Appendix E

Arborist Report

Conejo Community Park and Center Project

Arborist Report

prepared for

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1 Introduction

Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) prepared this Arborist Report for AGD Architecture and Design (AGD) to document the results of a native tree survey for the Conejo Recreation and Park District's Conejo (CRPD) Community Park and Center Project (project) in Thousand Oaks, California.

1.1 Project Location and Description

The project is located less than 1 mile north of U.S. Route 101 and 0.33 miles west of North Moorpark Road in Thousand Oaks. Specifically, the project occurs within the Conejo Community Park, a 36.4-acre property located at 1175 Hendrix Avenue with an Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) of 524-009-0255.

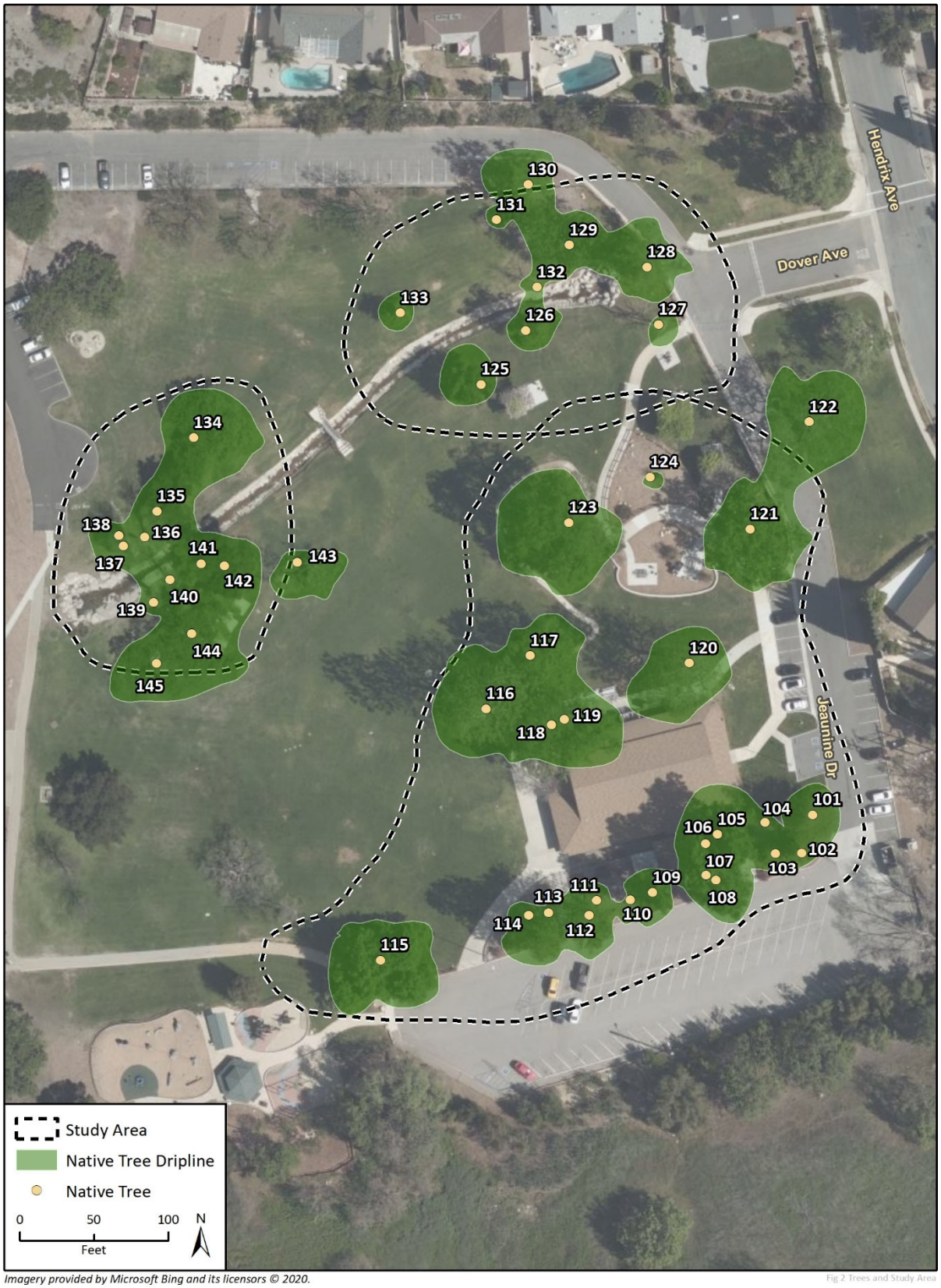
The vegetation within the portion of the park assessed for native trees (Figure 1) is composed primarily of manicured grass, with mature oak (*Quercus sp.*) and sycamore (*Platanus sp.*) trees, and other native and ornamental trees dispersed throughout. The terrain consists of gentle slopes and relatively flat recreational areas. A concrete water channel transects the northern portion of the park in an east/west trajectory with a bridge in the center. The park is bounded by residential areas to the north, east, and west, and open space with coast live oak woodlands to the south.

