

September 4, 2020

David Moty, Chair  
Kensington-Talmadge Planning Group  
P.O. Box 16391  
San Diego, CA 92176  
[dkmoty@gmail.com](mailto:dkmoty@gmail.com)

**Re: Tree maintenance in public right of way; community of Kensington**

Dear Mr. Moty,

The Urban Forestry Program under the Transportation and Storm Water Department has commenced tree maintenance in the communities of Kensington and Talmadge. Due to recent concerns in regard to removing California pepper trees in the public right of way, we are giving you notice of the planned tree work in regards to this specific tree species in the community of Kensington.

In the early 1900s, hundreds of California pepper trees were planted in the parkways of Kensington. Many of these trees were removed over the years and many of the remaining trees have outlived their lifecycle in the urban environment due to decay or conflicts with existing right of way infrastructure.

In the last year, several of our certified arborists, whom are Tree Risk Assessment Qualified, evaluated the pepper trees in the Kensington community for tree maintenance needs.

A total of four (4) California pepper trees (*Schinus molle*) have been scheduled and approved for removal in the Kensington community due to decay and other structural defects. In all cases, these street trees have significant amount of decay, are no longer viable street trees, and pose a significant risk to our community in the right of way. See the attached photos of some of the trees in poor condition that are scheduled for removal attached to the end of this memorandum.

An additional seven (7) pepper trees are scheduled and approved for tree pruning in order to correct existing defects. These trees remain as viable assets to our community and corrective treatment will reduce current safety issues and enhance the health of the tree.

Please see an approximate schedule of the all pepper trees listed for removal or pruning below. Work is scheduled to commence and end this current calendar year of 2020:

SCHEDULE	ADDRESS	WORK TYPE
September to November, 2020	4190 Monroe Av	Tree Removal
	4721 Edgeware Rd	Tree Pruning
	4721 Edgeware Rd	Tree Pruning
	4721 Edgeware Rd	Tree Pruning
	4715 Edgeware Rd	Tree Pruning
	4709 Edgeware Rd	Tree Pruning
	4756 Kensington Dr	Tree Pruning
October to December, 2020	4748 Marlborough Av	Tree Removal
	4756 Marlborough Av	Tree Removal
	4772 Marlborough Av	Tree Removal

The Urban Forestry Program has or will be reaching out to each adjacent property owner where trees are scheduled for removal. Property owners will be offered a new tree at no cost to them, dependent upon adequate space in the parkway, as new trees need to be planted several feet away from the original tree location. The adjacent property owner must agree to water the tree for three years. All tree removals are marked with white paint on the tree and in the street, and both tree trunk and stump will be removed.

As shown with the schedule above, the Urban Forestry Program continues to maintain California pepper trees within the community, and for those trees that need removal, a replacement tree will be offered. Please keep in mind that we do not offer pepper trees as replacement street trees.

We appreciate your time. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Brian Widener*

Brian Widener, City Forester

cc:

Kris McFadden, Director, Transportation and Storm Water  
Drew Kleis, Assistant Director, Transportation and Storm Water  
Patrick Hadley, Deputy Director, Transportation and Storm Water  
Eric Young II, Senior Community Representative, Mayor's Office  
Lara Gates, Deputy Chief of Staff, Council District 9  
Sanna Loando, Policy Advisor, Council District 9

Attachment.

### 4190 Monroe Avenue Tree Removal

- 13 inch deep pocket of decay was found in one of the main stems. The other stems of tree all had significant amounts of decay.



Table 3.3. Shell thickness requirements for open shell

Open shells need at least 2 inches of sound shell for each 6 inches of stem diameter when the opening is less than 30% of the stem circumference.	
Stem diameter (inches)	Shell thickness (inches)
6	2
12	4
18	6
24	8
48	16

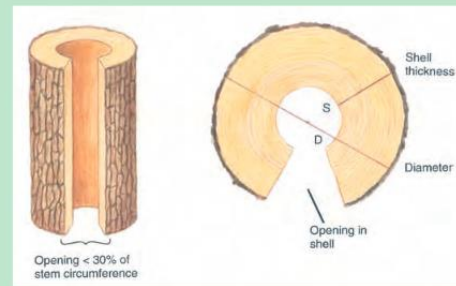


Figure 3.30. There needs to be at least 2 inches of sound wood in the shell for each 6 inches of diameter when openings occur in the stem. The openings must be smaller than 30% of the stem circumference.



4772 Marlborough Av Tree Removal



4748 Marlborough Av Tree Removal

