

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

Owners Name Joseph T. Ravicini Jr. (Trust)

Phone Number XX

Property Address 1042 Ordway Street

Number of City trees requested to be removed one (1)

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

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.

Joseph T. Rainier
Signature

9/19/2013
Date

City Action

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.

September 20, 2013

Parks and Recreation Commission
City of Albany
1000 San Pablo Avenue
Albany, CA 94706

Dear Commission Members,

Attached is my application for removal of the city tree, which is located in front of my residence at 1042 Ordway Street. I am requesting the removal of the tree and at the same time, I am requesting to have the tree replaced (at my cost).

In 1998, upon completion of my home addition, I was required to have a tree planted in front of my residence. At that time in Albany, there was only one of three tree choices available for my address. The tree is a *Tristanopsis laurina*.

Over the years, the tree has become somewhat of a nuisance to both my neighbors and myself. Specifically:

1. It blooms twice a year, which attracts swarms of bees. Over the past three years there has been an increase in wasps' and bees' nests, which have popped up in the eaves of my house. My pest control company (Orkin) has indicated that the tree is the primary source of these nests. I am also allergic to bee stings.
2. In 2011, I had my driveway and the entire sidewalk in front of my residence replaced. The contractor doing the work warned me that this particular species of tree has been known to cause cracks and uproot sections of sidewalk and pavement. Prior to having my sidewalk replaced, there were a number of cracks in the sidewalk adjacent to the tree. Now, two years later, cracks are starting to appear again.
3. The tree drops a lot of plant debris (flowers, seedpods, etc.) onto the sidewalk, which causes staining of the newly installed tinted sidewalk. It also causes problems for people walking or riding scooters up and down the sidewalk. An elderly neighbor of mine (who walks with the assistance of a walker) has also complained about the tree droppings getting stuck in her walker. Sweeping doesn't help the situation.

It is my request to have the tree removed, at which point I propose to replace the tree with a new *Gingko biloba*. I recently had a conversation with Mr. Tony Wolcott, who indicated that if my application is approved, I would be able to purchase a new tree with a nursery that I have an existing relationship with. My plan is to buy a larger tree (most likely a 15 gallon tree as opposed to the City purchasing a smaller tree) so that the new tree will quickly fill the void of the tree I am requesting be removed.

I believe that a *Ginkgo biloba* tree will add color to the street as it turns a beautiful orange/yellow in the autumn and will blend in nicely with the neighborhood. In addition, the tree will not drop any flowers or seedpods, which can cause issues for people walking on the sidewalk. I have spoken to my neighbors about my plans and have received warm support.

I am attaching a photo of the existing tree as well as the proposed tree in both the springtime/summer green foliage and autumn foliage example.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joseph T. Ravicini Jr.
1042 Ordway Street
Albany, CA 94706

Existing Tree - *Tristanopsis laurina*



Proposed Tree - *Ginkgo biloba*



September 19, 2013

Park & Recreation Commission
City of Albany
1000 San Pablo Avenue
Albany, CA 94706

RE: Application for tree replacement at 1042 Ordway Street

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Joan Laufenberg and I reside at 1046 Ordway. I am in full support of the removal and replacement of the tree in front of 1042 Ordway Street. I am over 85 years old with limited mobility and walk twice a day with the assistance of a walker (and my caregiver) up and down Ordway for exercise. Each time I pass by the tree in question, seedpods and other tree debris gets stuck in the wheels of my walker. In addition, the tree attracts hundreds of bees. The tree is literally swarming with bees, which makes me very nervous when I walk slowly beneath it.

I understand that the owners wish to replace the tree with a Gingko Biloba tree and that it won't have flowering parts that will fall on the sidewalk or attract menacing bee. Thus, I support the removal and replacement of this tree.

Respectfully,

Joan Laufenberg
1046 Ordway Street
Albany, CA 94706

September 20, 2013

Dear Neighbors,

In the next few weeks, you may receive a postcard from the City of Albany's Parks & Recreation Commission about our application for a tree removal in front of our home at 1042 Ordway. We wanted to let you know why we are requesting its removal and our plans for its replacement.

In 1998, upon completion of the addition to our home, we were required to have a tree planted in front of the house. At that time, in Albany, there was only one of three tree choices available for our address – a *Tristanopsis laurina*.

Over the years, the tree has become somewhat of a nuisance. Specifically, it blooms twice a year, which attracts swarms of bees and wasps. Over the past five years there has been an increase in wasps' and bees' nests, which have popped up in the eaves of our house. Our pest control company (Orkin) has indicated that the tree is the primary source of these nests. Joe is also allergic to bee stings. As all of you know, in May of 2011, we had the driveway and the entire sidewalk replaced at our cost. The contractor doing the work warned us that this particular species of tree (known as the "contractor's special") has been known to cause cracks and uproot sections of sidewalk and pavement. Prior to having the sidewalk replaced, there were a number of large cracks in the sidewalk adjacent to the tree. Now, two years later, cracks are starting to appear again.

Consequently, we are proposing to replace the tree with a new *Gingko biloba* – which is on the current list of City-approved trees. In on-going discussions with the City Arborist, we are also requesting to purchase a larger 15-gallon size tree (at our cost) as replacement - so that the new tree will quickly fill the void of the tree we are requesting be removed. The new *Gingko biloba* tree will add color to the street as it turns a beautiful orange/yellow in the autumn and will blend in nicely with the neighborhood.

We are attaching a photo of the existing tree as well as the proposed tree in both the springtime/summer green foliage and autumn foliage examples. Obviously, these examples are much larger than the one we propose to have planted!

There will be a public notice sent by the City to everyone within 200 feet of the tree. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know.

Thanks!

Joe and Alexander
1042 Ordway
510.528.8077

Existing Tree - *Tristanopsis laurina*



Proposed Tree - *Ginkgo biloba*



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: 1042 Ordway Street - Urban Forester report on one existing *Tristaniopsis laurina* (swamp myrtle) tree located in front of the property in the public right-of-way

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The swamp myrtle tree in question should be retained, pruned for structure and allowed to develop.

BACKGROUND

The existing tree has a lean with ample foliage and branch structure. Some ant activity is present due to feeding from sucking insects on the leaves, typical of the species. The overall health is good with no evident damage to infrastructure. Some leaf drop and fruit drop is also evident, and typical of species. This is a young tree very representative of the species.

ANALYSIS

This is a good example of a street tree in Albany. There are no perfect trees out there, but this is a good tree at this point in time.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

Conclusion

This *Tristaniopsis laurina* should stay and allowed to mature.