

**AGENDA**

**ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

**TREE COMMITTEE MEETING**

RUSH PARK  
West Room  
3001 Blume Drive  
Rossmoor, California

**July 1, 2025**  
**6:00 p.m.**

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**A. ORGANIZATION**

1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Directors Shade, Maynard
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. PRESENTATIONS: None

**B. PUBLIC FORUM**

*Any person may address the members of the Tree Committee at this time upon any subject within the jurisdiction of the Tree Committee of the Rossmoor Community Services District.*

**C. REGULAR CALENDAR**

1. REVIEW RESIDENT REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF A TREE FROM THE PARKWAY AT 12101 OAK LEAF DRIVE AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

**CERTIFICATION OF POSTING**

I hereby certify that the attached agenda for the Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Tree Committee Meeting of the Rossmoor Community Services District was posted at least 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

ATTEST:



Sharon Landers  
Interim General Manager

Date 6/26/2025

## ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

### AGENDA ITEM C-1

**Date:** July 1, 2025

**To:** Tree Committee  
Director Jo Shade  
Director Michael Maynard

**From:** General Manager Sharon Landers  
Initiated by Mary Kingman, District Arborist

**Subject:** Resident Request for removal and replacement of a Chinese Flame tree from the front parkway at 12101 Oak Leaf Drive.

### RECOMMENDATION

The Rossmoor Community Services District (RCSD) General Manager recommends that the Tree Committee review Rossmoor property owner Gary Rafferty's request to remove the parkway tree in front of his home at 12101 Oak Leaf Drive and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

### BACKGROUND

Rossmoor resident and homeowner Gary Rafferty requests that the parkway tree in front of his home at 12101 Oak Leaf Drive be removed and replaced. He has stated the reasons for his request as being that germinating seeds from the tree result in many seedlings growing in his yard and that health issues prevent him from keeping up with the removal of the seedlings. He also stated that the amount of sap that drops from the tree prevents people from parking under it. The tree in question is a *Koelreuteria bipinnata*, also known as Chinese flame tree. The tree is approximately 30 years old and has an estimated value of \$14,740.00.

A previous removal request from Mr. Rafferty was agenzized on the November 12, 2020, Tree Committee meeting. The result of that meeting was a recommendation to deny the request from the Tree Committee, which was approved by the Board of Directors at the December 8, 2020, Board of Directors meeting.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Copy of written removal request from Mr. Rafferty.
2. Arborist report on the tree.

3. RCSD Policy No. 3080 Parkway and Rossmoor Way Median Tree Maintenance.
4. Minutes from November 12, 2020, Tree Committee Meeting.
5. Before and after photos of 2021 tree pruning.

**Mary Kingman**

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**From:** Gary Rafferty  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 1:10 PM  
**To:** Mary Kingman  
**Cc:** Joe Mendoza; Nathan Searles;  
**Subject:** Re: 12101 Oak Leaf Drive- Parkway Chinese Flame Tree Removal Request  
**Attachments:** processed-31B6AFE2-0EEC-4A50-98CD-F1E270C38BB5.jpeg;  
 processed-970FB826-641D-4C43-87F4-5305CCFAC34D.jpeg

**Importance:** High

Dear Ms. Kingman,

Thank you for responding to me regarding my being allowed to present at the next tree committee meeting. My wife and I will be travelling and not available for a meeting from May 8 to May 28, 2025.

My wife, Nona, and I have been residents of Rossmoor since 1985. We love this neighborhood and community.

I ask that you distribute this note to the Tree Committee members as soon as practical.

Three weeks ago, I spent over 10 hours on my hands and knees removing over *3,000 Chinese Flame tree saplings* that took root in my gardens and yard, and my neighbor's yard.

I then invested many hours and considerable money to plant Spring flowers in our front and back yard. I do daily walks to selectively weed the gardens at my house.

Just in the past two weeks, the Chinese Flame tree saplings have re-invaded my newly planted and existing flower gardens in my front and back yards.

The saplings practically choke off the newly planted flowers, as well as the perennial plants.

Yesterday, I spent over three hours on my hands and knees to uproot another *2000+ Chinese Flame tree saplings*.

I stopped keeping track after I reached a count of 2000. Please see attached photos of different areas in the garden that are filled with saplings.

