

CITY OF ALBANY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
STAFF REPORT

Agenda date: July 10, 2014

**TO: Park and Recreation Commission**

**FROM: Tony Wolcott, Urban Forester**

**SUBJECT: 936 Ramona Avenue - Urban Forester report on one existing *Liquidambar styraciflua* (American sweet gum) tree located in front of the property in the public right-of-way**

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The application for removal of this tree should be approved. This tree has a very poor track record. It has very brittle branches. The planting space is only 27" wide and there are numerous wires above that prevent any top growth. There has been extensive pruning to limit the height and spread of this tree. There is also significant lift on the sidewalk and potential damage to the infrastructure. Future difficulties will only get worse. This is the wrong tree in the wrong place.

**BACKGROUND**

The home owner has requested removal due to the difficulties with maintaining this tree in this location. The city will remove this tree and re-plant a tree approved for this existing location. Liquidambar in general have a poor history in Albany, and should be viewed as trees with extensive surface rooting and poor branch attachments.

JUN 12 2014

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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

Owners Name: Tree Gelb Stuber + John Stuber

Property Address: 936 Ramona Avenue

Phone: [REDACTED] mail: [REDACTED]

Number of City trees requested to be removed: 1

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 have repaired the adjacent sidewalk on at least one (1) previously 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

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CITY OF ALBANY

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PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

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.

Tree Gelb Stuber  
Signature

6/19/14  
Date

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

City Action

Application #:                     -                     Fee Received (Receipt #): 84717

Approved:  Declined:  Date:                     

504

## **PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

Per the City of Albany Tree Removal Policy and Procedures, the City is hereby noticing the public that the Parks and Recreation Commission will be considering the Tree Removal Permit for:

936 Ramona Avenue – one –*Liquidambar styraciflua* – liquidambar on the public right-of-way adjacent to address.

**The public meeting will be held Thursday,  
July 10, 2014 at 7:00 PM  
at Council Chambers, City Hall, 1000 San Pablo  
Avenue, Albany, Ca.**

The applicable criteria for this non-emergency City tree removal:

1. The tree is a potential safety hazard and liability.
2. Tree is detrimental to public safety or injurious to the property owner.

**POSTED: June 19, 2014**