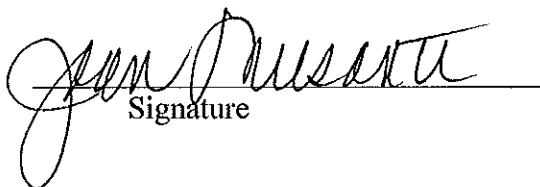
The tree has damaged the adjacent sidewalk to an extent that constitutes a tripping hazard, and the City tree has caused the property owner to have repaired the adjacent sidewalk on at least one (1) previously documented occasion. *

The tree is detrimental to the public safety or materially injurious to the property owner or improvements in the vicinity.

The tree does not conform to the approved plan for the area in question.

* THE CURB IS BROKEN AND UP IN THE AIR. THE STREET IS PUCKLED. WE PUT IN RUBBER SIDEWALKS WHICH ARE SLIPPERY AND DANGEROUS WHEN WET. →

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

10/31/13
Date
ORIGINALLY 8/30/13

City Action -SEE ATTACHED

Application Number _____ - _____

Fee Received (Receipt No.) _____

Approved _____ Declined _____ Date _____

Return to: City of Albany Community Development & Environmental Resources
Department, 1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany CA 94706.

CITY OF ALBANY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

Agenda date: December 12, 2013

TO: Park and Recreation Commission

FROM: Tony Wolcott, Urban Forester

SUBJECT: 956 Ventura Avenue - Urban Forester report on one existing Liquidambar styraciflua (liquidambar) tree located in front of the property in the public right-of-way

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

BACKGROUND

The existing tree occupies more than the allotted space between the curb and the gutter, with evident damage to road, curb and sidewalk. The tree is not very tall due to constant topping by PG&E to keep the branches below primaries.

ANALYSIS

This is the wrong tree in the wrong place. We are well acquainted with the destructive surface roots of liquidambar. This is an old tree by Albany standards but very short due to above wires. The trunk shows multiple leaders and included bark. The roots have lifted everything nearby. Foliage is healthy for this time of year, although branches are quite heavy and horizontal; many branch failures are evident. The trunk measures 25" DBH and the tree is 30-35 feet high with as much spread.

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost of removal will be about \$1200, grinding the stumps- \$200. A new tree, more suitable will be planted in its place.

Conclusion

This liquidambar needs to be removed and replaced. It is not sustainable in this location and with its bulk.