Please note that this is just a small sampling of the invasion.

This recent invasion all occurred shortly after I had completely cleaned the yards of saplings less than three weeks ago.

I expect to weed my gardens. I enjoy weeding. I enjoy gardening. It is therapeutic for me.

As you know, I keep our yards very clean and pleasing for our neighbors.

My wife and I take pride in our yards, and in our neighborhood.

I do not expect to be weeding for an invasive tree sapling species such as the Chinese Flame tree.

As I said in my email (see below) to you on 4/16/25, the 40 ft+ tall tree and its annual saplings have defeated me.

My heart condition will not tolerate it.

On a fixed income, we are not able to afford to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party remove the invasive saplings on a weekly basis.

I respect the fact that we have RCSD tree policies. I am glad that there are such policies. It helps us all provide for a beautiful and sustainable neighborhood.

And I respect the fact that the Tree Committee is concerned about setting precedent.

However, policies may have exceptions for extraordinary situations.

For the following reasons, I request this particular exception to the policy.

- At our age of nearly 74, neither my wife nor I have the energy or ability to deal with the invasion of saplings and resultant damage to our yards and gardens from this tree for another Fall, Winter, Spring.
- I have heart issues (suffered a major heart attack and 8-way bypass, have a pacemaker, and regularly experience Afib). The maintenance of my yard required due to this Chinese Flame tree is not suggested for my health condition, particularly as I continue to age. I am unable to put the hundreds of hours in each year trying to rid our yard from the pesky sapling trees from the Chinese Flame tree.
- When we last met in the Fall of 2020, the RCSD chairperson and the RCSD committee agreed to reconsider making an exception for an extraordinary case by allowing the removal of the tree if trimming was found not to be satisfactory in the ensuing few years.
- My understanding is that the RCSD no longer approves the planting of Chinese Flame trees in our neighborhood. Which leads me to believe that the RCSD may have made the wrong decision to plant my Chinese Flame tree in the first place, 30+ years ago.
- Trimming my tree is a short term, one-season fix. It is not a sustainable solution for the longer term.

*I respectfully request an exception to the policy, and that the Chinese Flame tree be removed, and replaced with a Gingko tree, just as we have on the parkway next door to us at 12111 Oak Leaf Drive. I will gladly pay for the new Gingko tree.*

Thank you, Mr. Mendoza, and the Tree Committee, for your understanding and timeliness of addressing this matter.

Sincerely,  
Gary and Nona Rafferty

12101 Oak Leaf Drive  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

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**From:** Mary Kingman <MKingman@rossmoor-csd.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 18, 2025 4:30 PM  
**To:** Gary Rafferty  
**Cc:** Nathan Searles  
**Subject:** RE: 12101 Oak Leaf Drive- Parkway Chinese Flame Tree Removal and request

Good afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Rafferty,

Mr. Mendoza has agreed to allow for your request to be presented at the next Tree Committee meeting. I will keep you posted as to when that will be held.

Thank you,

Mary Kingman  
District Arborist  
Rossmoor Community Services District  
3001 Blume Drive, Rossmoor, CA 90720



June 12, 2025

**Arborist Report: Chinese flame parkway tree located at 12101 Oak Leaf Drive, Rossmoor, California**

**BACKGROUND:** *Koelreuteria bipinnata*, commonly known as Chinese flame, is a deciduous tree native to southwest China. The species has been planted throughout California since the late 1800s, valued for its adaptability many conditions and soil types, along with its broad, shade-providing crown and colorful seed pods. The tree exhibits moderately fast growth to 35-50 feet tall with equal spread. The tree produces small bright yellow flowers in late summer followed by papery, lantern shaped orange-red seed capsules that mature during the summer months. The species can be invasive as seed pods are dispersed by the wind, land in soil areas, and germinate into unwanted seedlings. While life expectancy of trees can vary according to location, soil type, tree care practices, pest, and/or disease prevalence, the average life expectancy of the species is 50-150 years. There are 373 Chinese flame trees planted in Rossmoor parks and parkways, with a combined estimated value of \$1,791,930.00. I have removed the species from the 2025-26 plant list due to uncertainty regarding pest and disease prevalence resulting in the loss of 7 mature trees since 2023, with an additional 17 being monitored. There have been 0 reports of personal injury or property damage resulting from Chinese flame trees in Rossmoor since 2012, when, as the District Arborist, I began keeping records on tree claims.

