

Agenda Report

September 10, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Planning and Community Development Department
SUBJECT: DESIGNATION OF THREE TREES AT AURORA LAS ENCINAS HOSPITAL AS LANDMARK TREES

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Find that the designation of a historic resource is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines §15308: Class 8 - Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment);
2. Find that trees numbered 947, 834 and 406 at 300 S. San Gabriel Boulevard & 2810 E. Del Mar Boulevard meet landmark tree designation criterion 1 in P.M.C. §17.62.040(E) because they are among the largest or oldest trees of their species located in the City;
3. Approve the designation of three landmark trees on the properties at 300 S. San Gabriel Boulevard and 2810 E. Del Mar Boulevard;
4. Adopt a resolution approving a Declaration of Landmark Tree Designation for 300 S. San Gabriel Boulevard and 2810 E. Del Mar Boulevard, Pasadena, California;
5. Authorize the Mayor to execute a Declaration of Landmark Tree Designation for 300 S. San Gabriel Boulevard and 2810 E. Del Mar Boulevard, Pasadena, California;
and
6. Direct the City Clerk to record the declaration with the Los Angeles County Recorder.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

On Monday, July 16, 2012, the Historic Preservation Commission recommended that the City Council approve the designation of three landmark trees at Aurora Las Encinas Hospital under criterion 1 of PMC §17.62.040 (E).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The three nominated trees at Aurora Las Encinas Hospital are eligible for designation as landmark trees because they are among the largest or oldest trees of their species located in the City.

BACKGROUND:

On May 3, 2012, the property owner, Aurora Las Encinas Hospital, submitted an application for designation of three trees on their property as landmark trees. The staff evaluated the trees according to the criteria in Title 17 of the P.M.C. and determined that the trees qualify for designation as a landmark trees. The application was mandated by a condition of approval of the Las Encinas Hospital Master Plan, which was approved by the City Council on September 21, 2009. One of the trees required to be designated in the conditions of approval (tree #835) died in 2010; therefore, a tree of similar size and location is now proposed to be designated in its place (tree #834).

Description

Property Data

- **Addresses:** The overall property is comprised of four separate Assessor's parcels with addresses of 300 S. San Gabriel Boulevard, 2810 E. Del Mar Boulevard, 2900 E. Del Mar Boulevard and 2954 E. Del Mar Boulevard - , Pasadena, CA 91107. Two of the trees are on the property at 300 S. San Gabriel Boulevard and the third is on the property at 2810 E. Del Mar Boulevard.
- **Location:** South side of East Del Mar Boulevard between S. San Gabriel Boulevard and El Nido Avenue
- **Date of Construction:** Las Encinas Hospital was established in 1904 and largely developed through 1929. Additional buildings and additions were constructed through 1979 (source: Draft National Register nomination for Las Encinas Hospital Historic District)
- **Original Owner:** Since 1904, the owner has been Las Encinas Hospital (source: Draft National Register nomination for Las Encinas Hospital Historic District)
- **Original Architects:** Myron Hunt & Elmer Grey, Clarence L. Jay
- **Original/Present Use:** Mental Health Care Facility
- **Property Size:** 24.7 acres (source: Final EIR for Las Encinas Hospital Master Plan)

Description of Trees

The following chart outlines the characteristics of the trees that are nominated for designation:

Tree Number	Species	Common Name	DBH	Height	Spread	No. of Trunks
947	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	49 inches	60 feet	80 feet	1
834	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	57 inches	50 feet	70 feet	1
406	Leptospermum laevigatum	Australian tea tree	32.1 inches	20 feet	35 feet	3

A map of the location of the trees is included in Attachment B and photos of the trees are in Attachment C.

ANALYSIS:

Tree numbers 834 and 947 at 300 S. San Gabriel Boulevard and tree number 406 at 2810 E. Del Mar boulevard are eligible for designation under Criterion 1 (PMC §17.62.040(E)), which states, “[They are] one of the largest or oldest trees of the species located in the City.”

Based on information included with the application from Cy Carlberg, Registered Consulting Arborist, the two oak trees (tree numbers 834 & 947) are likely many centuries old and were established prior to the development of the property for Las Encinas Hospital. The age of the trees would indicate that they were established during the time when the property was part of the San Gabriel Mission, which was established in 1771. The Australian Tea Tree is a unique tree that was likely planted in the early development of the hospital by one of its founders who was interested in creating an arboretum-like feel on the property. The tree is likely over 100 years old.

Effects of Landmark Tree Designation

Because of their size, the three trees are already protected by the Tree Protection Ordinance and, along with many other trees on the Las Encinas Hospital campus, are proposed to be retained as part of the Master Plan for the property. Upon designation as landmark trees, pruning of the trees will require review “to assure that the pruning shall be conducted according to the most recent standards of the International Society of Arboriculture (PMC §8.52.070(C)). The Tree Protection Ordinance also prohibits relocation of landmark trees.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The General Plan Open Space & Conservation Element – Urban Forest Goal: Protect and enhance Pasadena’s trees on public and privately owned land.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

Class 8 exemptions consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for the protection of the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

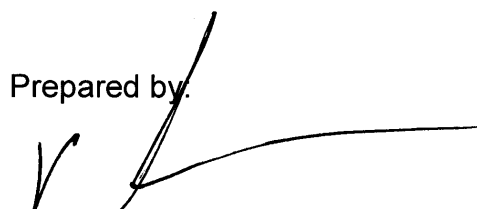
There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action and it will not have any indirect or support cost requirements.

