

Staff Report: Tree Removal/Pruning or Stabilization in Kensington Park

Trees

There is a distressed Monterey pine that is leaning over adjacent property and a cluster of dead or dying redwoods near Arlington on the southern end of the park. We sought bids from the following companies to remove these trees as well as to remove some limbs from eucalyptus trees in the park along Arlington that pose a potential threat of breaking, remove some acacia trees near Building E, stabilize Canary Island pines in the parking lot, and chip or remove debris from a eucalyptus that had been cut down in the park above the Community Center:

1. Julian Tree Care
2. Elite Tree Service
3. Ponderosa Tree Service
4. Professional Tree Care Company, Inc.
5. Brende and Lamb
6. Eden Tree Service

Attached are the estimates that we received to date. We have been advised by the County that we will not need a heritage tree permit to remove the redwoods.

Both Eden Tree Service and Brende and Lamb are small companies who do not have the equipment to tackle the large trees we have. However, one or both companies can provide consulting services for a fee to advise on what work is necessary in the park.

Poison Oak

There is a large area of poison oak of approximately one acre that runs roughly from behind the Annex towards the fire road leading to Highland. We contacted City Grazing, a non-profit organization in San Francisco that rents goats to clear hillsides. We understand that City Grazing will install an electronic fence around the entire area of poison oak and bring in approximately 50 goats which will happily munch away the poison oak that is mixed with blackberry bushes in about two weeks. The munching will not eliminate the poison oak completely; thus, we may need to hire goats annually for the next few years. Because the poison oak is going dormant now and because City Grazing is fully booked, we cannot begin this work until next July-October.

Prior to having the goats graze the poison oak, we should pull up the wild hemlock which is poisonous to the goats.

Attachments:

1. Summary of estimates
2. Julian Tree estimate for Monterey pine
3. Julian Tree estimate for 4 redwoods
4. Professional estimate

5. Ponderosa estimate