

Consulting Arborist's Report

Tree and Palm Evaluation

For: 1314 Le Borgne Avenue, Baldwin Park

Prepared for: **Mr. Storm Bird**
Storm Properties, Inc
970 W. 190th Street, Suite 995
Torrance, CA 90502

Prepared by: **Arborgate Consulting, Inc.**
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Table of Contents

Summary	1
Introduction.....	2
Assignment	2
Background.....	2
Report	3
General Findings.....	3
Matrix of Findings	3
Analysis	4
Recommendations.....	8
Removal Recommendations	8
Pruning Recommendations	9
Appendix	10
A. Resume:	11
B. Photographs.....	12
C. Glossary.....	24
Disclaimer.....	26
Certification.....	27

Summary

Storm Properties is proposing to develop a multi-family project on this 5-acre site. They have requested a tree study/inventory for the site. The actual construction plans and related grading is not defined at the time of writing this report. The only trees on site that are not common weed trees a carrotwood and a Shamel ash, and regardless, they are probably “volunteers”. The carrotwood is below a large ash tree on the adjoining property. Most likely the seed was dropped by a bird sitting in the ash. The other “volunteer” is a Shamel ash just outside the school’s fence. Ash seeds are winged and travel long distances in the wind. The other weed trees here are Brazil peppers, mulberries, and Mexican fan palms.

None of the trees or palms have been trained or maintained. The palms are all full-skirted to the ground. The “skirts” a composed of dead fronds. The one Mexican fan palm with a mostly clear trunk has reached the age when fronds are naturally shed. The peppers and mulberries are just large bushes with branches and foliage to the ground.

Brazil peppers are listed as one of California’s and the world’s most invasive species. These have grown mostly supported by water from the adjoining properties, especially the nursery along the northwest edge. The two mulberries are also along this wetter edge.

Most of the Mexican fan palms, Shamel ash, carrotwood, Brazil peppers and mulberries are in good health. The Mexican fan palms probably have good, but hidden trunks, but the structural condition of the trees is poor and unusable in an ordinary landscape.

Introduction

Assignment

Arborgate Consulting is retained to provide an arboricultural evaluation of about 30 trees' health and condition, professional opinions on their preservation, and report as appropriate for the City of Baldwin Park. Each tree over 4-inch caliper will be measured and evaluated and included in a formal report. If appropriate, recommendations will be made to preserve any suitable trees.

Background

Storm Properties proposes to build a multi-family project on this 5-acre site. Most, if not all, of these trees are weed trees, sprouted from bird dropped seed around the edges of the property. The site appears to be connected with the adjoining school site. The City requires a permit to substantially prune or remove the trees, and their standards are controlling this reporting. Per City requirements, “a suitable replacement tree in terms of species and ultimate size will be planted within six months after the permitted removal of the subject trees.” Before removing the trees in this report, contact the City of Baldwin Park Department at (626-813-5261).

Report

General Findings

The numbering of the trees runs consecutively and counter-clockwise, from south-east corner to the north east corner, then along the north edge adjoining the nursery, to the northwest corner by the school.

Matrix of Findings

All the “trees” at risk from the planned construction are listed below.

Tag	Species	DBH	Ht.	Wd.	Health	Structure	Roots	Comments
1	Cupaniopsis anacardioides	6”	20	18	B	C-	1sRF	by wall, sup under neighbor's ash
2	Schinus terebinthifolius	bush	20	30	A	D	1s	on PL. Foliage to the ground
3	Washingtonia robusta		20'th	12	B	A	covered	dead fronds to the ground
4	Washingtonia robusta		17'th	12	B	A	covered	dead fronds to the ground
5	Washingtonia robusta		20'th	12	B	A	covered	dead fronds to the ground

Tag	Species	DBH	Ht.	Wd.	Health	Structure	Roots	Comments
6	Schinus terebinthifolius	bush	20	20	B	D	covered	Foliage to the ground
7	Morus alba	bush	20	20	B	D	covered	Foliage to the ground
8	Morus alba	bush	20	20	B	D	covered	Foliage to the ground
9	Schinus terebinthifolius	bush	20	20	B	D	covered	Foliage to the ground
10	Schinus terebinthifolius	bush	20	20	B	D	covered	Foliage to the ground
11	Schinus terebinthifolius	bush	26	80	B	D	covered	Foliage to the ground
12	Washingtonia robusta		70'th	12	B	A	okay	Self cleaning
13	Schinus terebinthifolius	bush	24	30	B	D	covered	Foliage to the ground
14	Schinus terebinthifolius	bush	20	20	B	D	covered	Foliage to the ground
15	Schinus terebinthifolius	bush	16	20	B	D	covered	Foliage to the ground
16	Schinus terebinthifolius	bush	16	20	B	D	covered	Foliage to the ground
17	Schinus terebinthifolius	bush	15	15	B	D	covered	Foliage to the ground
18	Washingtonia robusta		10'th	12	B	A	covered	dead fronds to the ground
19	Fraxinus uhdei	23 @ 1'	55	40	B	C-	shallow	Cod inc Low branched
20	Washingtonia robusta		28'th	12	B	A	covered	dead fronds to the ground
21	Washingtonia robusta		28'th	12	B	A	covered	dead fronds to the ground