**Stock images of *Koelreuteria bipinnata***



**OBSERVATIONS:** On June 12, 2025, I performed a Level 2, basic visual inspection on a *Koelreuteria bipinnata* tree, planted in the front parkway of 12101 Oak Leaf Drive. The tree is approximately 45' tall with a crown spread of 35', and a trunk diameter of 25". The tree is 30-40 years of age and has a value of \$14,740.00. The tree is growing in the front parkway of the home, in a planting 12' x 6' irrigated planting area with *Carissa macrocarpa* planted around the base, serving as a groundcover. The remainder of the parkway is covered with synthetic turf. Although several larger diameter scaffold limbs were removed in 2021 as a compromise to the homeowner's previous request for tree removal, the tree has recovered nicely and has a well-balanced crown, displaying high vigor. Although there is evidence of boring beetle activity beneath the bark, I did not observe any dieback associated with the fusarium fungal disease that the beetles can vector, and which can affect this species. I did not observe decay within the limbs, trunk, or root flare of the tree.

**HISTORY:** There are no known histories of limb failures on this tree. The tree has been maintained regularly through pruning by District tree contractor West Coast Arborists, Inc. as shown in the attached work history. The tree is scheduled to be pruned on the grid pruning which will take place in the fall of 2025.

District	Address	Location	Species	DBH	Height
3	12101 OAK LEAF DR	Front-1	<i>Koelreuteria bipinnata</i>	25-30	45-60
CHINESE FLAME TREE					

Maintenance	Valid	Est. Value	Utility	Parkway
Grid/Routine Trim	Yes	\$14,740	No	6

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Crew	Date	Work Type / Comments
WCA	11/18/2021	Grid Prune
WCA	01/13/2021	Service Request Pruning 19-24 DBH
WCA	01/08/2018	Tree Pruning > 18 DSH
WCA	09/16/2016	Tree Pruning > 18 DSH
WCA	09/20/2013	Tree Pruning > 18 DSH
WCA	01/03/2013	Tree Pruning > 18 DSH
WCA	10/15/2009	Tree Pruning 7-18 DSH
WCA	12/02/2005	Tree Pruning 7-18 DSH
WCA	10/15/2003	Safety Trimming
WCA	05/08/2002	Tree Trimming 7-18 DBH
WCA	12/03/2001	Tree Trimming 7-18 DBH

**SUMMARY:** Based on my visual observations of the tree at the time of inspection, this tree has an overall low risk of causing personal injury or property damage. The tree should be monitored and inspected every 6 months for any changes in its health or condition which may increase risk and require mitigation.

Mary Kingman  
 District Arborist  
 ISA Certified Arborist #WE-11440A  
 ISA Qualified Risk Assessor (TRAQ)  
[mkingman@rossmoor-csd.org](mailto:mkingman@rossmoor-csd.org)

Photos by Mary Kingman June 11, 2025



Rossmoor Community Services District

**Policy**

**No. 3080**

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**PARKWAY AND ROSSMOOR WAY MEDIAN TREE  
MAINTENANCE**

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**3080.00 Parkway and Median:** A parkway, as described in this Policy, is the County of Orange (County) owned area between the sidewalk and curb. The median is the County owned area dividing Rossmoor Way.

**3080.10 Public Property:** Parkway and median trees are public, not private property. Every reasonable effort will be made to preserve this natural resource in order to retain and improve this local scenic and environmental asset.

**3080.11** Homeowners, residents or their agents shall not plant, trim or remove parkway and median trees. The Rossmoor Community Services District (District) has the authority and responsibility to plant and trim trees either directly or through the County or other third parties. The District recommends removals to the County and the County has the authority to remove trees.

**3080.12** The County of Orange is responsible for the preventative or remedial tree root pruning to aid in the control of sidewalk, curb and gutter damage. The District will coordinate with the County to perform this work and any other alternatives to tree removal.

**3080.13** Request for inspections, planting, trimming or removal shall be made with the District office. A Customer Service Request (CSR) shall be initiated describing the request and action taken or not taken.

