

The Arboretum

County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks & Recreation
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, California 91007

March 18, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

On March 18, 2004, I had the opportunity to look at the "Bird Fountain Oak". It is a *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak. It appears to be in fair health, it is growing in an exposed location near the edge of the Arroyo Seco, in Pasadena. It appears to be leaning because a large limb composing at least a third of the tree broke off a good many years ago. The limb was apparently cut up and hauled away by the city.

The roots around the base of the stump appear to be in good health and have every expectation of being deep rooted because they receive aeration not only from above, but also from the arroyo side. The oak receives no irrigation. There is no indication of root movement. The two long lower limbs of the tree appear to have been a concern to the city because they were first wired up and then propped up. One limb is still on its prop the other has been blown off its prop.

If this tree was in a highly populated area with houses, automobiles or playgrounds in its target area it would be prudent to take it down simply because it's leaning and big. However, it is in a low value target area. It cannot fall on the Bird Fountain because it would rest on the two big limbs near ground level and then it would flop over on the drinking fountain and pathway away from the Arroyo. By simply turning off the water fountain and redirecting the rough footpath from the Bird Fountain to the street, the target area will not be entered. Since most trees fall when they are triggered by environmental extremes this tree will probably fall during high winds following driving soaking rains. This is precisely when people will not be present in the target area. There is no reason to suppose this tree is unsafe for another 50 years.

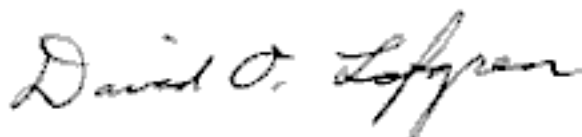
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RECOMMENDATIONS:

The tree should have the dead wood cut out of it (anytime) and then in August it should be pruned with the idea of opening it up and lightening the overall weight. Since the two branches were propped I would reprop them further back along the limbs with concrete props.

Since the main use of the Bird Fountain is for Friday and Saturday night beer parties, the water to the drinking fountain could be rerouted to sprinklers and the Bird Fountain could be thoroughly wetted down Friday and Saturday at dusk to reduce its desirability as a party place.

Sincerely,



David O. Lofgren*
Plant Information

* David has a Master of Science degree in Ornamental Horticulture and has worked at the County Arboretum in Arcadia for 22 years.

OAK HAZARD EVALUATION GUIDELINES

<u>GENERAL GUIDELINES</u>	1	2	3	4	5
(PROBLEM/HAZARD)	LEAST/VERY UNLIKELY	SLIGHT/UNLIKELY	SIGNIFICANT/LIKELY	SERIOUS/DEFINITE	GREATEST/IMMINENT
<u>SPECIFIC GUIDELINES</u>					
IRRIGATION FREQUENCY	<i>None</i> 1/month	2/month	3/month	4/month	>4/month
IRRIGATION PATTERN	<i>None</i> to edge of RZ	to 6' of Butt	to 3' of Butt	to 1' of Butt	to Butt
SOIL Pavement or Fill	<i>None</i> edge RZ or path	to 1/4 RZ	to 1/3 RZ	to 2/3 RZ	entire RZ
ROOTS Exposed/Girdled/Cut Root Movement	to edge of RZ	to 1/4 RZ	to 1/3 RZ	to 2/3 RZ old movement	entire RZ recent movement
BUTT Wounds/ Sloughing Bark Rot	to 1/8 CRC	to 1/3 CRC to 1/8 CRC	to 1/2 CRC to 1/4 CRC	to 2/3 CRC to 1/3 CRC	entire CRC to 1/2 CRC
TRUNK Wounds/ Sloughing Bark Rot	<i>good condition</i> to 1/8 CRC	to 1/3 CRC to 1/8 CRC	to 1/2 CRC to 1/4 CRC	to 2/3 CRC to 1/3 CRC	entire CRC to 1/2 CRC
LIMBS Scaffold Attachment Cavities/Notches	small limbs	equal to less few medium limbs	imbekked bark 1 large stub or many medium limbs	1 large limb or >1 large stub	split >1 large limb
Rot - Medium limbs Large limbs		minor to 1/8 CRC	to 1/4 CRC	major to 1/3 CRC	to 1/2 CRC
LEAN (Degree)	10	20	30	40	50
WIND (Tree Position)	below canopy	lower canopy	mid canopy	above canopy	single tree or windward canopy edge
DECLINE Leaf cover & color	excellent vigor	good vigor	fair vigor	poor vigor	dead/dying
TARGET	low use trail low use lawn shrub bed	medium use trail medium use lawn	high use trail high use lawn roadway, fence, sign, etc.		picnic area play area parked cars buildings
AESTHETIC VALUE	unattractive in stand	acceptable in stand	attractive in stand	specimen in stand	specimen single

NOTES: CRC = circumference of trunk or limb
Medium Limbs = 3-6" in diameter

RZ = Root Zone
Large Limbs = > 6" in diameter