

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 1989-9-288

September 5, 1989

APPROVAL OF TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

WHEREAS, the General Manager and staff have recommended adoption of a Tree Management Policy presented to the Board on September 5, 1989, which describes the system and procedures to be used by the District in identifying and managing trees within recreation and staging units of the District's parklands;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board adopts the attached Tree Management Policy and authorizes its implementation within lands owned and operated by the East Bay Regional Park District.

Moved by Director Ted Radke , seconded by Director James H. Duncan and adopted this 5th day of September, 1989 by the following vote:

FOR: Directors Jocelyn Combs, James H. Duncan, Mary Lee Jefferds, Harlan Kessel,  
Kay Petersen, Ted Radke  
AGAINST: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Director John O'Donnell

CERTIFICATION

I, Debra L. Wrableski, Secretary to the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution 1989-9-288 adopted by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting held on September 5, 1989

Debra L. Wrableski

## **EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT**

### **TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**September 5, 1989**

#### **Background**

The Park District is responsible for several hundred thousand trees found in its natural forests, planted groves, and landscaped areas. Trees are a vital part of our natural park ecosystems, and are particularly important for shading and screening in high use recreational units and staging areas.

The District is dedicated to the principle that native parkland trees will be left in their natural condition and will not be "managed" on an individual tree-by-tree basis. Nonetheless, the District concurrently recognizes that trees are not permanent features of the landscape, and that reasonable management of trees, particularly in developed park areas, will be necessary to sustain their health and to identify and correct problems that might result in tree failure, visitor injury, or property damage.

#### **Tree Management Policies**

The following policies will guide the District in protecting its natural forests, as well as managing trees in designated developed public use areas throughout the District.

1. The Operations and Interpretation Department will prepare a photo or computer map for each regional parkland designating tree areas according to the zoning classifications listed below. This classification program will be used as the zoning system to determine the level of management that will be appropriate for specific trees. Policies in the District's Master Plan, a park's adopted Land Use Plan, or management prescription for a designated species, ecosystem, or unit will also be followed and incorporated in the written prescriptions as they apply to specific park trees and forest areas. In general, trees in categories a., b., and c. will not be managed but will be left in their natural condition with written prescriptions developed to preserve and protect their natural qualities. Category d. and e. trees will be managed to achieve identified goals with plans and prescriptions developed to achieve the desired results.

#### **Classifications**

- a. Natural environmental unit
  - b. Special protection unit
  - c. Educational resources unit
  - d. Special management unit
  - e. Recreation or staging unit
2. The Operations and Interpretation Department will initiate and maintain a conscientious and systematic program of tree inspections within designated recreation and staging units (category e.) for the purpose of identifying and

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correcting tree problems in these developed, public use areas. The inspection program serves three major purposes. The first is to identify in a timely manner, problems that are weakening the tree(s), making required corrections to keep park trees healthy and vigorous. The second is to identify and eliminate conditions that would result in tree failure, thereby preventing injury to the tree itself, park visitors, or damage to property. The third is to provide documentation for tree maintenance work as well as removal of potential tree hazards required for a safe park environment.

The AGM for Operations and Interpretation will be responsible for implementing the tree inspection program which will involve the following components:

- a. Park Supervisors or trained Operations employees will conduct annual (February/April) inspections of category e. trees using an aerial photo or other map for designating trees with problems within high use areas. Suspected problem trees will be marked with a small disc and number. Park Supervisors and selected employees will receive training sufficient to accomplish the initial annual inspection task.
- b. The District's Arborist (an employee or consultant), along with Park Supervisor, will conduct an annual pre-season (prior to May 31) inspection of any newly identified problem trees to jointly develop recommendations for correction or removal. Their recommendations will be submitted to the Chief of Park Operations.
- c. The District's Arborist will be responsible for the personal bi-annual inspection of all pre-identified category e. high risk trees. To include, as a minimum: all eucalyptus and Monterey pine trees or forests over 50 years of age, all trees over 50' in height with developed park facilities within their range of failure, all trees in public use areas over 50' in height that have a history of dropping large limbs or exhibit known failure tendencies. Priority shall be given to the following park areas: Kennedy Grove picnic area, Tilden's eucalyptus forest areas overhanging developed facilities, Anthony Chabot's eucalyptus forest areas overhanging developed facilities, Del Valle campground, Point Pinole's eucalyptus forest areas overhanging developed facilities, Crown's matured pine stands, all eucalyptus trees over 50' in height which overhang private residences, or public roadways.