**3080.14** No person shall remove, prune, trim, cut or otherwise damage a tree that is located in the parkway or median, or cause, permit, direct, or knowingly allow the removal, pruning, trimming, cutting, or damaging of a parkway or median tree, unless authorized to do so pursuant to this Policy.

**3080.20 Tree Planting and Nurturing:** All parkways at private residences shall have at least one tree, where feasible, and those currently without a tree(s) will have a tree(s) planted by the District as funds become available. Appropriately spaced tree plantings are required along the parkways of public properties, where feasible (e.g. parks, schools, flood control channels, etc.).

**3080.21** Tree planting locations shall be determined by the District's Tree Consultant and/or Arborist and be based on recognized standards for the planting of trees.

**3080.22** The District shall maintain a tree-planting program consistent with budgeted funds.

**3080.23** The District shall maintain an inventory of all parkway and Rossmoor Way median trees. The District shall also maintain a current list of all potential sites for planting a tree within all public right of ways.

**3080.24** Site selections for new tree plantings shall be based on a computerized inventory of Rossmoor parkway trees and vacant sites maintained by the District.

**3080.25** New tree plantings shall be accomplished in accordance with the Rossmoor Parkway Tree Planting Specifications (Arborist Scope of Services) maintained by the General Manager.

**3080.26** Trees planted by the District will minimally be in 24"box containers. Should budget constraints arise or a 24" box tree of a specific species not be available, a 15-gallon container tree may be substituted.

**3080.27** A list of tree varieties approved by the Board for new or replacement trees shall be maintained by the District. The Tree Consultant shall recommend and the District shall select tree species based on the specified predominant tree species of the block if the tree is still on the approved species list and other factors such as availability or an alternate tree from the approved list of trees with similar characteristics.

**3080.28** The General Manager shall maintain a Notification of Tree Planting document that specifies the required care of parkway trees. This includes instructions for newly planted parkway trees. The document shall be provided to each homeowner/resident of a newly planted parkway tree.

**3080.29** The homeowner/resident has the responsibility for watering and caring for the parkway trees adjacent to their property in accordance with District instructions. A tree that must be replaced due to lack of care on the part of a homeowner/resident will require the homeowner/resident to pay the District for a replacement tree of the same or like species and size.

**3080.30** Tree Trimming and Protection: Trees shall be trimmed by the District to maintain safety and clearance standards established by the County.

**3080.31** Specifications delineating aesthetic tree trimming shall be in accordance with the requirements of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI A 300) maintained by the General Manager and shall become a part of any tree trimming contracts awarded by the District.

**3080.32** The District shall maintain a tree trimming schedule for all parkway and median trees. Each tree shall be trimmed at least once every four years or as necessary according to species. Homeowners/residents desiring more frequent trimming or pruning can request such at the District office for a fee, which reflects the cost to the District. Tree trimming shall only be performed by the District's contract arborist.

**3080.33** Notification by mail or by posting at the residence of scheduled tree trimming, planting, root pruning or removal shall be sent by the District to the homeowner/resident at least two (2) weeks prior to the planned work except for emergency safety removals by the County.

**3080.40** Tree Removal: Only trees that are dead, structurally unsound or are creating problems that cannot be corrected without causing the tree to die or become unstable will be removed.

**3080.41** Valid reasons for removing trees:

- A dead, rotting or seriously diseased tree that presents a danger of structural failure.
- Trees that present a hazard, such as a tree with weak roots, a tree with a split trunk or a tree with falling limbs that cannot be corrected with trimming.
- A diseased or insect infested tree that is a serious threat to nearby trees if removal is the best pest or disease control option.
- An unauthorized tree of the wrong species for its location

- Hardscape (sidewalks, curbs, driveways etc.) damage that requires repairs and if such repairs cannot be made without causing severe root damage that renders the tree structurally unsound.
- If in order to repair or replace a lateral sewer line, it is necessary to remove significant tree roots that would undermine the structural integrity of a tree. This need must be demonstrated to the District by the homeowner through video evidence of the location and extent of damage to the sewer lateral. During excavation, the sewer line must be exposed and be available to the District for a visual inspection to determine the need for the tree removal.
- Home remodeling that requires removal of a tree. If this is driveway relocation, the homeowner must have a building permit and plot plan showing the tree to be removed is less than eight (8) feet from the proposed new driveway. The Homeowner must pay the District for the tree removal and the planting of a new 24-inch box tree selected by the District before the District will sign off on the building permit.
- Any reason deemed by the General Manager to be in the best interests of the District and/or homeowner/resident.

