



Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council

Jane Nye (Chair)
Alon Glickstein (Vice Chair)
Seema Chandra
JL Diaz
Janice Smets

November 3, 2021

Chairman Brian Dennert
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Board of Directors
4201 Guardian Street
Simi Valley, California 93063

Re: Heritage Tree at Mae Boyar Park

Dear Chairman Dennert,

The Oak Park Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) would like the RSRPD Board to consider the non-removal of the Canary Island Pine tree adjacent to Mae Boyar Park (Tree #1). The Oak Park MAC, in partnership with the community, would like Tree #1 to remain and be kept as-is. Please consider:

- This Heritage Tree is healthy and provides natural shade for residents of Oak Park.
- Per the arborist report, it is a tree in "fair condition." With this assessment, we would like to bring to your attention the policies of the 2040 General Plan calling for the "protection of healthy trees and existing tree canopies, and encouraging the planting of shade trees, to reduce radiation heat production." Keeping the tree is consistent with the plan of Ventura County and general urban greening techniques to offset climate change impacts and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Ventura County standards on sidewalks are currently proposed for revision to protect mature trees, based on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors' decisive vote at their October 2021 meeting. That vote clearly indicates support for finding ways to avoid the removal of the Mae Boyar tree.
- There are ways to address complaints pertaining to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). One known method is to adjust the sidewalk to serpentine around the base of the tree.
- The cost provided to retain the tree and repair the sidewalk for \$39,000.00 is being re-evaluated. Ventura County Staff has been instructed to get new bids and estimates on how we could repair the sidewalk for less than the original estimate. This cost, we believe, would be lower than the estimated cost of cutting the tree for \$15,200.00. The potential savings on this activity alone, should be enough, to merit saving the tree.

Thank you,

Jane Nye, Chair
Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council