



**REGULAR MEETING
GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE***

**Wednesday, November 8, 2023 – 1:30 p.m.
BOARD ROOM/VIRTUAL MEETING
Laguna Woods Village
24351 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA**

Laguna Woods Village owners/residents are welcome to participate in all open committee meetings and submit comments or questions for virtual meetings using one of three options:

- 1. Join the meeting in-person in the Community Center Board Room.*
- 2. Join the meeting via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/99225095454>. Please “Raise Your Hand” during the agenda item you would like to speak to. If you have an item that is NOT on the agenda, please “Raise Your Hand” during the Member Comments agenda item.*
- 3. Via email to meeting@vmsinc.org any time before the meeting is scheduled to begin or during the meeting. Please use the name GRF Landscape Committee in the subject line of the email. Name and unit number must be included.*

NOTICE AND AGENDA
This Meeting May Be Recorded

1. Call to Order
2. Acknowledgment of Media
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Report for August 22, 2023
5. Chair Remarks
 - a. Robert Merget Retirement Acknowledgment
 - b. Acknowledgment of Landscape Employee Excellence Award Recipients
6. Department Head Update
 - a. 4005-1G Tree Removal
 - b. Monkey Puzzle Tree Trimming Proposal

Items for Discussion and Consideration

7. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)
8. Response to Member Comments

Concluding Business:

9. Committee Member Comments

10. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Juanita Skillman, Chair
Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer
Megan Feliz, Landscape Administrative Assistant
Telephone: 949-268-2565

*A quorum of the GRF Board, or more, may also be present at the meeting.

OPEN MEETING

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION
LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, August 22, 2023 – 1:30 P.M.
BOARD ROOM / VIRTUAL MEETING
Laguna Woods Village Community Center
24351 El Toro Road**

REPORT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair – Juanita Skillman, Yvonne Horton, Sue Quam, Glenn Miller, Maggie Blackwell (Alternate)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Casey, Ira Lewis, Jules Zalon

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Cafferty (El Toro Water District General Manager), Vu Chu (El Toro Water District Water Use Efficiency Analyst)

ADVISORS PRESENT: Catherine Brians

STAFF PRESENT: Kurt Wiemann, Jayanna Abolmoloki

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Skillman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Acknowledgment of Media

No formal press was present. Granicus was not used during this meeting due to technical difficulties.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved without objections.

4. Approval of the Meeting Report for May 10, 2023

The report was approved without objections.

5. Committee Chair Remarks

Chair Skillman invited Mr. Cafferty from El Toro Water District to the lectern to give a presentation on the rate increases.

Members made comments and asked questions.

6. Department Head Update

Mr. Wiemann discussed staffing vacancies in detail.

6a. Update on Aliso Creek

Mr. Wiemann discussed the presentation in detail.

Members made comments and asked questions.

6b. Mower Shop Insulation Update

Mr. Wiemann discussed the presentation in detail.

Member made comments and asked questions.

Items for Discussion and Consideration**7. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)**

One member voiced a complaint about the Willow trees at Aliso Creek.

8. Response to Members Comments

Members of the Committee responded to the member comment.

Concluding Business:**9. Committee Member Comments**

Several comments were made.

10. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.**11. Adjourned at 2:23 p.m.**

Juanita Skillman, Chair

STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 8, 2023
FOR: Landscape Committee
SUBJECT: Tree Removal 4005-1G Calle Sonora- One Aleppo Pine Tree

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the removal of one Aleppo Pine Tree located at 4005-1G Calle Sonora.

BACKGROUND

The member purchased the unit in October 2002, and is requesting the removal of one Aleppo Pine, *Pinus, halepensis*, located at the rear of the unit. The reasons cited for the removal are: the tree grows fast and is a potential fire hazard. There are four additional signatures on the request form in favor of the removal (Attachment 1).

The Aleppo Pine has no work history as it is not in inventory and shows no signs of ever being trimmed. The height of the tree is approximately 16 feet, with a trunk diameter of eight inches. The tree is growing on the slope approximately forty-five feet from the rear of the manor.