**3080.42 Non-valid reasons for removing trees:**

- Nuisances, such as dropping leaves, root ridges in lawn, messy fruit, berries or flowers, etc.
- Roots getting into sewer lines. It is the responsibility of the homeowner/resident to maintain their sewer line so that leakage from a line is repaired promptly. This will avoid tree roots from seeking the seeping nutrients and moisture from the line.
- Invasion of roots into water meter box that can be remedied with root pruning. The General Manager will determine who is financially responsible for any necessary root pruning.
- Hardscape damage where repair coupled with root pruning can save the tree.

**3080.50 Requests for Tree Inspections, Trimming or Removal and Disposition:**

**3080.51** A request for parkway tree inspection, trimming or, removal may be made in person, by telephone or in writing to the District office. A CSR will be generated, an inspection will be performed and a disposition will be made by the District.

**3080.52** The action taken or not taken on a request will be reported back to the homeowner or his/her agent by the District. A requester has the right of appeal the final disposition of the request by the General Manager to the Board on any actions taken/not taken.

**3080.60 Tree Protection:** Unauthorized removal of or damage to a parkway tree is a misdemeanor. In addition, the responsible person will be required to pay to the District the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) value of the removed tree based on the ISA trunk formula method and the cost of a replacement tree in a 24-inch box.

**3080.61** Parkway may not be cemented, bricked or covered with vegetation which prevents the planting of a parkway tree. Any such paving-over, cementing-over or other covering of a parkway shall be subject to the applicable permitting or other approval requirements of the County of Orange. For example, and not by way of limitation, any such paving-over, cementing-over or other covering of a parkway shall be subject to the applicable urban storm water runoff permit regulations as set forth in the applicable National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program as established and administered by the County of Orange or other applicable state or regulatory body.

**3080.62** Parkways may be covered with grass or other plants, so long as such grass or plants are not more than two (2) feet high or closer than 1½ feet from the base of the tree. Any work on the parkway that could involve the pruning of tree roots must first be approved by the District.

**3080.63** No swings or attachments of any type may be placed on parkway or median trees.

**3080.70** Retention of Arborist: The District will retain an ISA certified arborist to assist the General Manager in the performance of specifications called out in the Scope of Services as detailed in the Agreement with the contract arborist.

**3080.80** Enforcement of Policy:

**3080.81** Pursuant to Government Code Section 61600(j) and (k), the District has the authority to perform work and improvements on or about any street in Rossmoor, subject to the consent of the County.

**3080.82** Pursuant to Government Code Section 61621.5(c), Resolution 99-1-13-1 provides that the County has granted the District the power of a county road commissioner to regulate certain activities. In its role as a County Road Commissioner, the District may regulate and perform certain activities in connection with the planting, removing, cutting, injuring or destroying any tree, shrub, plant or flower growing on any parkway or median. Pursuant to Government Code Section 61621.5(c) and Streets and Highways Code Section 1460, anyone who violates this policy will be subject to the appropriate legal remedy including liability for all expenses and damages caused thereby to the County and District and could be found criminally liable for a misdemeanor.

**3080.83** The District may notify the responsible person of any violation of this policy. If the responsible person refuses to correct the violation after such notification, the District shall pursue other appropriate legal remedies for the collection of damages in order to compensate the District for all costs and expenses caused by the alleged violation of this policy. Nothing in this policy shall require the District to notify the responsible person prior to initiating a criminal action.

