



City of El Segundo Recreation, Parks and Library

Internal Memo

Date: February 19, 2025

To: Aly Mancini

From: Christopher Hentzen, Park Maintenance Superintendent

Subject: Pine Tree, Library Park

I am proposing the immediate removal of the Canary Pine at Library Park as seen in Attachment A.

I am recommending removal based on the following factors:

1. Upon inspection by City staff and contracted tree maintenance vendors, it has been determined that the tree is dead.
2. The City's Tree Removal policy outlines criteria for tree removal.
3. The tree presents a safety hazard if not removed.

I have secured recommendations for removal from West Coast Arborists and Timberland which can be reviewed in Attachment B.



February 11, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

After inspection of the Canary Island Pine located at 600 Main St. in El Segundo, I have determined the state of the Pine tree is unsalvageable. Due to the appearance of the browning needles and insect infestation the Pine will not recover.

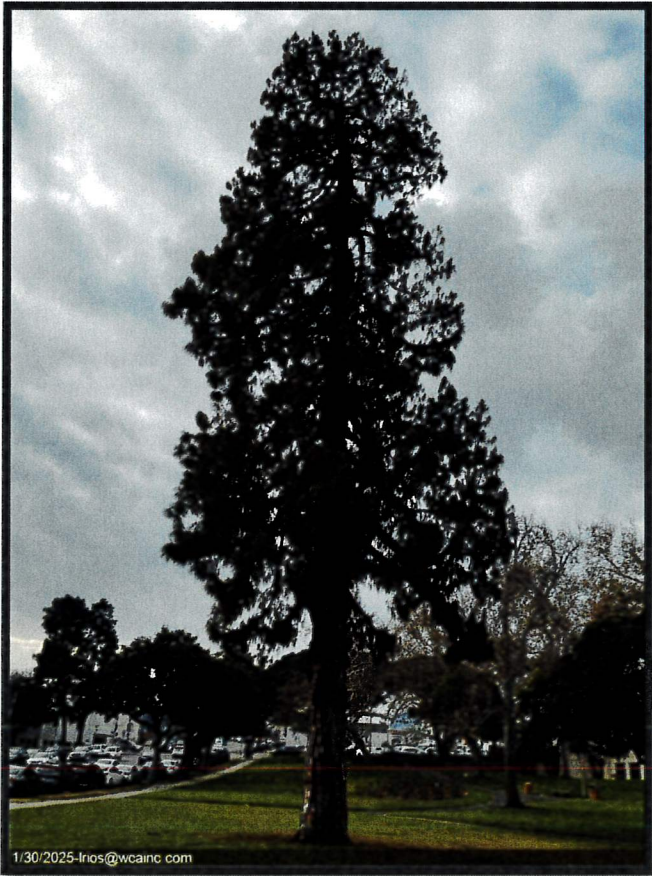
Canary Island Pines can become weak and hazardous with no treatments available to give it the chance to survive. I feel it is best for the safety of guests in the park, that the tree be removed before the possibility of injury or loss of life from falling debris.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Ohnstad", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Timothy J. Ohnstad

WE-6388A



LIBRARY PARK
Certified Arborist Report

SUBMITTED TO:

Santos Haro

Park & Tree Maintenance Supervisor
Parks and Recreation Department
City of El Segundo

PREPARED BY:

Lisette A. Rios

Urban Biologist

ISA Certified Arborist WE-15480A

Certified Associate Ecologist, ESA-213290



February 19th, 2025





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BACKGROUND AND ASSIGNMENT

At the request of Santos Haro, Park & Tree Maintenance Supervisor from the city of El Segundo, West Coast Arborists, Inc (WCA) was contracted to provide arborist services in the form of a general health assessment of one Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*) tree. Following the approval of the proposal for arborist services, Lissette Rios of WCA visited the sites on January 30th, 2025, to do a general health assessment and collect laboratory samples.

The scope of work for the requested arborist services as provided in proposal # 94438:

- Visually inspect and provide a general health assessment of one pine tree.
 - General health assessment is defined as standards set for a basic health evaluation: a 360-degree ground evaluation of the tree flare, above-ground roots, trunk, and crown, as well as surrounding site conditions.
 - ***This report is not a risk assessment.***
- Produce one summary certified arborist report detailing the trees' conditions
- Update all relevant information, including images, in Arbor Access.
- Collect samples as needed for pathology, insect and disease identification, and creation of Arbor Access treatment list, if applicable.
- The tree will have its maintenance recommendation in Arbor Access updated.

GENERAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The subject trees were each given a general health evaluation. The criterion for evaluating the trees comes from Arbor Access methodology and the 10th Edition 2nd Printing of the Guide for Plant Appraisal (refer to [Appendix D](#) Health Conditions).

This level of assessment involves a ground-based, visual inspection of the trees including the surrounding site and a synthesis of the information collected. Each individual tree was visually assessed from ground-level, in order to identify obvious defects or specified conditions. A limited visual assessment, performed from each side, typically looks for obvious defects such as dead trees, large cavity cracks, and severe or uncorrected leans. In addition, we also assessed the trees for certain conditions of concern, such as lethal pest or symptoms associated with root decay. The purpose of this method is to assess general health, structural conditions, and give recommendations for tree health care, mitigation, or further assessment.

The tree's inventory includes updated site details, recommended maintenance, priority level, condition, and plant health concerns. All recommended maintenance types, site types, and priority ratings can be queried via AA. Where applicable, images were taken of trees, and these are visible via AA. Maps are provided on [page 8](#) showing the locations of those trees discussed in this summary report; these can also be generated



via AA, allowing for more detail to be viewed. Inspections were conducted via walking the listed locations and identifying trees via WCA Mobile, which updates Arbor Access. Updated information included condition, plant health concern, recommended maintenance, and priority of work.

OBSERVATIONS

The inspected tree included one Canary Island Pine tree (P-40) which began to exhibit signs of decline in May 2024 per the use of google earth satellite imagery and verbal confirmation from the city. The focus of this general health assessment was to report on the overall health and provide maintenance recommendations. The majestic 95-year-old pine tree is over 60 ft tall and has a DBH of 42 inches, it is situated at Library Park, near Main Street in a grassy open space. Unfortunately, the majority of the canopy, approximately 80%, is dead and the tree will most likely not regain health.

When the trees' lower trunk, 4ft upward from the base, was sounded with a carpenter's mallet, tonal differences were observed. This, coupled with the peeling bark and slight swelling of the trunk indicates possible decay. The surrounding grass lawn appears to be inconsistently irrigated per the aggregates of dead grass observed and when probed with a moisture meter. Upon observation through the use of binoculars and a hand-held lens, no frass or holes, due to wood-boring insects was apparent. During sampling of the lower limbs, I observed blue staining and cankerous tissue in cross section cuts and upon laboratory analysis, blue-stain fungi was confirmed.

Additionally, upon investigation utilizing Arbor Access, Canary Island Pine P-32, about 50 feet or so to the northwest of the subject tree P-40 appeared to be in decline in 2019 and was removed in March 2023. It started with scattered dying branches that later became canopy-wide yellowing, severe thinning and death. On P-40 (subject tree) I did not observe frass from bark beetle damage, so the suspect is internal decay of the roots or lower trunk tissue coupled with my observations above.

There are multiple kinds of root diseases that can be transmitted through root grafts from adjacent trees. P-40's (subject tree) roots were very likely intertwined with P-32's. The park graded that P-32 was in an area where copious amounts of water accumulated at its base and the soil is probably poorly drained. The park slopes from west to east towards Main St. and P-40 is not much higher than the previous P-32, it is a little lower in fact, so water accumulation is highly likely and as such:

- It could be *Armillaria* root rot, which is entirely possible after two very wet winters which left the soil saturated for long periods of time, perfect for root rot.
- *Phytophthora* is possible or
- It could also be something more uncommon like *Heterobasidion* root disease



Further investigation of the roots and viewing the tissue when the tree is removed is highly recommended, especially if it was a root rot in combination with a fungal problem like blue stain fungi. It would be necessary to get a better understanding of the cause. If Blue Stain fungi was present but not vigorous enough to kill it, then root rot may have been the culprit.

SUMMARY DISCUSSION & MITIGATION

The customer inventory portal, Arbor Access, has been updated to reflect the tree condition and maintenance type. Based on the observations provided in this report, the following maintenance recommendations are offered:

- **REMOVAL- DEAD TREE OR DISEASED/DECLINING TREE**
 - The tree should be prioritized for removal as it is dead or in severe stages of disease/decline and not expected to regain health.
 - Due to the manner in which the decline progressed and to confirm if root rot was a culprit, I would need to examine the roots at the time of removal.

The controlling authority will need to determine which recommended maintenance options to employ and is responsible for all scheduling of such work. All tree work shall comply with current industry standards and specifically the criteria provided in the *ISA Best Management Practices, ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards*.