The project entails improving existing park facilities, including demolition of the existing center and construction of an expanded new center building, and renovation of outdoor features including the channel and bridge feature. Improvements will be constructed so that the existing topography and natural features are preserved and will be done in accordance with the CRPD plans and specifications.

1.2 Project Plans & Tree Study Area

The project plans have not yet been finalized. The extent of tree survey area for the purposes of this report was determined by AGD. The Study Area is illustrated in Figure 1 with native tree numbers and locations and in Appendix B as it was provided to Rincon on July 17, 2020 via email. The Study Area includes potential areas of impacts to native trees.

Figure 1 Study Area and Native Trees



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2020.

Fig 2 Trees and Study Area

2 Methodology

On July 31, 2020, Rincon International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist Yuling Huo (Certification # WE -11975A) and Rincon biologist Carolyn Welch conducted a survey for all native trees with at least a portion of their driplines overlapping the Study Area. All trees were assigned a unique identification number and tagged with corresponding physical tags. Trees that were previously tagged received a new tag that was attached to the nail of the existing tag. An assessment for risks or hazardous conditions was not conducted as part of this survey. The following information was gathered for protected trees:

- Scientific and common name
- Geographic location of each tree using a Trimble® geographic positioning system (GPS) device, including the extent of tree canopies where feasible
- Diameter of all trunks at four and one-half feet above natural grade using an English unit diameter tape or caliper
- Visual estimation of tree height and crown spread
- Health assessment of tree characteristics including evidence of disease, presence of insect pests, structure, damage, and vigor. Results were incorporated into the overall condition rating based on archetype trees of the same species with criteria described in Table 1 below

Relationships among the trees (i.e., multiple trunks arising from the same root, mature clones of a no longer present parent tree) were not determined, as only above-ground portions of the trees were examined. Where the entire tree canopy location could not be obtained using the Trimble device due to access issues, the remainder of the canopy data was digitized on a desktop utilizing aerial imagery.

Appendix A summarizes the data for all native trees. Table 1 provides descriptions for tree health condition criteria, per the Guidelines.

Table 1 Overall Condition Rating Criteria

Rating	Health Condition
A – Outstanding	A healthy and vigorous tree characteristic of its species and free of any visible signs of disease or pest infestation.
B – Above Average	A healthy and vigorous tree. However, there are minor visible signs of disease and pest infestation
C – Average	Although healthy in overall appearance, there is a normal amount of disease and /or pest infestation
D – Below Average/Poor	This tree is characterized by exhibiting a greater degree of disease and /or pest infestation than normal and appears to be in a state of decline. This tree also exhibits extensive signs of dieback.
E – Dead	This tree exhibits no signs of life whatsoever.