**3080.84** The District may enforce this Policy by criminal and/or civil action. Where the District elects to proceed by other than criminal action, the following enforcement procedures shall apply:

- (1) Send the Person a Notice/Demand Letter. The General Manager or his or her designee shall notify any person that his or her actions are in violation of this policy and may provide that person with the opportunity to correct the violation and/or pay the expenses and damages the District incurred in correcting the violation. A demand for such payment shall be in the form of a notice/demand letter which sets forth the violation and the amount due and owing. In regard to correcting the violation, the District may take the initiative to correct the violation, such as replanting a parkway tree and also take the initiative in pursuing recovery of costs and expenses. The notice/letter may also state that the resident must refrain in the future from taking such action that caused the violation to occur. The General Manager shall send a letter via first class mail to the address at which the violation occurred and/or to the last known address of the person causing the violation.
- (2) Appeal to the Board. Any person who disputes the decision of the General Manager sent pursuant to subsection (1), above, may appeal that decision to the Board by filing a written request to the General Manager for the matter to be

placed on the Board Agenda for the next scheduled Regular Board meeting and payment of the appeal fee as set forth in the Fee Schedule. Any such appeal must be in writing and must be delivered to the General Manager along with the applicable fee within ten (10) calendar days of the contested action and must state the specific action or inaction that is being challenged. The matter shall be placed on a subsequent Board Agenda if there is insufficient time to place the matter on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. The Board shall hold a hearing, admit evidence, and shall render a decision on the matter. The decision of the Board shall be final.

(3) Civil Litigation. If any person fails or refuses to correct the violation and/or to pay the amount owed, then the District may pursue civil litigation. Such litigation may seek injunctive relief whereby the District requests that the court order the person to refrain from certain activities and/or require the person to take certain actions in order to be in compliance with the District's policy/regulations. In the event the District has taken the necessary action, such as replacing the parkway tree, the District may pursue litigation to obtain a judgment against the person in the amount of the expenses and damages that the District incurred in correcting the violation.

**3080.85 Nuisance Enforcement by Civil Action & Attorney's Fees.**

(1) In addition to any other penalties authorized by law, any condition caused or permitted to exist in violation of this Policy shall be deemed a public nuisance and may be abated as such. Each and every day such condition continues shall be regarded as a new and separate offense.

(2) In addition to other penalties and enforcement mechanisms authorized by law, this Policy may be enforced by injunction issued by the superior court upon the suit of the District.

(3) In any action, administrative proceeding or special proceeding commenced by the District to abate a public nuisance, to enjoin a violation of any provision of this Policy, to enforce the provisions of this Policy, or to collect a civil debt owing to the District pursuant to this Policy, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover its reasonable attorney's fees. The recovery of attorney's fees by the prevailing party is limited to those individual actions or proceedings in the District elect, at the initiation of that individual action or proceeding, to seek recovery of its own attorney's fees. Failure to make such an election precludes any entitlement to, or award of, attorney's fees in favor of any person or the District. In no action, administrative proceeding, or special proceeding shall an award of attorney's fees to a prevailing party exceed the amount of reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the District in the action or proceeding.

**3080.90 Tree/Parkway Committee:** The Tree/Parkway Committee is comprised of two Board Members and the General Manager. The President of the Board appoints the members to the Committee. The General Manager shall also provide a quarterly report to the Board giving a summary of all parkway and median tree plantings, trimmings, inspections and removals.

**3080.100 Damage Claims:** Claims for damages allegedly caused by parkway or median trees should be filed with the District. Such claims will be processed in accordance with District Procedures.

**3080.110 Terms:** Following are terms as used in this policy:

- Manicure Trimming—Ongoing yearly high quality trimming designed to maintain the shape and characteristics of the tree (commonly referred to as resort style which includes lacing of the canopy). This is not the type of tree trimming as performed by the District.
- Aesthetic Trimming (pruning)—Appropriate trimming performed by the District's arborist designed to maintain the general shape of the tree and eliminating dead, damaged or diseased branches and maintaining safety and clearance standards.
- Grid Trimming—Regularly scheduled and ongoing aesthetic trimming on a four year cycle performed by the District's contract Arborist according to a four section grid map of Rossmoor.
- Safety Trimming—Performed on an as-needed basis when a tree is identified as posing a hazard to property, street traffic or pedestrian traffic.
- Root pruning—The cutting of roots to facilitate the replacement of curbs, gutters or sidewalks.
- Responsible person – means any person who violates, or who causes, permits, directs, or knowingly allows another person to violate, any of the provisions of this policy.

**3080.120 Challenging The Administrative and Quasi-Judicial Actions Of The District - Time In Which Actions Must Be Brought.**

Any action challenging a final administrative order or decision by the District made as a result of a proceeding in which by law a hearing is required to be given, evidence is required to be taken, and discretion regarding a final and non-appealable determination of facts is vested in the District, or in any or its boards, commissions, officers or employees, must be filed within the time limits set forth in California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6.

