Rebecca Latta Arboricultural Consulting

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JUNE 29, 2023

David Volz ASLA, Luis Pedraza

David Volz Design Landscape Architects, Inc

151 Kalmus Drive, M8

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Subject: Marina Park Preliminary Assessment and Summary Report

Dear David and Luis,

This report is provided to document the results of a health and structure survey of the trees in Marina Park, Huntington Beach. In addition, our office prepared a data matrix and tree map showing the surveyed trees with unique tag numbers correlating with aluminum tags at the site which are provided in the Appendices at the end of this report.

David Volz Design Landscape Architects, retained Rebecca Latta Consulting for three tasks:

1. Preliminary survey and tree map.
2. Preliminary assessment and summary report
3. Final tree impact analysis and preservation report for submission to the City of Huntington Beach.

Referenced documents:

1. Original proposal from Rebecca Latta Consulting dated October 1, 2022, with subconsultant services agreement signed by David Volz Design on January 25, 2023.
2. Marina Park Reconfiguration Project Site Map

3. Topographic Survey by DMS Consultants dated February 21, 2023.

The findings in this report are based solely on a visual inspection of the site and trees observed during the site visit. The tree inspections were limited to ground level basic visual observations (Level 2); advanced decay detection, root crown inspections and aerial inspections were not conducted. No risk assessments were performed as a part of this assignment.

METHODS

Field visits were performed on April 3 and 6, 2023, to inspect the trees. A basic visual assessment was performed by walking around each tree and inspecting both the site and tree condition. Binoculars were used to look at cavities in the upper canopy and a mallet was used to sound trunks. The trees were assessed for defects such as depressions, structural defects, cavities, wounds, cracking bark, sap flow, insect damage and deadwood. The inspections were conducted during daylight hours, under good weather conditions, and in light sufficient for detecting details such as surface decay and leaf color. The influence of adjacent trees and other factors affecting the growth of a subject tree, such as wires, cables, or nesting holes were also taken into consideration when assessing tree condition. Trees were inspected for wildlife or signs of occupation by wildlife. The trees should be reinspected for nesting activity and wildlife by a qualified biologist just prior to removal, if approved.

SITE VISIT RESULTS

A total of ninety-two (92) trees were identified on the site. Six (6) trees are recommended for removal now regardless of project impacts due to their poor health and structure. Twenty-three (23) trees are recommended for pruning for structure. Fifteen (15) trees are recommended for structural pruning or consideration for removal at a later time due to disease, insect or structural issues that may cause permanent decline.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Species	# of trees	Removal Recommended Now	Trees recommended to prune for structure or remove	Disease or Insect Infestation	Advanced Assessment Recommended
California Sycamore	3		(85, 87)	(85, 85, 86) Invasive Shot Hole Borer	(84, 86) Sonic Tomography lower trunk
Canary Island Pine	28	(#18, 19, 37)	(3, 42, 71, 73, 75,	(15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 34, 35, 39, 74, 77, 81) Western Gall Rust	77 (Root crown Excavation)
Chinese Fringe	1				
Coastal Coral Tree	2		(82, 83)		
Evergreen Pear	3		(11) Clearance pruning	(11, 13, 76) Fireblight	
Jacaranda	1				
London Plane	42	(#45, 70)	(14, 26, 43, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91) prune for structure	(67, 68, 69, 87, 88, 89, 90)	(59, 61, 64) Root crown excavation (62, 66,
Monterey Pine	5		(49, 50)		(50) Climbing Inspection
Peruvian Pepper	1		(8)		
Maidenhair Tree	2	(#6)			
White Alder	4		(10, 92)	(10, 92) Invasive Shot hole borer	

The most significant disease issue in the park is Western gall rust in the Canary Island Pines. The identification of the disease can be confirmed with a lab test through Waypoint Labs in Orange. I believe that the pathogen is Peridermium (Endo-cronartium) harknessii which causes cankers that can strangle branches and weaken tissue. It has already killed and significantly impacted two trees (#17,18) and was identified in fourteen (14) of the 28 Canary Island Pine trees. Trees with large galls on the trunk or main branches may be susceptible to structural failures.

Many of the forty-two London Plane trees across the park have poor structure with co-dominant or same sized upper branches and included bark which can lead to branch or trunk failures because the branches are weakly attached at the point of attachment. Where these trees are adjacent to the entry driveway, walking paths or use areas, there are consequences to people and cars if branches or trunks fail. While co-dominant structure is mostly correctable in young trees, it can be difficult to correct in mature trees like the ones being recommended for pruning or removal.[1] Many of the trees have evidence of anthracnose disease, pit scale on the trunks and canker disease.

The two large Coral trees are being used as climbing trees and have low branching structure. The trees had evidence of frost damage and powdery mildew on the leaves at the time of the site visit but had not fully leafed out. These trees need to be carefully pruned for structure and monitored yearly for any changes. Bracing with posts under low branches is recommended if they are retained.

The two evergreen pear trees had some fire blight, a bacterial disease that is common in the foliage of pears. It can be managed by pruning the diseased foliage in the dry season. Pruning in wet or cool weather is not recommended. One of the trees (#76) had a large wound from a failed branch and poor structure with many same sized branches. It may drop more branches if not pruned for structure.

There is evidence that Invasive Shot Hole Borer disease complex was present on the Alders, Coral trees, Sycamores and London Plane trees. It has impacted a few trees that are recommended for removal. At this time, it does not seem to be active, but the trees should be monitored as it warms up in July/August/September for new insect activity.