DBH = diameter at breast height (4.5')

Palms are measured by trunk height, not DBH

Abbreviations used in the matrix

In the matrix above and below the following abbreviations are used. Arboricultural terms are defined in the glossary found in the appendix of this report. Abbreviations preceded by an "m" mean it's a minor defect.

1s = one sided
 Cod = codominant
 PL = property line

1sRF = one-sided root flare
 Inc = included bark
 Sup = suppressed

Tree Map



Analysis

As one example of the invasiveness of Brazil peppers, the Newport Beach Back Bay (20190220_Central Reserve Plan) lists Brazil pepper first on their invasives list. Their management plan first calls to “Remove weeds (peppertrees) & restore historical salt marsh”. They describe *Schinus terebinthifolius* as • Weedy evergreen tree or shrub • Red/pink fruit clusters easily dispersed by birds • Found by creeks or areas where water is available year-round • Produces many root sprouts when roots are injured, or tree is removed, Cal-IPC rating: Moderate – Alert.



In Florida and Hawaii, it is an even more serious weed, taking over large natural areas. The pepper trees on the subject property are mostly limited to the outer portions of the site because that was their water source.

Mexican fan palm is also listed as an invasive exotic by CAL-IPC. They describe it as:

“*Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican fan palm, is a single-trunked palm tree (family Arecaceae) found in the San Francisco Bay area, southern Sacramento Valley and on California’s south coast. It is native to semi-arid landscapes of northwestern Mexico, including Baja California. Mexican fan palm is a common landscape ornamental that has become invasive in riparian areas, orchards and landscaped areas. It is superficially very similar and hybridizes with California fan palm, *Washingtonia filifera*. It can be distinguished by its more slender trunk, more compact head of leaves, bright green leaf color, and a more red-brownish (versus gray) trunk color. This palm is known to create monospecific stands in riparian areas, and dead fronds of the tree can create a fire hazard. The species can be controlled relatively easily by pulling seedlings, cutting trunks below their growing point, and with drill-and-fill trunk application of herbicide.

Cal-IPC Rating: Moderate — Alert”

Recommendations

Removal Recommendations

The existing “trees” are plants considered to be trees based on potential height and being “woody” plants. Therefore, palms are not truly trees, since they do not produce real wood. The typical definition of “tree” is an arborescent woody plant, with a single or few trunks near the base, over 15’ in height. Most of the peppers and mulberries on this site and less than 15-feet in height, but those over 15-feet in height are included herein.

Due to their lack of training and suitability for landscape use, they are not recommended for retention. While the palms *may* have use in the new landscape, they are remarkably inexpensive. The cost of digging, moving to a temporary location, and moving them back into a suitable landscape location is more than the cost of buying and planting new ones. Since we do not know at this time if there is a good use for them in the new landscape, it is even less reasonable to dig, store and replant them. Also, it is unlikely to be a good landscaping choice due to the cost and risk of semi-annual trimming, and the lack of scale for what becomes a 100-foot tall palm.

Brazil Pepper Management Recommendations

Due to the extreme likelihood that seed and pieces of the roots will sprout in the new landscape, a combination of early herbicide use and removal are warranted. Monitoring and controlling their sprouting and regrowth will be expensive, if their removal and control is not diligent. Management includes: Controlling Brazilian peppertree, *Schinus terebinthifolius*, infestations requires a combination of methods due to its aggressive nature. Here are some effective strategies:

1. Mechanical Control:

- **Manual Removal:** Uprooting the entire plant, including the root system, is crucial to prevent regrowth¹. This method is labor-intensive but effective for small infestations.
- **Cutting and Mulching:** Cutting down the trees and applying mulch can help suppress regrowth². However, any remaining roots can lead to regrowth, so this method often needs to be combined with other strategies.

2. Chemical Control:

- **Herbicides:** Effective herbicides include bromacil, diuron, hexazinone, triclopyr, and glyphosate¹. These should be applied carefully to avoid harming non-target plants.
- **Foliar Sprays:** Applying herbicides directly to the leaves can be effective, especially for larger infestations³.
- ¹. This method is essential, but overspray onto the neighbor's or nursery plants is a significant risk.

3. Integrated Management:

- Combining mechanical, chemical, and biological methods often yields the best results⁵. For example, initial mechanical removal followed by herbicide application and monitoring for regrowth can be effective.