3 Native Tree Survey Results and Discussion

A total of 45 trees native to California with at least a portion of their TPZs overlapping the study area were surveyed, as shown in Figure 1.

Of the 45 native trees, there are four coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees, 13 California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) trees, 12 valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) trees, six western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) trees, four Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) trees, three coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) trees, two white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*) trees, and one arroyo willow (*Salis lasiolepsis*) tree.

Of the 45 trees, six trees were identified as having an overall condition rating of A (Excellent), 30 trees had a rating of B (Above Average), eight trees had a rating of C (Average), and one tree had a rating of D (Below Average/Poor overall condition).

Most of the trees are located in a manicured grass field and do not have an accumulation of natural leaf litter beneath their canopies (which provides nutrients, reduces soil compaction, and improves moisture retention) (ISA 2010). Some trees (e.g. Tree 121, 123, and 124) have mulch beneath their canopies, which can provide the same benefits as natural leaf litter. The trees south of the existing building are mulched and/or retain natural leaf litter.

Several trees displayed epicormic growths, which are new sprouts that emerge from dormant buds along the trunk and branches of a tree. This type of growth may occur due to fire, exposure to sunlight, or stress; and generally compensates for loss of leaf surface elsewhere in the tree. Epicormic growth may indicate stress in trees but is not a major health issue if the tree is vigorous and retains a full canopy.

Most of the trees have likely been previously impacted by soil compaction, grading, pruning, or excavation due to the developed nature of the park. Observations of note are:

Tree #115 (valley oak) is growing approximately six feet below grade in a concrete vault, which was likely constructed to protect the tree from a past drastic grade change. This valley oak appears to be healthy and is in Good overall condition.

The sycamore trees within the Study Area all display light anthracnose infections that do not appear to be causing decline of the trees.

One white alder tree (Tree 138) is in Poor overall condition and displays top dieback and dieback through the canopy.

The majority of native trees within the Study Area are healthy and appear to be adapted to and well maintained within an urban park environment.

4 References

International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

2010. Arborist Certification Survey Guide.

5 List of Preparers

Field Survey

- Yuling Huo (#WE-11975A) Arborist / Associate Biologist
- Carolyn Welch, Associate Biologist

Primary Report Author

- Yuling Huo (#WE-11975A) Arborist / Associate Biologist

Technical Review

- Stephanie Lopez (#WE-10442A), Arborist / Senior Biologist
- Christopher Julian, Principal / Biologist

Graphics

- Annette Tran, GIS Analyst

Attachment A

Native Tree Matrix

Tree ID #	Common Name/ Scientific Name	Height (Feet)	Canopy Spread (Feet)	# of Trunks	Individual Trunk Diameters	Aggregate Trunk Diameter	Overall Condition Rating	Notes
101	coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)	45	30	1	28.5	28.5	Good	
102	coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)	35	20	1	24	24	Good	Some dead branches
103	coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)	25	15	1	10	10	Good	Slightly sparse at top
104	western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)	15	20	3	4, 3, 2.5	9.5	Good	
105	California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	60	30	1	30	30	Good	Light anthracnose, previous tag 26
106	California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	60	30	1	27	27	Good	Slight anthracnose
107	western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)	6	15	2	2.5, 2.5	5	Fair	Leaf spots in 40% canopy
108	California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	60	25	1	20.5	20.5	Good	Light anthracnose, previously tagged 27
109	California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	50	20	1	21	21	Good	Light anthracnose
110	western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)	10	15	2	2.5, 4	6.5	Good	Some leaf spotting
111	western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)	10	15	3	2, 3, 3.5	8.5	Good	Some leaf spotting
112	California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	60	25	1	25.5	25.5	Excellent	Previously tagged 29
113	California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	60	30	1	27	27	Good	Slight anthracnose, previously tagged 30

