RESOLUTION NO. 17-131

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF MULTIPLE OAK TREES IN RELATION TO OAK CREEK PARK / SENIOR CENTER (OTR 17-016) AND THE NORTH VINE STREET PAVEMENT PROJECT (OTR 17-017)

(CITY INITIATED)

WHEREAS, The Community Services Department is requesting the City Council approve oak tree removals in the following locations in the City:

- Vine Street right of way: request to remove one (1) dual-stem 14-inch diameter Valley Oak tree in relation to the Vine Street Pavement project between 32nd Street and and Caballow Road, behind Georgia Brown School;

- Oak Creek Park: request to remove three (3) Coast Live Oaks and four (4) Blue Oaks within Oak Creek Park, east of Creston Road, south of Scott Street;

- Senior Center: request to remove one (1) 50-inch Blue Oak, located at 270 Scott Street;

WHEREAS, Rodney Thurman of Whit's Turn Tree has provided Arborist Reports related to the tree removals at the Senior Center and the Vine Street Pavement project, see Exhibits A and C; and

WHEREAS, Chip Tamagni of A&T Arborists has provided a report for the tree removals in Oak Creek Park, See Exhibit B; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Director could not make the determination that the tree is "clearly dead or diseased beyond correction," and therefore, Section 10.01.050.C of the Oak Tree Ordinance would consider the tree "healthy" and require that the City Council make the determination of whether the tree should be removed or not, after consideration of the factors listed in Section 10.01.050.D; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. All of the above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2 Findings. The City Council finds the factors outlined in Section 10.01.050.E, approving OTR 17-016 allowing for the removal of eight (8) oak trees, in Oak Creek Park and the Senior Center, based on the trees being in poor health and being safety hazards, as indicated in the Arborist Reports, and approve OTR 17-017, allowing the removal of one (1) oak tree related to the Vine Street Paving project, based on the tree being in poor condition and to allow for the installation of the Vine Street improvements, as indicated on Attachment A, Site Plan.

Section 3. Mitigation. Based on the recent planting of forty (40) oak replacement trees already planted within Oak Creek Park, no additional replacement trees are required for OTR 17-016, and require two (2) oak replacement trees for OTR 17-017, to be planted within the Vine Street project site at the direction of the Arborist

APPROVED this 3rd day of October 2017 by the following vote:

AYES: Strong, Hamon, Gregory, Reed, Martin
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Steven W. Martin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kristen L. Buxkemper, Deputy City Clerk

Exhibits

A. Whit's Turn Tree Care Arborist Report
B. A&T Arborist Report
C. Whit's Turn Tree Care Arborist Report

Exhibit A

Whit's-Turn Tree Care
P.O. Box 1784 Templeton, CA 93465
Telephone: 805-434-9630 Fax: 805-434-9610

August 4, 2017

To: Ditas Esperanza – City of Paso Robles Public Works
From: Rodney Thurman- Whit's Turn Tree Care

RE: Addendum to June 14, 2017 oak tree removal letter

Ms. Esperanza,

This letter is to be used in conjunction with the Oak Tree Removal Permit Application that I submitted which is in conjunction with the Oak Tree Protection Plan for the Vine Street Roadway Connection and includes a count of total oaks within the project and percent of oaks being retained. I have also given my recommendation for one (1) oak tree removal as well as maintenance pruning for native oaks within the project. Lastly, I have included observations and recommendations regarding root impacts for five (5) oak trees adjacent to Vine Street

The removal count differs from the June 14th, 2017 letter I sent to you in which I recommended three (3) native oaks for removal. I have since reviewed those trees and have changed my recommendations to only remove one (1) oak and trim two (2) others.

In total, I inventoried a total of 16 native oaks within the project boundaries, that measure 6 inches diameter and larger. Of those 16 trees, I have only recommended one (1) for removal, which means 96 percent of the native oaks within this project will be retained.

In the Tree Inventory Data Sheet below I have given recommendations for removal of one (1) oak tree and trimming of two (2) other oak trees within the Vine Street Roadway Connection between 32nd Street to Caballo Road. Each tree is numbered with an aluminum tag that is attached to the base of the trunk. All numbers are in reference to the tree protection plan that I prepared for Buddy Hain of Stantec Inc. Please refer to the tree protection report for additional detail.