Implementing these strategies requires careful planning and monitoring to ensure long-term success.

Both the ash and the carrotwood are known to have roots that are destructive to paving. Also, both have weak structures. They should be removed as well.

Pruning Recommendations

Do not prune these trees or cut back any of these trees to make them “fit”. It is only likely to cause more growth and possibly root sprouts, thus spreading the plants further.

Appendix

A. Resume

B. Photographic Documentation

C. Glossary

A. Resume: Greg Applegate, RCA #365

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS:

American Society of Consulting Arborists #365
American Society of Consulting Arborists, Tree & Plant Appraisal Qualified
American Society of Landscape Architects, emeritus member
International Society of Arboriculture, Certified Arborist Number WE-0180a
International Society of Arboriculture, Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

EXPERIENCE:

Mr. Applegate is CEO of Arborgate Consulting, Inc. and principal consulting arborist. He has been in the horticulture field since 1963, providing professional arboricultural consulting since 1984 within both private and public sectors. His expertise includes appraisal, tree preservation, diagnosis of growth problems, construction impact mitigation, expert witness work, tree risk assessment, pruning supervision and specifications, species selection and construction monitoring.

Mr. Applegate has consulted for insurance companies, campuses, developers, theme parks, homeowners, homeowners' associations, landscape architects and contractors, property managers, attorneys and government.

Notable projects on which he has consulted are: Disneyland, Disneyland Hotel, DisneySeas-Tokyo, Disney's Wild Animal Kingdom, the New Tomorrowland, Disney's California Adventure, Disney Hong Kong project, Knott's Berry Farm, J. Paul Getty Museums, Tustin Ranch, Newport Coast, Crystal Court, Newport Fashion Island Palms, Playa Vista, MTA Expo and Purple Lines, MWD-California Lakes, Loyola-Marymount campus, Cal Tech, Cal State Long Beach, Pierce College, The Irvine Concourse, UCI, USC, UCLA, LA City College, LA Trade Tech, Riverside City College, Crafton Hills College, MTA projects, and the State of California review of the Landscape Architecture License exam (re: plant materials)

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona 1973
Arboricultural Consulting Academy (by ASCA) Arbor-Day Farm, Kansas City 1995
Continuing Education Courses in Arboriculture, required to maintain Certified Arborist status and for ASCA membership

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Emeritus Member
American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA), Registered Member
ASCA web site, west coast tree question responder (2007 -2018)
International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), Certified Member
California Tree Failure Report Program, UC Davis, Participant
Street Tree Seminar (STS), Member

COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS:

ASCA, Industry definitions committee and A3G committee 2009-2012
Landscape Architecture License Exam, Reviewer, Cal Poly Pomona 1986-1990
American Institute of Landscape Architects (L.A.) Board of Directors 1980-1982
California Landscape Architect Student Scholarship Fund - Chairman 1985
International Society of Arboriculture - Examiner-tree worker certification 1990
California Oak Foundation, Member (2009 and continuing)
International Palm Society (IPS), Member (1977 and continuing)
Guest lecturer at UCLA, UCI, Cal Poly, Saddleback College, & Palomar Junior College

C. Photographs



Most of the adjoining neighbors have few overhanging trees and few adjoining weed trees.



Tree #1 is a carrotwood, with competing mature ivy and the neighbor's Shamel ash overhanging it.



Pepper #2 and Mexican fan palms #3, 4 and 5 – Note full skirts to the ground.



Pepper #6 and mulberries #7 and 8 – full to the ground and no trunks.



Peppers #9, 10 and 11, with Mexican fan palm #12 at the left. Note beginning of self-cleaning stage.



Mexican fan palms #12 and peppers #13 and 14 – full to the ground and no trunks.



#15, 16 and 17 (right to left) peppers are full to the ground and have no trunks.



#18 Mexican fan palm and #19 Shamel ash.



Mexican fan palms #20 and 21



Unlisted peppers and Chinese elm.



Unlisted peppers are too small to require inclusion.



Trees of heaven are also weed trees, but below the south edge.



Trees of heaven are also weed trees, but off-site.



Below the south edge of the site are mostly tree-of-heaven weed trees.