DISCUSSION

At the time of the inspection, the tree was found to be in fair condition with a slight lean towards the bottom of the slope, a full canopy with multiple cross branches and end weight. There are a number of dead and dying needles on most of the branches. Staff believes this tree is a volunteer, as it is not listed in the Tree Inventory. Given the distance of the tree to the unit, staff does not believe this tree is a fire hazard.

Staff recommends the removal of this tree due to its current shape and condition. Attempting to restore and develop a proper shape would require the removal of more than 50% of the canopy, putting the tree into a possible stressed condition. Removing the tree now at its current size would be a cost saving to the Mutual rather than waiting to see if the tree survives the hard trim.

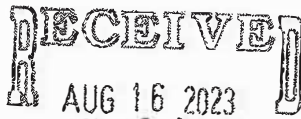
FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The cost to remove the Aleppo Pine tree is approximately \$552. The cost to perform a restoration trimming is approximately \$900. The estimated value of the tree is approximately \$700 based on a comparison to a similar sized tree in the data base.

Prepared By: Bob Merget Landscape Manager, Field Support / Contracts
Reviewed By: Megan Feliz, Landscape Administrative Assistant

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1: Landscape Request Form
Attachment 2: Photos



Attachment 1

**MUTUAL LANDSCAPE REQUEST FORM****PLEASE NOTE: THIS FORM IS NOT INTENDED FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE REQUESTS**

For all non-routine requests, please fill out this form. Per the policy of your Mutual, if your request falls outside the scope of the managing agent's authority, it will be forwarded to the Mutual's Landscape Committee for review. If you are unsure whether your request falls into this category, first contact Resident Services at 597-4600 in order to make that determination.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED REQUEST FORM TO RESIDENT SERVICES.**Resident/Owner Information**

You must be an owner to request non-routine Landscape requests.

Address 4005 #16 Calle Sonoma OesteToday's Date 8-16-2023Resident's Name Karen Joy JacksonTelephone Number 714 270 0562**Non-Routine Request**

Please checkmark the item that best describes your request. If none apply, please checkmark "Other" and explain.

☒ Tree Removal☐ New Landscape☐ Off-Schedule Trimming☐ Other (explain): _____**Reason for Request**

Please checkmark the item(s) that best explain the reason for your request.

☐ Structural Damage ☐ Sewer Damage ☒ Overgrown ☐ Poor Condition☐ Litter/Debris ☒ Personal Preference☐ Other (explain): possible fire hazard**GUIDELINES:**

- Structural/Sewer Damage: Damage to buildings, sidewalks, sewer pipes, or other facilities may justify removal if corrective measures are not practical.
- Overgrown/Crowded: Trees or plants that have outgrown the available space may justify removal.
- Damaged/Declining Health: Trees or plants that are declining in health will be evaluated for corrective action before removal/replacement is considered.
- Litter and Debris: Because all trees shed litter seasonally, generally this is not an adequate reason to justify removal. However, if granted, removal/replacement may be at the resident's expense.
- Personal Preference: Because one does not like the appearance or other characteristics of the tree or plant generally does not justify its removal. However, if granted, removal/replacement is usually at the resident's expense.

8-15-2023

Please cut down

this pine tree by

back fence of 4005 LG.

Karen Jackson

Jim Brown

Overgrown pine tree

may be a fire hazard!



Attachment 2:







STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 8, 2023
FOR: Landscape Committee
SUBJECT: Two-year trimming of five Monkey Puzzle Trees

RECOMMENDATION

Approve of a two-year tree trimming program for five Monkey Puzzle trees to reduce the probability of cone drop.

BACKGROUND

The Monkey Puzzle trees, *Araucaria, araucana*, are located at two locations in Aliso Creek. One location is below Building 190, near the creek, and the other is below Building 172, where the two walking paths meet. The average height of each tree is approximately 55 feet and the average diameter is approximately 25 inches. At time of inspection the trees were found to be in good condition. No trunk damage was present, some branches had minimal dieback which is typical during summer months. There were no signs of pests or prior pest damage.

DISCUSSION

The Monkey Puzzle tree is an evergreen tree in the conifer family, whose native habitat is south-central Chili and western Argentina. Because of the prevalence of similar species in ancient prehistory, it is sometimes called a living fossil. These trees can grow as tall as 130 feet and a diameter of 60 inches. Juvenile trees exhibit a broadly pyramidal or conical habit which naturally develops into the distinctive umbrella form of mature specimens as the tree ages. Its status was changed to Endangered by the IUCN in 2013 due to the dwindling population caused by logging, forest fires, and grazing. This is the national tree of Chili.