Tree Inventory Data Sheet

Tree #	Species	D.B.H. Inches	Height Feet	Crown Feet	Cond.	Location	Comments	Recommendation	TPZ
7	Valley Oak	7,7	20	15	Fair	West side of Vine St.	Two stem, tree inside construction footprint. Arborist supervision during grading in Critical Root Zone.	Remove	No
10	Valley Oak	29	55	55	Fair	East side of Vine St. at mid project	Tree has major area of included bark in trunk which makes its potential to fail high. Previously marked for removal. Tree is at edge of construction footprint, Arborist supervision during grading in Critical Root Zone.	Remove co-dominant stem leaning over roadway but retain tree.	29'
24	Live Oak	28	30	35	Good	Southwest corner of Vine Street and Caballo.	Tree is at edge of construction footprint. Makes visual barrier for right hand turn off Cabllo. Arborist supervision during grading in Critical Root Zone.	Prune branches hanging over roadway for 15 feet of vertical clearance.	28'

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Removal Recommendations:

Tree 7 is a 14" diameter two-stem valley oak located at the west side of Vine Street approximately ¼ of the way north of 32nd street toward Caballo Road. This tree has a major area of included bark in the trunk which makes it prone to failure. It is located within the grading zone of the project and will impede road construction. This tree should be removed.

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Trimming Recommendations:

Tree 10 is a 29" diameter valley oak located on the east side of Vine Street approximately ½ way between 32nd street and Caballo Road. This tree has a major area of included bark in the trunk which makes it prone to failure. The stem leaning over the roadway should be removed to eliminate the risk of branch failure. Yellow dashed line indicates branch to be removed. No significant grade cuts are planned for this area of road construction. Exploratory excavations in the critical root zone of the roadbed found no significant roots. This tree can be retained.

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Tree 24 is a 28" diameter coast live oak located at the northwest corner of Vine Street and Caballo Road. The tree is at the edge of the construction footprint. No significant grade cuts are planned for this area of road construction. Exploratory excavations in the critical root zone of the roadbed found no significant roots. This tree can be retained. The tree creates a visual barrier down Vine Street for drivers turning south off Caballo Road. Pruning for 15 feet of clearance above the roadway to allow for fire trucks and other large vehicles to pass beneath will be needed. Yellow line in picture below indicates approximate reduction of canopy.

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Root Protection Measures:

A total of 4 native oak trees in this project will potential have their critical root zones (CRZ) impacted due to road construction activities. On August 2nd 2014 root CRZ root excavations were performed using a hydraulic wand and vacuum system. Impacts to the roots were minimal because the hydraulic wand was used to wash away soil in the root-zone rather than using digging tools that could have damaged the roots.

A trench perpendicular to the roots was excavated at the base of the trunk to a depth of 16 inches to look for anchor roots. Another trench was excavated perpendicular to the roots at approximately 4 feet from the trunk at a depth of 16 inches to inspect for anchor roots in the roadway. In general, no roots larger than 1 inch in diameter were found in the actual roadway area where construction will take place. Smaller feeder roots were found in the roadway but not in significant amounts. Due to compaction and fill, the roadbed is not favorable to root growth. I assume that the more viable roots are on the side of the tree opposite the roadway. **See chart on following page for specific findings and recommendations.**

Critical Root Zone Excavation & Inspection				
Tree #	**Species**	**Location**	**Comments**	**Recommendations**
8	Valley oak	East side of Vine St. at Mid project	One root approximately 4 inches in diameter was found at the base of the tree at a depth of 12 inches. Multiple roots ranging from ¼" to ¾" diameter were found in roadbed 4 feet from trunk of tree at a depth of 8 inches below grade. This location has previously bermed soil stacked against its trunk that will be removed. Fill will be applied to the roadbed to a depth of approximately 8". I do not foresee any root damage being caused by grading machinery.	Recommend meandering road around tree for 4' to 6' for clearance from trunk. Arborist supervision during grading or fill activities within the CRZ of this tree. All tree protection measures recommended in the original tree protection plan shall also be implemented.
9	Valley oak	East side of Vine St. at Mid project	Two roots ranging 4 and 6 inches diameter were found at the base of the tree at a depth of 12 inches below grade. Multiple roots ranging from ¼" to ¾" diameter were found in roadbed 4 feet from trunk of tree at a depth of 8 inches below grade. This location has previously bermed soil stacked against its trunk that will be removed. Fill will be applied to the roadbed to a depth of approximately 8". I do not foresee any root damage being caused by grading machinery.	Recommend meandering road around tree for 4' to 6' for clearance from trunk. Arborist supervision during grading or fill activities within the CRZ of this tree. All tree protection measures recommended in the original tree protection plan shall also be implemented.

