

T O R R A N C E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Torrance Boulevard Trees Scheduled for Pruning, Removal and Replacement

Torrance, Calif., October 23, 2008 – During recent routine inspections of City trees, City staff discovered that many of Eucalyptus Camaldulensis (Red gum) trees that line Torrance Boulevard have grown beyond their ability to support themselves, which will require canopy reduction pruning to maintain their health. Additionally, seven out of the 131 trees also showed serious decline and weakening by decay; this results in an unfortunate but necessary trimming, removal and replacement program starting early next week.

The City has been cognizant of the historical impact of these trees and their role in shaping the look and feel of Torrance. Throughout the years, the City of Torrance has been proactive and diligent in the care and maintenance of these trees. Unfortunately, in 1999 the Eucalyptus trees were infested with the lerp psyllid insect. Since this initial infestation and a subsequent re-infestation in 2008, the City has actively worked to save and maintain these trees. The City's efforts have included releasing parasitic wasps as a form of biological control, system soil injections of insecticide, and vigilant maintenance by City staff. In spite of these efforts, recent inspections still showed that some trees were in serious decline.

While the recommended pruning of some trees will change their size, and the removal and replacement of seven in particular will change the appearance and character of Torrance Boulevard, these steps will enhance the health and survivability of each tree that remains.

All of the work will be performed in accordance with the International Society of Arboriculture standards with an arborist on site during the pruning operation as the City works to prolong the life of these famous Red Gum Eucalyptus trees.

For more information, please contact the Public Works Streetscape Manager at 310-781-6900.

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