Tree ID #	Common Name/ Scientific Name	Height (Feet)	Canopy Spread (Feet)	# of Trunks	Individual Trunk Diameters	Aggregate Trunk Diameter	Overall Condition Rating	Notes
114	western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)	6	10	1	3.5	3.5	Good	
115	valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)	40	35	1	45	45	Good	Trunk growing in retainer box below artificial grade of hill approx. 6 feet deep, growing into metal grate
116	California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	65	40	1	45	45	Good	Light anthracnose, growing in manicured lawn, concrete sidewalk within dripline
117	valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)	40	35	1	21	21	Good	Slightly sparse, growing in manicured lawn
118	valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)	45	30	1	22	22	Good	Slightly sparse, adjacent to building in planter
119	valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)	40	30	1	23	23	Fair	Sparse canopy, dead branches, moderate lean, growing in planter adjacent to building
120	California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	65	40	1	43.5	43.5	Excellent	Light anthracnose
121	valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)	40	40	3	20, 22.5, 37.5	80	Good	Mulched around trunk, majority of root zone mulched
122	valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)	45	45	1	41	41	Fair	Woodpecker acorn granary (only affects bark), sparse with dead branches, growing in manicured lawn, previously tagged ccp-01
123	valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)	45	40	1	49	49	Good	Large branches previously pruned, some dead branches, mulched
124	coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*	10	10	3	2, 3.5, 3.5	9	Excellent	
125	coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*	20	25	3	13, 16, 18	47	Excellent	Some flagging, growing in manicured lawn

Tree ID #	Common Name/ Scientific Name	Height (Feet)	Canopy Spread (Feet)	# of Trunks	Individual Trunk Diameters	Aggregate Trunk Diameter	Overall Condition Rating	Notes
126	California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	35	30	2	8, 12	20	Good	Light anthracnose, adjacent to concrete channel, in manicured lawn
127	California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	35	20	1	16	16	Good	Previously pruned, dead branches, growing in lawn
128	California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	60	40	1	29	29	Excellent	Light anthracnose
129	valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)	30	40	1	33	33	Fair	Somewhat sparse, dead branches, previously tagged ccp-07
130	California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	30	30	1	16	16	Excellent	Mulched
131	western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)	6	8	8	1, 1, 1, 1.5, 2, 2, 3, 3	14.5	Good	Growing in lawn
132	California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)	15	15	1	12.5	12.5	Good	Some dead branches, adjacent to concrete channel
133	white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*)	15	15	1	10	10	Good	Some dieback, large healed wound on trunk
134	valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)	35	40	1	36.5	36.5	Good	Growing in lawn, one branch propped
135	coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*	35	35	1	22	22	Good	Some flagging, growing in lawn
136	Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*)	50	25	1	20	20	Good	Adjacent to concrete channel
137	Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*)	50	20	1	20	20	Good	Adjacent to concrete channel
138	white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*)	25	15	1	11	11	Poor	Top is dead, dieback

Tree ID #	Common Name/ Scientific Name	Height (Feet)	Canopy Spread (Feet)	# of Trunks	Individual Trunk Diameters	Aggregate Trunk Diameter	Overall Condition Rating	Notes
139	Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*)	45	15	1	23	23	Fair	Dieback, previously pruned
140	Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*)	40	15	1	22	22	Good	Some dead branches
141	arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepsis*)	20	25	2	9, 10	19	Good	Some dead branches, adjacent to concrete channel
142	coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*	45	40	1	24.5	24.5	Good	Some flagging
143	valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)	25	30	1	27	27	Fair	Large cavity in trunk, moderate lean, branch propped, somewhat sparse, previously tagged ccp-13
144	valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)	55	50	1	35	35	Fair	Somewhat sparse
145	valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)	20	20	1	17	17	Fair	Trunk curved, large branch pruned, previously tagged ccp-011

Attachment B

Study Area Map


Conejo Recreation
& Park District
Conejo Community
Center & Outdoor Un
Hendrix Ave