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Critical Root Zone Excavation & Inspection				
Tree #	**Species**	**Location**	**Comments**	**Recommendations**
10	Valley oak	East side of Vine St. at Mid project	Two roots ranging 4 and 6 inches diameter of were found at the base of the tree at a depth of 16 inches below grade. Inspections for roots were performed in the roadbed approximately 6 feet front the trunk of the tree and no roots were found. This location will have fill applied to the roadbed to a depth of approximately 8". I do not foresee any root damage being caused by grading machinery.	Recommend meandering road around tree for 4' to 6' for clearance from trunk. Arborist supervision during grading or fill activities within the CRZ of this tree. All tree protection measures recommended in the original tree protection plan shall also be implemented.
22	Valley oak	West side of Vine St. ¾ distance north of 32nd St. toward Caballo.	Excavations were made 4 feet from the trunk in the roadbed. No roots measuring larger than 1/8 inch diameter were found. This location will have fill applied to the roadbed to a depth of approximately 8". I do not foresee any root damage being caused by grading machinery.	Recommend meandering road around tree for 4' to 6' for clearance from trunk. Arborist supervision during grading or fill activities within the CRZ of this tree. All tree protection measures recommended in the original tree protection plan shall also be implemented.
24	Coast live oak	Southwest corner of Vine Street and Caballo.	Excavations were made 4 feet from the trunk in the roadbed. No roots measuring larger than 1/8 inch diameter were found. This location will have fill applied to the roadbed to a depth of approximately 6". I do not foresee any root damage being caused by grading machinery.	Recommend meandering road around tree for 4' to 6' for clearance from trunk. Arborist supervision during grading or fill activities within the CRZ of this tree. All tree protection measures recommended in the original tree protection plan shall also be implemented.

Sincerely,

Rodney D. Thurman
ISA Certified Arborist PN-2684AUM
ISA Tree Risk Assessor Qualification

Exhibit A

1"=100'

LEGEND

- OAK TREE TO REMAIN
- OAK TREE TO BE TRIMMED
- OAK TREE TO BE REMOVED

NOTE:
ONLY OAK TREES ARE SHOWN. ALL NON-NATIVE SPECIES WITHIN THE PROJECT LIMITS WILL BE REMOVE PER ARBORIST'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

VINE STREET ROADWAY EXTENSION PROJECT
LOCATIONS OF EXISTING OAK TREES AND
ARBORIST'S RECOMMENDATIONS
PASO ROBLES,
AUGUST 20

Stantec
111 East Victoria Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Phone: (805) 963-9532

A&T ARBORISTS
CERTIFIED ARBORISTS
Contractor Lic.#906700

8-16-2017

Freda Berman, City of Paso Robles

Re: Dead Tree Report along Scott Street

This report is in regard to the seven dead oak trees consisting of three live oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*), and four blue oaks (*Quercus douglasii*) located in the park that borders Scott Street in Paso Robles. The trees are not numbered but they are discussed in a general west to east orientation.

The three live oaks are all in a cluster with diameters of 23, 12, and 16 inches. There are obvious signs of what we believe are ambrosia beetles (*Monarthrum scutellare*). We occasionally see trees that have been killed by these beetles that bore into the vascular cambium, lay eggs and the larvae kill the tree. They tend to attack trees that have been weakened by stress due to construction or drought. Obviously, no construction has occurred at this site so drought stress is most likely the cause. Many times, a nearby tree will not have any damage from them even though they killed an adjacent tree.