It is strongly recommended that any new trees planted in the park have budgeted structural training pruning at 3 years, 7 years, and 12 years to develop strong structure and avoid expensive large pruning wounds to correct structural defects in an older tree.

[1] An Illustrated Guide to Pruning 2nd Edition. Edward F. Gilman. Delmar Thompson Learning. 2002.

SURVEY RESULTS			RECOMMENDED FOR REMOVAL NOW		
Tree #	**DBH (in.)**	**HXW (ft.)**	**Health (%)**	**Structure (%)**	**Comments**
#6 -Maidenhair	2	15x6	68%	65%	Struggling, very poor structure, girdling roots, mechanical damage on East side of trunk
#17 – Canary Island Pine	21	50x16	40%	55%	Western gall rust, tree is mostly dead with brown foliage.
#18 – Canary Island Pine	16	50x20	50%	60%	Western gall rust, heavily diseased, dying
#37 – London Plane	14.5	25x25	40%	50%	Tree in decline, struggling
#45 – London Plane	10.5	20x20	65%	65%	Tree in decline, struggling
#70 – London Plane	8	30x16	68	65	Poor vigor, root damage, beetle damage, deadwood, invasive shot hole borer (ISHB) disease complex

Table 1. Condition Ratings – Explanation Chart

Rating Category	Condition Components			Percent Rating
	Health	**Structure**	**Form**	
Excellent	High vigor and nearly perfect health with little or no twig dieback, discoloration, or defoliation.	Nearly ideal and free of defects.	Nearly ideal for the species, generally symmetrical, and consistent with intended use.	81%-100%
Good	Vigor normal for species. No significant damage due to disease or pests. Twig dieback, discoloration and defoliation is minor.	Well-developed structure. Defects are minor and are correctable.	Minor asymmetries or variations from species norm. Function and aesthetics are not compromised.	61%-80%
Fair	Reduced vigor. Damage due to insects or diseases may be significant and associated with defoliation but is not likely to be fatal. Twig dieback, defoliation, discoloration, may comprise up to 50% of the crown	A single significant defect or several moderate defects. Defects are impractical to treat or would require multiple treatments over several years.	Major asymmetries or deviations. Function and aesthetics are compromised.	41%-60%
Poor	Unhealthy and in visual decline. Poor vigor, low foliage density and compromised foliage color are present. Insect and pest infestations may be fatal. Extensive dieback.	A critical defect or several significant defects. Failure may occur at any time.	Abnormal or asymmetrical. Function and aesthetics are significantly compromised.	21%-60%
Dead				0%-20%

ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITING CONDITIONS

1. Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible; however, Rebecca Latta Consulting can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.
2. The consultants shall not be required to give testimony or attend court by reason of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of an additional fee for such services.
3. Loss or alteration of any part of this report invalidates the entire report.
4. Possession of this report or a copy thereof does not imply right of publication or use for any purpose other than the person to whom it is addressed, without the prior expressed written or verbal consent of Rebecca Latta Consulting.
5. Neither all or any part of the contents of this report shall be conveyed by anyone, including the client, to the public via advertising, public relations, news sales or other media without the prior expressed or written consent of Rebecca Latta Consulting particularly as to value conclusions, identity of consultant, or reference to any professional society or institute or any initialed designation conferred upon the consultant as stated in their qualifications.
6. This report and values expressed herein represent the opinion of the Rebecca Latta Consulting and the fee is in no way contingent upon the reporting of a specified value, stipulated results, the occurrence of subsequent event, nor upon any finding to be reported.
7. Unless expressed otherwise: (1) information contained in this report covers only those items that were directly examined and reflects the condition of those items at the time of inspection(s) and (2) the inspection is limited to macro-level visual examination.

DISCLAIMER

Arborists are tree specialists who employ their education, knowledge, training, and experience to examine trees, recommend actions to improve the health and structure of trees, and suggest measures to reduce the risk of having activities under trees. Clients may decide to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist or seek additional advice.

Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to structural failure of a tree or anticipate extreme weather events that could contribute to failure. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways we do not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden inside trees and below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that trees will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specific time period. Likewise, responses to remedial treatments much like any medicine cannot be guaranteed.

Treatment, pruning and removal of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the Arborists services (assignment) such as property ownership, property boundaries, site lines, neighbor's disputes, and other issues. Arborists cannot take such considerations into account unless complete and accurate information is disclosed to the arborist. An arborist should then be expected to reasonably rely upon the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.

Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risk associated with trees is to eliminate all trees.

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE

I, Rebecca Latta certify that:

- I have personally inspected the trees described in this report and have accurately stated my findings. The extent of the evaluation is stated in the attached report.
- I have no current or future interest in the vegetation or the property that is the subject of the report and no bias with respect to the parties involved.
- The analysis, opinions, evaluation, investigation, and conclusions have been prepared using accepted arboricultural practices.
- I performed the work myself and prepared the report and reviewed the report, except as specifically indicated in the report.
- That my compensation is not contingent upon the reporting of a predetermined conclusion that favors the cause of the client or any other party nor the results if the assignment, attainment of stipulated results or the occurrence of any subsequent events.
- I further state that I am a member in good standing with American Society of Consulting Arborists and the International Society of Arboriculture. I have been involved in the practice of arboriculture and the care and study of trees since 1990.

Rebecca Latta

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Member, California Native Plant Society

TREE MAP

TREE DATA MATRIX

PHOTO APPENDIX

Photos taken April 6 and 7, 2023