The cones of these trees are green and gold with hair-like edges that grow at the tips of the branches, typically near the tops of the trees. The cones ripen over a two to two-and-a-half-year cycle and can get as large as eight inches long and weigh as much as 10 to 15 lbs. Given the threat of these cones falling from a height of fifty feet, these cones pose a potential hazard.

Staff is recommending the trimming of the Monkey Puzzle trees and the removal of cones bi-annually to reduce the possibility of the cones causing damage.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Due to its protected status, voluntary removal is not an option. The cost to trim the five Monkey Puzzle trees bi-annually is \$4,000 each time. The cost to remove the five trees is approximately \$9,875 and the estimated average value of each tree is \$5,000 based on the tree inventory data.

Prepared By: Bob Merget, Landscape Manager
Reviewed By: Megan Feliz, Landscape Administrative Assistant
Kurt Wiemann, Director of Field Operations

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment 1: Photos
Attachment 2: Great Scott Proposal

Attachment 1













Attachment 2
TREE SERVICE PROPOSAL
09/22/2023

CUSTOMER
* BONDED & INSURED FOR \$5,000,000 LIABILITY
* STATE CONTRACTORS LICENSE #556832 VF
* ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST #WC-0901

Proposal #: 326609

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Monkey Puzzle Trimming

BILLING ADDRESS	JOB SITE ADDRESS	NOTES
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LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE
C/O: VILLAGE MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.
ATTN: KURT WIEMANN
24351 EL TORO ROAD
LAGUNA WOODS, CA 92637

LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE
23611 RIDGE ROUTE DRIVE
LAGUNA HILLS, CA 92653

NTE \$4,000

Remove dead, broken branches and cones.

PHONE: 949-597-4650
KURT.WIEMANN@VMSINC.ORG; AP@VMSINC.ORG;
ROBERT.MERGET@VMSINC.ORG;
MINDRA.FIELDING@VMSINC.ORG

MUTUAL 90 (NOT A PART)

☐ **GATE 3**

Tree ID	Address	Type of Work	Size	Tree Type	Qty	Unit	Price	Total Price
GATE 3								
601943	2	Deadwooding	19-24	Araucaria - Monkey Puzzle	1.00	EA	0.00	0.00
601946	2	Deadwooding	25-30	Araucaria - Monkey Puzzle	1.00	EA	0.00	0.00
601982		Deadwooding			00	EA	0.00	0.00
601992	2	Deadwooding	13-18	Araucaria - Monkey Puzzle	1.00	EA	0.00	0.00
601993	2	Deadwooding	19-24	Araucaria - Monkey Puzzle	1.00	EA	0.00	0.00
602123	2	Deadwooding	19-24	Araucaria - Monkey Puzzle	1.00	EA	0.00	0.00
602124	2	Deadwooding	13-18	Araucaria - Monkey Puzzle	1.00	EA	0.00	0.00
602125	2	Deadwooding	07-12	Araucaria - Monkey Puzzle	1.00	EA	0.00	0.00
					7.00			0.00

NOT A PART

☐ **NOT A PART**

Tree ID	Address	Type of Work	Size	Tree Type	Qty	Unit	Price	Total Price
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*****CREW RENTAL*****

	Crew Rental	---	Crew Rental(NTE: \$4,000)	40.00	HOUR	100.00	4,000.00
				40.00			4,000.00
Total Trees:				48.00			

Total: \$4,000.00

This proposal and the pricing estimated herein are valid for acceptance within sixty days and, thereafter, are subject to equipment and resource availability. Great Scott reserves the right to negotiate an equitable adjustment beyond sixty days.

PLEASE NOTE: IF THE SCOPE OF WORK THAT IS PROPOSED IS CHANGED, THE PRICES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGES AS WELL. A NEW ESTIMATE WILL BE SENT TO YOU.

GREAT SCOTT TREE SERVICE, INC

10761 COURT AVE, STANTON, CA 90680

PHONE: (714) 826-1750 FAX: (714) 826-1753

Agenda Item #6b

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