The intent of this report is to provide as complete and unbiased an opinion as possible regarding the current health and condition of the specific tree discussed above. I anticipate that the information provided is sufficient to enable management staff to make necessary decisions regarding the maintenance of these trees. However, should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (714) 783-5457.

Respectfully,

Lisette Alexandra Rios

Lisette A. Rios

Urban Biologist

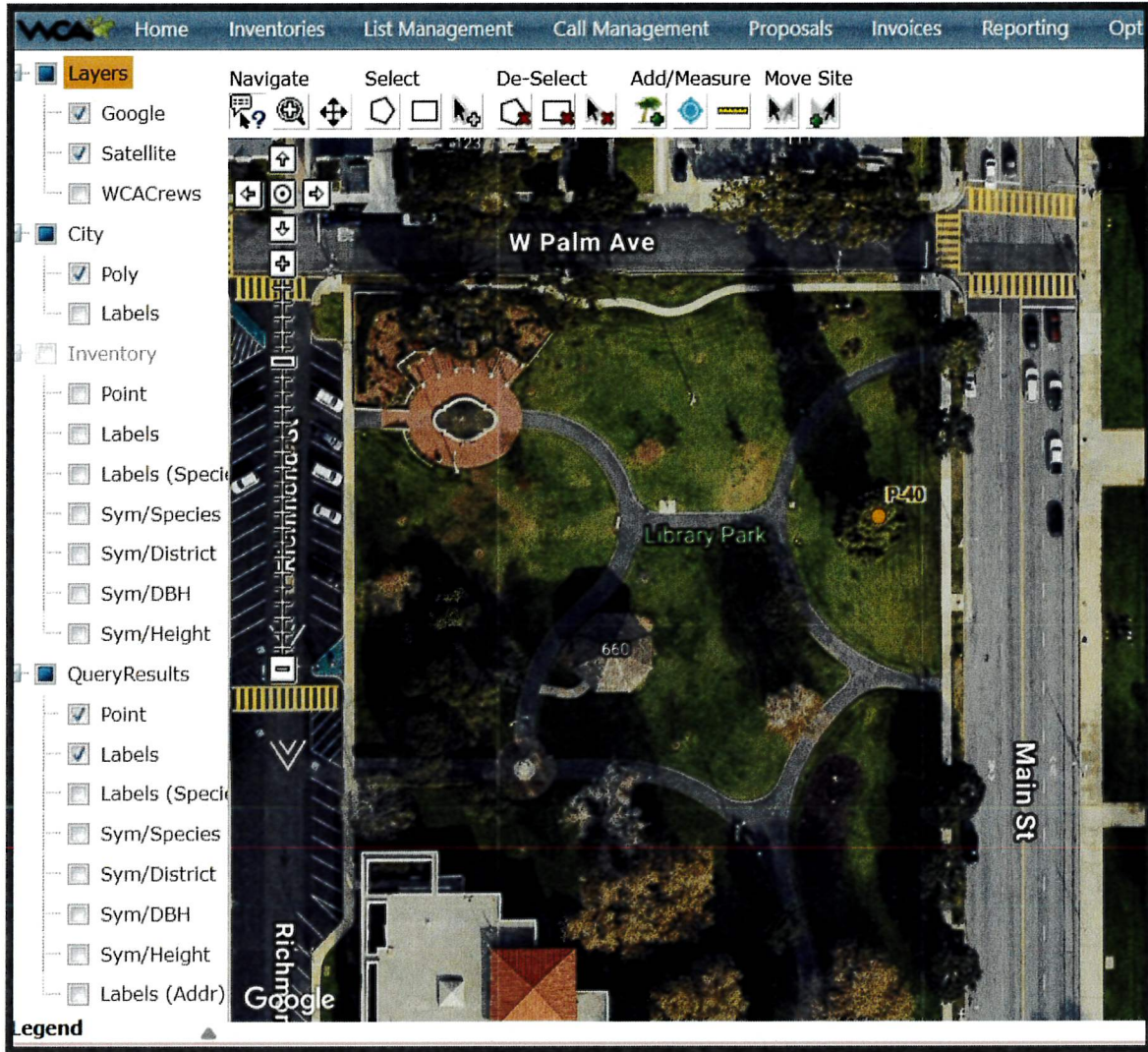
ISA Certified Arborist WE-15480A

Certified Associate Ecologist ESA-213290

Master of Environmental Management (M.E.M)

SITE MAPS

Map 1: The location of the subject tree P-40 at Library Park.