Adopted: September 10, 2002  
 Approved renumbering & format: October 10, 2002  
 Reaffirmed: December 10, 2002  
 Amended: December 9, 2003  
 Amended: April 13, 2004  
 Amended: October 12, 2004  
 Amended: July 12, 2005  
 Amended: December 13, 2005  
 Amended: April 13, 2010  
 Amended: June 14, 2011  
 Amended: November 12, 2013  
 Readopted by Ordinance 2014-01: January 14, 2014  
 Amended and Readopted by Ordinance 2015-02: April 14, 2015

**ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

**AGENDA ITEM D-2**

**Date:** December 8, 2020  
**To:** Honorable Board of Directors  
**From:** General Manager Joe Mendoza  
Initiated by District Arborist Mary Kingman  
**Subject:** REPORT OF THE TREE COMMITTEE REGARDING THEIR NOVEMBER 12, 2020 MEETING

**RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file the report of the Tree Committee

**BACKGROUND**

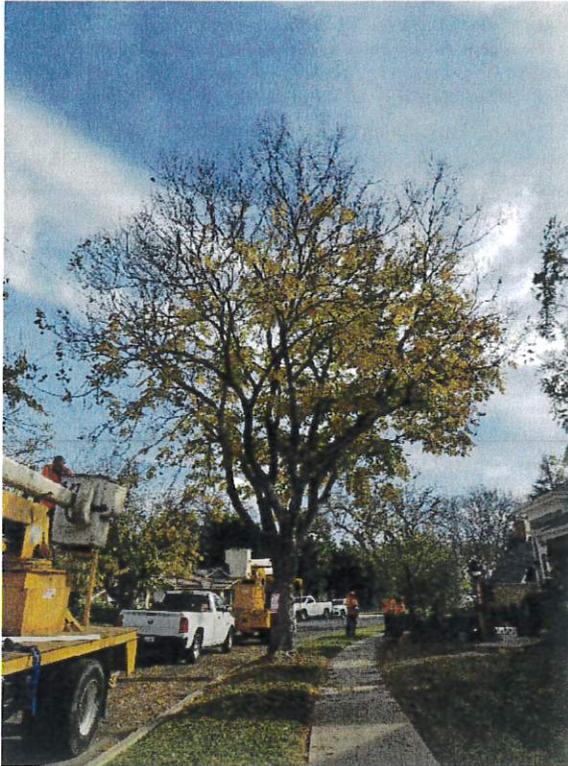
The Tree Committee Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2020 in the Auditorium at Rush Park and was attended by Tree Committee members Jeff Barke and Mark Nitikman, RCSD General Manager Joe Mendoza and District Arborist Mary Kingman. There were four items on the Regular Calendar for the Agenda:

**ITEM C-1 CITIZEN REQUEST FOR REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF A CHINESE FLAME TREE FROM THE FRONT PARKWAY AT 12101 OAK LEAF DRIVE.**

Rossmoor resident and homeowner Gary Rafferty requests that the parkway tree in front of his home at 12101 Oak Leaf Drive be removed and replaced. He has stated the reasons for his request as being that many seedlings from the tree sprout up in his yard and health issues prevent him from keeping up with their removal. He also stated that the amount of sap that drops from the tree prevents people from parking under it. The tree in question is a *Koelreuteria bipinnata*, also known as Chinese Flame tree. The tree is 26 years old and has an estimated value of \$9,110.00.

- After hearing from the Mr. Rafferty, Director Barke stated that Mr. Rafferty should be allowed to remove the tree, citing his rights as a property owner. Director Nitikman did not agree with allowing for the removal of the tree, stating that many other parkway tree species planted in Rossmoor also drop seeds and questioned how they could justify making an exception that would set a precedent. Mr. Rafferty stated he thought personal health issues make his situation unique. Director Nitikman suggested that RCSD have the tree thinned as much as possible, without jeopardizing the health of the tree, to reduce the amount of seed pods the tree will produce. This solution was agreed to by Mr. Rafferty.

**January 12, 2021 – before pruning.**



**January 13, 2021 - after pruning.**