D. Glossary

Arboricultural	Pertaining to the awareness, care, evaluation, identification, growing, maintenance, management, planting, selection, treatment, understanding, valuation and so forth of trees and other woody plants and their growing environments, particularly in shade and ornamental (non-crop/commodity) settings.
Arborist	A person possessing the technical competence through experience and related training to provide for or supervise the management of trees or other woody plants in a landscape setting.
ASCA	The American Society of Consulting Arborists, Inc. a professional society, as described in its by-laws.
Bark	Tissue on the outside of the vascular cambium. Bark is usually divided into inner bark - active phloem and aging and dead crushed phloem - and outer bark.
Canopy	The live, foliage-bearing part of a tree.
Codominant	Leaders equal in size and relative importance, developed from 2 apical buds at the top of a stem. Each codominant stem is an extension of the stem below it. There are no branch collars or trunk collars at the bases of codominant stems.
Compaction	(Soil Compaction) The compression of soil, causing a reduction of pore space and an increase in the bulk density of the soil. Tree roots cannot grow in compacted soil.
Crotch	The union of two or more branches; the axillary zone between branches.
Crown	The upper portions of a tree or shrub, including the main limbs, branches, and twigs.
DBH	Diameter of the trunk, measured at breast height or 54 inches above the average grade. See caliper.
Decay	Progressive deterioration of organic tissues, usually caused by fungal or bacterial organisms, resulting in loss of cell structure, strength, and function. In wood, the loss of structural strength.
Dieback	Progressive death of buds, twigs and branch tissues, on individual limbs, or throughout the canopy.
Dripline	A projected line on the ground that corresponds to the spread of branches in the canopy; the farthest spread of branches.
Foliage	The live leaves or needles of the tree; the plant part primarily responsible for photosynthesis.
Heading	Pruning techniques where the cut is made to a bud, weak lateral branch or stub.

Included bark	Bark or cortex tissue that is included or trapped between close-growing branches. Usually found in narrow or tight crotches.
Limb	A large lateral branch growing from the main trunk.
Lion-tailing	The removal of all, or a great deal of, the inner branches and/or watersprouts from the crown of a tree. Lion's Tailing is not an acceptable pruning practice, see ANSI A-300.10.1.7.
Mature	Plant will respond to flower-inducing conditions, in contrast with juvenile.
Palm	A tropical or subtropical monocotyledonous tree or shrub, usually having a woody, unbranched trunk and large, evergreen, fan-shaped leaves at the top
Pruning:	The selective removal of plant parts to meet specific goals and objectives
Root flare	The flared area at the base of a tree where the roots and trunk merge. Also referred to as the "root crown" or "root collar".
Root system	The portion of the tree containing the root organs, including buttress roots, transport roots, and fine absorbing roots; all underground parts of the tree.
Root zone	The area and volume of soil around the tree in which roots are normally found. May extend to three or more times the branch spread of the tree, or several times the height of the tree.
Scaffold limb	Primary structural branch of the crown.
Species	Taxonomic classification below genus.. 1. A group of plants with common characteristics or consistent differences in morphology, ecology or reproductive behavior, distinct from others of the same genus. 2. The basic unit in plant taxonomy; the Latin binomial consisting of the genus and specific epithet; it is both singular and plural.
Shrub	The name usually given to a relatively short (less than 15 feet) woody plant, with multiple stems arising near the ground.
Trees	An arborescent woody plant, with a single or few trunks near the base
Trunk	The main stem or axis of a tree that is supported and nourished by the roots and to which branches are attached.
Weed	wild-growing, competitive, valueless, unwanted small plant
Weed tree ~	competitive, valueless, unwanted tree

Disclaimer

The best current information on tree evaluation has been applied. However, even when every tree is inspected, inspection involves sampling, therefore some areas of decay or weakness may be missed. Weather, winds and the magnitude and direction of storms are not predictable and some failures may still occur despite the best application of high professional standards. Future tree maintenance will also affect the trees health and stability and is not under the supervision or scrutiny of this consultant. Continuing construction activity such as trenching will also affect the health and safety, but are unknown and unsupervised by this consultant. Trees are living, dynamic organisms and their future status cannot be predicted with complete certainty by any expert. This consultant does not assume liability for any tree failures involved with this project.

Certification

I, Gregory W. Applegate, certify to the best of my knowledge and belief:

That the statements of fact contained in this report are true and correct. That the report analysis, opinions, and conclusions are limited only the reported assumptions and limiting conditions, and are my personal unbiased professional analysis, opinions and conclusions.

That I have no present or prospective interest in the vegetation that is the subject of this report, and I have no personal interest or bias with respect to the parties involved.

That my compensation is not contingent upon a reporting that favors the cause of the client, the attainment of stipulated result, or the occurrence of a subsequent event.

That my analysis, opinions, and conclusions were developed, and this report has been prepared, in conformity with the standards of arboricultural practice.

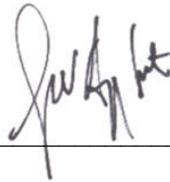
That I have made a personal inspection of the plants that are the subject of this report. No one provided significant professional assistance to the person signing this report.

Arborgate Consulting, Inc.

Gregory W. Applegate, ASCA, ASLA

Registered Consulting Arborist #365

Certified Arborist WE-0180a



Date 8-27-24