APPENDIX A – LABORATORY REPORT

Plant Pulse Diagnostics^{LLC}

3081 E La Jolla Street Unit B, Anaheim, CA



Anaheim Office
Path No. 25-0046
February 17, 2025

West Coast Arborist
2200 E. Via Burton
Anaheim, CA 92806

Attn: Kelly and Lisette

PATHOLOGY SCREENING: CANARY ISLAND PINE – EL SEGUNDO PROJECT (P.O. #87981)

Final lab results are provided here for some representative tissue samples belonging to an ailing pine (*Pinus canariensis*) tree located in the general landscape at the above referenced project. As requested, these tissues were screened for possible pathogens.

Upon arrival, our lab conducted an initial examination which included microscopy work to detect any signs of pest infestations or internal vascular staining. Blue-gray staining and traditional cankerous tissue were observed on the submitted pine logs and, following the preliminary inspection, these were plated separately along with provide root tissue. Pine needle and tip material were additionally subjected to a controlled moist chamber environment to stimulate potential fungal sporulation.

Culture Plate and Microscopy Results

Sample ID	Pathogens Isolated
Blue stained tissue	<i>Neofusicoccum</i> spp.
Cankeros tissue	<i>Neofusicoccum</i> spp.
Needles and tips	None detected
Roots	None detected



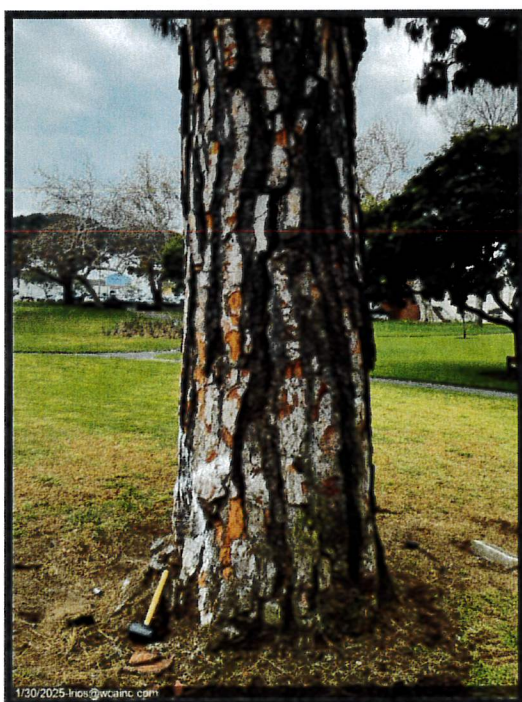
West Coast Arborist
February 17, 2025

As requested, these results are provided without commentary or recommendations.

Please call if you have any questions.

Nicolas Torres,
Pathology Technician

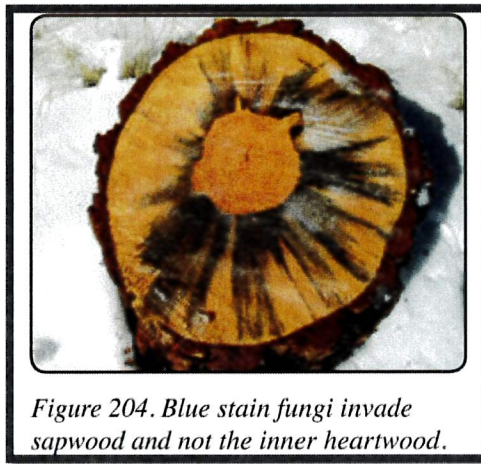
APPENDIX B - SAMPLE PHOTOS



Images 1-4. Sample photos of the subject tree, P-40, additional photos can be found in Arbor Access.

APPENDIX C- SPECIES PROFILE

Blue stain fungi are carried by bark beetles and other wood inhabiting insects and are associated with tree mortality. They are mostly blue-staining and primarily from the genera *Ophiostoma* and *Ceratocystis*. The spores germinate and produce a mycelium (thread-like mass) that colonizes the phloem and sapwood, eventually blocking the water-conducting columns of the tree. The formation of a wedge-shaped stain is due to movement of hyphae along the rays from the outside of a log. Stain fungi often hasten the death of trees attacked by bark beetles. The stain may result in a reduction in the value of timber or timber products by discoloring sapwood but does not affect wood strength.



