

Crown Oaks Arborists

Professional Tree Care and Landscaping

PO Box 50134 – Pasadena, CA 91115-0134 – Office: (800) 335-0224 / Cell: (323) 707-5598

March 18, 2004

To: Parks and Natural Resources

Attn: Mrs. Daria Barar

Address: 100 N. Garfield Ave. – Rm. 212
Pasadena, CA 91109

RE: **COAST LIVE OAK TREE ACROSS FROM 460 S. ARROYO BLVD. AT
THE ARROYO BIRD FOUNTAIN**

Dear Mrs. Barar,

There are several issues regarding one Coast Live Oak tree located near the Arroyo Bird Fountain that I wish to bring to your attention.

Upon inspection of this particular Oak Tree, I had to address several questions:

1. Is this Oak tree a liability concern?
 2. Is this Oak tree dead or dying?
 3. Is this Oak tree of significant value to the community?
 4. Can this Oak tree be saved?
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1. Upon investigation of this Oak tree, I observed that someone had excavated around the base of the tree. I would assume that this was done for several reasons. One, to determine whether or not this tree had excessive root damage, ie Oak Root Rot (Armalaria). Secondly, to determine whether there was adequate root support for the trunk and the above canopy.


I observed Armalaria on some of the roots that had been excavated but nothing unusual. The roots that I did observe seemed very healthy and aggressively growing. I was concerned with the large cavity on the northeast side of the trunk upon initial inspection. Apparently a large limb at one time had broke and separated from the base, creating a very large cavity. This can be devastating to older Oaks because they are not always able to compartmentalize and wall off the decay. In this particular case although the cavity was substantial, it has compartmentalized the decay and you can see signs of many years of callous tissue / wound wood growth. Even though there was substantial root damage, the new roots are vigorously growing. There are no signs of cracks in the soil where the tree is either lifting or settling.

I also observed tree braces that used to support a very large limb protruding to the southwest which are no longer affective and doing what they were intended to do. A new metal brace that cradles the limb encased in concrete should be reinstalled in place of the old ineffective braces. There is also a cable that had been put in place to support that same limb which is no longer doing any good either. The cable should simply be removed. Since this tree has been like this probably for the last 20-25 years and not fallen over yet, it is my conclusion that if certain steps are taken, this tree will have many more years to look forward to.

2. This Oak tree is definitely not dead. Although it may have dead limbs and clumpy foliage, this is very common on Oaks that have suffered extensive damage. I feel the best remedy at this point would be to remove the dead / diseased wood and lightly thin the clumps of foliage. This accomplishes several beneficial things for the tree. It removes the sail affect that can be caused when foliage is very thick in windy conditions. By thinning the canopy, it allows wind to flow through the tree rather than twist the tree's trunk and limbs back and forth creating additional stress to the remaining root system. By thinning the canopy, it creates new healthy foliage and stimulates additional root growth, thus benefiting the tree.
3. This Oak tree is of significant value to the community. In fact, Pasadena has instituted laws and regulations protecting this particular species of tree. Many other cities in the L. A. basin have instituted laws protecting this same specie as well as others. The community in Pasadena, located near the lower Arroyo, have gone to great lengths to try to save this tree. It is my understanding that they wish to save this tree if at all possible.
4. As and Arborist, it is my duty to save and protect as many of our trees as possible. I was asked to determine whether or not it was possible to save this tree. In most cases in the urban environment where there is excessive foot traffic, cars, etc. we would recommend the removal of such a tree due to liability reasons. Since this tree is located in its native environment with minimal foot traffic near or around this tree, I feel it is very possible if the above steps are followed, to save this tree for the enjoyment of the community for years to come.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to call me in the office or on my cell phone at any time.

Sincerely,


Daryl Monson,
Certified Arborist #991