Recommendations for correction or removal will be prepared and submitted to the Chief of Park Operations for his review and approval by August 31 of each year.

- d. Identified high risk trees that fail should be reported to the Chief of Park Operations who will dispatch either the Arborist or an O&I management employee to conduct an on-the-spot inspection before the tree is removed to

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document the actual cause(s) of the failure. If injury or property damage occurs, the call to the Chief of Park Operations should be immediate.

3. The District will implement a tree removal review process to ensure that a recommendation to remove trees is justified and that the appropriate individuals and involved parties have been informed and consulted. Park Supervisors currently have the authority to remove, for good cause, individual trees that are not unique, are not nest sites for raptors, or are not a special feature in the park landscape. Damaged, dead, high risk trees, and trees that are in the way of Board-approved park development may also be removed by a Park Supervisor. The Chief of Park Operations will request an annual budget allocation to pay for tree pruning or removal which is beyond the scope of a local park's capabilities.

The District will use a review process to make the decision to remove a unique tree or group of trees. **The following steps shall be taken by the Park Supervisor to obtain the required authority to proceed:**

**Step #1.** The joint recommendation of the Park Supervisor and Arborist will be presented by the appropriate Unit Manager at a Friday O&I staff meeting, where a Go/No-Go decision will be considered. If a "Go" decision is agreed to, and further review is not required, permission will be given by the AGM of Operations and Interpretation. If further review and consultation is required, a list of individuals or parties to be contacted will be given to the Unit Manager for follow-up.

**Step #2.** Following a reasonable consultation period, the matter will be scheduled for the next Friday Parklands/Operations staff meeting where the next Go/No-Go decision will be made. If a "Go" decision is agreed to and the matter is within the General Manager's authority (e.g., compliance with CEQA or Board approval are not needed), permission will be given. If Board action is required, an agenda item will be prepared for the next Board meeting.

**Step #3.** The Board will make a final Go/No-Go decision.

4. The District, within recreation and staging units, will initiate a planned program to replace non-native trees which have demonstrated high failure rates with native trees or in the event natives are not appropriate, with non-native species of more suitable qualities. The conversion of individual trees or small groupings of trees will be accomplished using the procedures outlined in the above removal policy. In certain situations, it may be feasible to relocate public facilities, and save the trees with minor pruning and shaping.

The District will use the parkland planning process for deciding how to proceed for tree areas beyond the scope of the tree removal process. As each parkland Land Use Plan is prepared or revised, District staff will develop a proposal and action plan for high use or staging areas for converting identified high risk tree and forest areas to species more compatible with concentrated public use. Following approval of the

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LUDP/EIR, the AGMs for the Parklands/Operations groups will develop a plan to accomplish the conversion process.

5. The District will undertake a conscious planting program to replace removed or lost trees within recreation and staging units. The Chief of Park Operations will be responsible for replacing trees which are lost or removed from all recreational use and staging areas. For areas where irrigation is possible and planting plans exist, trees will be purchased in 5 to 15 gallon containers and replanted. If irrigation is not available or a plan has not been prepared, Design will be contacted to provide the necessary planting plan and specifications. The Chief of Park Operations will request an annual base budget allocation to pay for the re-planting program.
6. The plan and prescription for trees (principally mature eucalyptus and pines) in the special management units, category d., will be developed during the specific Land Use Plan/EIR process for the involved park. The Park Supervisor will use the same removal review process as outlined in Section 3 regarding questions of implementation.