APPENDIX D – HEALTH & CONDITION COMPONENTS

Health & Condition components				
Rating category	Health	Structure	Form	Percent rating
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 symmetric. Consistent with the intended use.	81% to 100%
Good	Vigor is normal for the species. No significant damage due to diseases or pests. Any twig dieback, defoliation, or discoloration is minor.	Well-developed structure. Defects are minor and can be corrected.	Minor asymmetries and/or deviations from species norm. Mostly consistent with the intended use. Function and aesthetics are not compromised.	61% to 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, and/or dead branches may comprise up to 50% of the crown.	A single defect of a significant nature or multiple moderate defects. Defects are not practical to correct or require multiple treatments over several years.	Major asymmetries and/or deviations from species norm or intended use. Function or aesthetics are compromised.	41% to 60%
Poor	Unhealthy and declining in appearance. Poor vigor. Low foliage density and poor foliage color are present. Potentially fatal pest infestation. Extensive twig and/or branch dieback.	A single serious defect, or <i>multiple significant defects</i> . Recent change in tree orientation. Observed structural problems cannot be corrected. Failure may occur at any time.	Largely asymmetric and/or abnormal. Detracts from intended use and/or aesthetics to a significant degree.	21% to 40%
Very Poor	Poor vigor. Appears to be dying and in the last stages of life. Little live foliage.	Single or multiple severe defects. Failure is probable or imminent.	Visually unappealing. Provides little or no function in the landscape.	6% to 20%
Dead				0% to 5%
<i>This table is taken from the Guide for Plant Appraisal, 10th Edition.</i>				



REFERENCES

Blue stain fungi - a field guide to insects and diseases of AZ and NM forests. (n.d.).
https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5195353.shtml

Council of Tree & Landscape Appraisers, Guide for Plant Appraisal, 10th Edition, 2nd Printing. International Society of Arboriculture, 2019. Print.

Lilly, Sharon J., Edward F. Gilman, and E. Thomas Smiley. Best Management Practices: Tree Pruning (Third Edition). Illinois: International Society of Arboriculture, 2019. Print

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, the Consultant can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of the information supplied by others. Standard of Care has been met with regards to this project within reasonable and normal conditions.
2. The Consultant will not be required to give testimony or to attend court by reason of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of an additional fee for such services as described in the fee schedule and contract of engagement.
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 a right to publication or use for any purpose by any other than the person to whom it is addressed without the prior written consent of the Consultant.
5. This report and any values expressed herein represent the opinion of the Consultant, and the Consultant's fee is in no way contingent upon the reporting of a stipulated result, a specified value, the occurrence of a subsequent event, nor upon any finding to be reported.
6. Unless expressed otherwise: 1) the information contained in this report covers only those items examined and reflects the condition of those items at the time of inspection; and 2) the inspection is limited to visual examination of accessible items without dissection, excavation, or coring unless otherwise stated. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed



or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the tree(s) or property in question may not arise in the future.

7. Arborists are tree specialists who use their education, knowledge, training, and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. It is highly recommended that you follow the arborist's recommendations; however, you may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations and/or seek additional advice.
8. Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways we do not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden within trees and below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances or for a specific period of time.
9. Any recommendations and/or performed treatments (including, but not limited to, pruning or removal) of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborist's services, such as property boundaries, property ownership, site lines, disputes between neighbors, and any other related issues. Arborists cannot take such considerations into account unless complete and accurate information is disclosed to the arborist. An arborist can then be expected to consider and reasonably rely on the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.
10. The author has no personal interest or bias with respect to the subject matter of this report or the parties involved. He/she has inspected the subject tree(s), and to the best of their knowledge and belief, all statements and information presented in the report are true and correct.

CERTIFICATE OF PERFORMANCE

I, Lissette Rios, Certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief:

1. The statements of fact contained in this report are true and correct.
2. I have personally inspected the tree(s), and property referenced in this report and accurately stated my findings.
3. I have no current or prospective interest in the tree(s) or the property that is/are the subject of this report, and I have no personal interest or bias concerning the parties involved.



4. The analysis, opinions, and conclusions were developed, and this report has been prepared according to commonly accepted arboricultural practices and standards.
5. No one provided significant professional assistance to me, except where they may be noted within the report.
6. My compensation is not contingent upon the reporting of conclusions that favor the cause of my client or any other party or upon the assessment results, the attainment of stipulated outcomes, or the occurrence of any subsequent events.

I further certify that I am a member of good standing with the International Society of Arboriculture, an ISA Certified Arborist. I have been a Certified Arborist since 2024 and have been in the practice of municipal arboriculture for over 3 years.

Respectfully,

Lisette Alexandra Ríos

Lisette A. Rios

Urban Biologist / ISA Certified Arborist WE-15480A

Certified Associate Ecologist ESA-213290