Respectfully submitted,



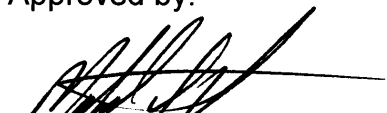
VINCENT P. BERTON, AICP
Director of Planning

Prepared by:



Kevin Johnson
Planner

Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Attachments (3):

- Attachment A – Application Materials
- Attachment B – Map of Tree Locations
- Attachment C – Photographs

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA
ADOPTING A DECLARATION OF LANDMARK TREE DESIGNATION OF TWO
COAST LIVE OAK TREES AT 300 S. SAN GABRIEL BOULEVARD AND ONE
AUSTRALIAN TEA TREE 2810 E. DEL MAR BOULEVARD, PASADENA,
CALIFORNIA**

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission has found that Coast Live Oak Trees numbered 947 and 834 at 300 S. San Gabriel Boulevard, and Australian Tea Tree number 406 at 2810 E. Del Mar Boulevard, as indicated in the attached exhibit "Las Encinas Hospital – Landmark Tree Designations," each meet designation criterion "1" as set forth in Section 17.62.040(E) of the Pasadena Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, these three trees are significant because they are among the largest or oldest trees of their species located in the City; and

WHEREAS, Aurora Las Encinas Hospital, the property owner, submitted the application for landmark tree designation; and

WHEREAS, an application for Landmark Tree designation is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15308; and

WHEREAS, the City Council may approve a recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission to designate Landmark Trees and evidence such approval by adopting a declaration executed by the Mayor pursuant to Subsection 17.62.050 (C) of the Pasadena Municipal Code.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Pasadena that the attached declaration of Landmark Tree designation of two trees at 300 S. San Gabriel Boulevard and one tree at 2810 E. Del Mar Boulevard is hereby adopted.

Adopted at the _____ meeting of the City Council on the _____ day of _____, 2012 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MARK JOMSKY, CMC, City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Theresa E. Fuentes
Assistant City Attorney

DECLARATION OF LANDMARK TREE DESIGNATION FOR:

300 S. San Gabriel Boulevard and 2810 E. Del Mar Boulevard
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 17.62.050 of the Pasadena Municipal Code, the City Council of the City of Pasadena by this declaration hereby designates as three Landmark Trees on certain real properties described as:

Tree #406 located at 2810 E. Del Mar Boulevard:

THOSE PORTIONS OF LOTS 5 AND 6 IN BLOCK 6 OF THE SUBDIVISION NO. 2 OF THE SUNNY SLOPES ESTATE, IN THE CITY OF PASADENA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 54 PAGES 91 AND 92 OF MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY AND TOGETHER WITH THAT PORTION OF EL NIDO AVENUE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS MONTE VISTA AVENUE) AS SHOWN ON SAID MAP OF THE SUBDIVISION NO. 2 OF THE SUNNY SLOPE ESTATE DESCRIBED AS A WHOLE AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 5; THENCE EASTERLY ALONG THE NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOTS 5 AND 6 AND THEIR PROLONGATIONS, A DISTANCE OF 1014 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE OF SAID EL NIDO AVENUE, THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, A DISTANCE OF 214.703 FEET, THENCE WESTERLY PARALLEL WITH THE NORTHERLY LINES OF SAID LOTS 5 AND 6 AND THEIR PROLONGATIONS, A DISTANCE OF 1014 FEET TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 5; THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG SAID WESTERLY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 214.793 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Tree #834 located at 300 S. San Gabriel Boulevard:

THAT PORTION OF LOT 17 OF NO. 1 MAP, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF THE NORTHERN PORTION OF THE SUNNY SLOPE ESTATE, IN THE CITY OF PASADENA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 43 PAGES 17 AND 91 OF MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY, LYING SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF TRACT NO. 6404, AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 68 PAGE 41 OF MAPS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY, AND LYING NORTH OF THE NORTH LINE OF TRACT 3432, AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 34 PAGE 78 OF MAPS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY.

EXCEPT THE EASTERLY 153.80 FEET THEREOF.

Tree #947 located at 300 S. San Gabriel Boulevard:

LOT 7 OF TRACT NO. 6404, IN THE CITY OF PASADENA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 68 PAGE 41 OF MAPS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY.

Under Pasadena Municipal Code Section 8.52.070, pruning or removal of designated Landmarks Trees, is subject to review by the City of Pasadena.

DATED: _____

ATTEST:

CITY OF PASADENA
A municipal corporation

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk

By: _____
Bill Bogaard, Mayor