The fourth tree is a blue oak that is 12 inches in diameter. It is hard to determine what may have killed this tree but there are a lot of ground squirrel holes at the base of the tree. The squirrels will chew on the moist roots for water during the hot months. This easily could have weakened the tree to the point of death.

The fifth tree is a 13 inch blue oak that was very heavily suppressed under another healthier tree. In the past, the entire top was pruned off possible due to being verticle at about four to five feet off of the ground. There was little to no foliage left for photosynthesis and it died. Not uncommon for a small tree under the canopy of a large one.

The sixth tree is also a blue oak of 22 inches diameter. The death of this tree is a bit more of a mystery. There is a large trunk wound on the east side near ground level. This could have led to death by oak root fungus (*Armalaria sp*). Other than that, there are not other outer signs that could have caused the death.

The seventh tree is a small 6 inch diameter blue oak. Looked like a healthy tree. Possibly died due to a smaller root system during th drought. Otherwise, unknown.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Photos will follow on a separate file.

Chip Tamagni
Certified Arborist #WE 6436-A
California State Pest Control Advisor #75850
Certified Hazard Risk Assessor #1209
Cal Poly B.S. Forestry and Natural Resources Management

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August 18, 2017

Re: Tree Health Assessment for Nate Wyatt, 270 Scott Street, Paso Robles, CA

To: Nate Wyatt- City of Paso Robles Parks and Landscape Department

From: Rodney Thurman- Whit's Turn Tree Care

Mr. Wyatt,

Per your request, this letter is to inform you of the current tree health and structural stability of one (1) blue oak (*Quercus douglasii)* located at 270 Scott Street – City of Paso Robles Senior Center. I visited the location on July 21, 2017 and did a ground based inspection of the tree and found the following:

Observations:

- The tree was a single stem with a ***diameter at standard height (DSH),** measured at 4.5 feet above ground level, of 50 inches. The tree height was approximately 60 feet with a ***crown** spread of approximately 60 feet. See Appendix A- Photo1.
- The ree was located 30 feet to the southeast, rear corner of the senior center. See Appendix A- Photo1.
- The tree was within striking distance of the senior center.
- The ***canopy** was declining, indicated by some branches not being fully leafed-out and live crown at approximately 50% of normal. See Appendix A- Photo1.
- I observed recent and past large ***scaffold** branch failures due to large areas decay. See Appendix A- Photos1-3.
- There was root decay indicated by white fungus at the ***root-crown** on the west side of the tree. See Appendix A- Photo 4.
- I observed large areas of shedding and dead bark on the lower trunk at west side of tree. See Appendix A- Photo 5.
- Multiple cankers and bark shedding throughout the tree in scaffold branches. See Appendix A- Photo 6.

Discussion:

This tree is in severe decline. Fruiting fungal structures at the root crown, cankers and shedding bark on the main trunk and scaffold branches of this tree indicate root rot and vascular disease.

* indicates glossary term listed in Appendix B

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The main issue with the tree is a Phytopthora fungal infection, which is blocking the vascular system of the tree and causing areas of the tree, including large branches, to die or decline. Recent scaffold failures occurred in July 2017. I also observed older scaffold branch failures. Remaining branches are in similar condition as previously failed branches and have a high likelihood of failing.

A secondary fungal infection caused by oak root fungus (*Armillaria mellea)* a know decomposer of roots is also contributing to root rot. Root rot has begun to decay anchor roots and makes the tree prone to complete failure.

The presence of fungal infections has compromised this tree to point that pruning cannot mitigate the hazard potential.

Recommendation: This tree is diseased beyond correction and should be removed as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Rodney D. Thurman
ISA Certified Arborist PN 2684AUM
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification

Appendices: Photographs, Glossary of Terms

* indicates glossary term listed in Appendix B

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Appendix A- Photos

Photo 1- View of tree from southeast. Scaffold failures indicated by yellow circles.

* indicates glossary term listed in Appendix B

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Photo 2- Recent scaffold failure- July 2017- Indicated by yellow circle.

* indicates glossary term listed in Appendix B

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Photo 3- Older scaffold -branch failure indicated by yellow circle.

* indicates glossary term listed in Appendix B

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Photo 4- Fruiting fungal bodies at root crown indicated by yellow circle

* indicates glossary term listed in Appendix B

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Photo 5- Shedding bark on lower trunk indicates root rot and vascular disease.

* indicates glossary term listed in Appendix B

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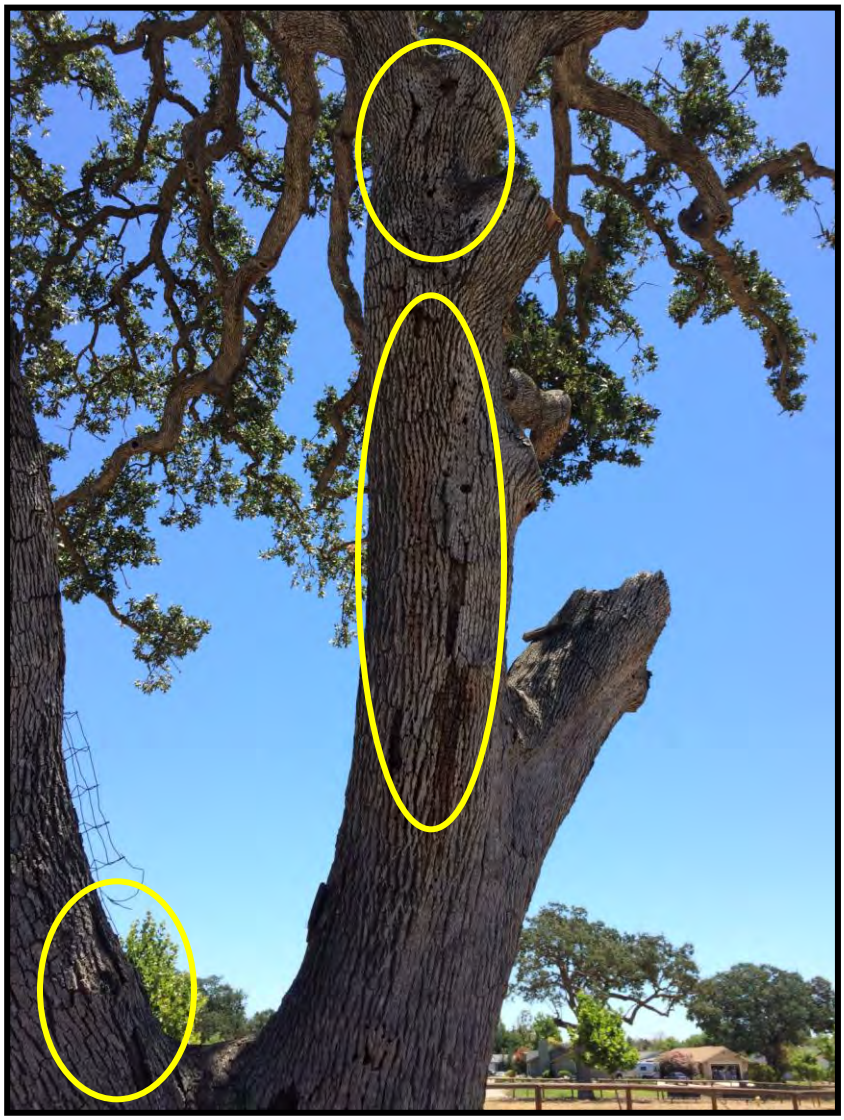

Photo 6- Canker and shedding bark on scaffold branch indicated by yellow circles. Cankers are caused by Phytopthora fungus.

* indicates glossary term listed in Appendix B

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Appendix 2- Glossary of Terms

- **Canopy-** Collective branches and foliage of a tree or group of trees' crowns. Aggregate or collective tree crowns.
- **Crown-** Upper part of a tree, measured from the lowest branch, including all the branches and foliage.
- **Diameter at Standard Height (DSH) -** Diameter of trunk measured at 4.5 feet above ground level.
- **Root Crown-** Area where the main roots join the plant stem, usually at or near ground level. Root collar.
- **Scaffold-** Pertaining to tree architecture or form, a strong and properly spaced arrangement, framework, or system of branches throughout the crown

* indicates glossary term listed in Appendix B