

Meeting  
*of the*

TREES/PARKWAYS  
COMMITTEE

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Wednesday,  
November 4, 2015  
4:00 p.m.

Agenda Packet



**AGENDA**

**ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

**AD HOC TREE/PARKWAY COMMITTEE MEETING**

RUSH PARK  
Administration Building  
3001 Blume Drive  
Rossmoor, California

**November 4, 2015**  
**4:00**

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**A. ORGANIZATION**

1. CALL TO ORDER: 4:00 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Directors Casey, DeMarco
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**B. PUBLIC FORUM**

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

**C. REGULAR CALENDAR**

1. DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER REGARDING ISSUES THAT ARE AFFECTING THE STATE OF ROSSMOOR'S URBAN FOREST INCLUDING:
  - A. VIOLATIONS OF TREE POLICY
  - B. DISEASES CAUSING DECLINE OR DEATH OF ROSSMOOR TREES
  - C. EFFECTS OF DROUGHT STRESS ON ROSSMOOR TREES
2. DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER REGARDING UPDATE AND PRESENTATION OF RCSD BROCHURES DESIGNED TO EDUCATE AND INFORM ROSSMOOR RESIDENTS ABOUT RCSD, THE ROSSMOOR URBAN FOREST AND TREE POLICY

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

**CERTIFICATION OF POSTING**

I hereby certify that the attached Agenda for the Wednesday, November 4, 2015, 4:00 p.m. Rossmoor Ad Hoc Tree/Parkway Committee Meeting of the Rossmoor Community Services District was posted at least 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

ATTEST:

  
JAMES D. RUTH  
General Manager

Date November 2, 2015

**ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

**AGENDA ITEM C-1**

**Date:** November 4, 2015  
**To:** Tree Committee  
**From:** General Manager James D. Ruth  
**Subject:** DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER REGARDING ISSUES THAT ARE AFFECTING THE STATE OF ROSSMOOR'S URBAN FOREST

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive report of the District Tree Consultant.

**BACKGROUND:**

C-1. DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER REGARDING ISSUES THAT ARE AFFECTING THE STATE OF ROSSMOOR'S URBAN FOREST INCLUDING:

- A. Violations of Tree Policy
- B. Diseases Causing Decline or Death of Rossmoor Trees
- C. Effects of Drought Stress on Rossmoor Trees

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Tree Consultant Report on Issues Affecting the State of Rossmoor's Urban Forest

# Issues Affecting the State of Rossmoor's Urban Forest

RCSD Tree/Parkway Committee Meeting November 4, 2015

- Violations of Tree Policy 2015:
  - Illegal tree removals
  - Illegal trims
  - Planting of non-district trees, including fruit trees
  - Swings on parkway trees
  - Neglect of parkway trees - cases vary due to confusion regarding drought restrictions
  
- Diseases causing decline or death of Rossmoor trees:
  - *Pytophthora siskiyouensis* in White Alder Trees
  - *Xylella fastidiosa* in Liquidambar Trees
  - PSHB – Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer, transmitting the fungus *Fusarium euwallacea* (Fusarium Wilt) in Chinese Pistache Trees and California Sycamore trees)
  
- Effects of drought stress on trees:
  - Water-stressed trees exhibiting:
    - Stunted growth, failure to leaf out and dieback in canopy.
    - High susceptibility to pests and diseases due to poor health
    - Higher likelihood of branch/limb drop
    - Death of young trees

## Background of Citizen Service Request: 3072 Ruth Elaine Drive

The parkway tree at this address being a large, established California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) with an estimated value of \$9,830.

October 17, 2014 - Resident James Nelson put in removal request with OCPW due to sewer issues and sap dripping on his boat.

October 17, 2014 –Mary Kingman called resident back, unable to leave message. Sent a letter explaining tree policy and that sewer issues and sap dripping does not qualify for removal.

October 24, 2014 - Mary Kingman talked to resident about plumbing issues. Resident claims that plumber assured her that sewer connection was directly under the tree. Mary Kingman told her she would need a certified letter from plumber stating this information. Also if tree is cut down and connection is not under tree they could be liable for value of tree.

October 14, 2015 – Mary Kingman informed by Orange County Public Works that large snapped limb over weekend. Mary Kingman inspected tree and state of branch that was cut up by OCPW and left taped off at curb for pick-up. Tree appears healthy with no sign of disease or rot in downed limb or tree. Breakage likely caused by weight and changes in temperature combined with drought stressed tree. Summer limb drop is a phenomenon that is common occurrence in species.

October 16, 2015 – Resident Cindy Nelson came into RCSD office on Wednesday very upset and talked to Kathy Bell. Said she was going to sue Tree Consultant, Mary Kingman and the district because a large branch came down from the parkway tree and landed on daughter's car and requested that the tree be removed. Mary Kingman called resident back and could not leave message as mailbox was full.

October 20, 2015 – Resident Cindy Nelson came in to RSCD office wanting to talk to Mary Kingman. Jessica Verduzco informed her Mary was not in today. She reported that another branch has fallen and landed on her car again. She really wants this tree removed as it is a liability and would like to speak with Mary as soon as possible. She will try you back on 10/21/15 in the afternoon. She said the branch was not that big this time and she can remove it but she did take pictures.

October 26, 2015 - Resident Cindy Nelson came in to RCSD front office to talk to Mary Kingman. Resident threatened to sue her and District for allowing the tree to stay and said she considered the tree a deadly weapon. Mary Kingman ordered independent arborist report on tree and will inform all General Manager, Tree Committee Board Members and Resident Cindy Nelson of the result once report on the tree has been completed.

October 17, 2014

Jim and Cindy Nelson  
3072 Ruth Elaine Drive  
Rossmoor, CA 90720

Re: Tree Removal Request

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Nelson,

This letter is in response to your recent request with Orange County Public Works to have the large California Sycamore tree in the parkway in front of your residence removed. The RCSD policy is to preserve our valuable urban forest and not remove healthy trees.

Tree roots entering into lateral sewer lines are due to sewage leaking from old clay sewer lines. The tree seeks the seeping nutrients and moisture to its source which creates stoppage problems. Repairing the leakage or replacing the sewer line will correct the tree root problems.

Regarding your other concern regarding falling sap, the trees are not removed due to leaf litter, flower or seed litter or falling sap.

Thank you,

Mary Kingman  
Tree Consultant for RCSD

## Background of Illegal Tree Removal Letter: 2941 Copa De Oro Dr.

The parkway trees that were removed being three Indian Laurel Fig (*Ficus microcarpa* 'Nitida') trees with an estimated combined value of \$2760.00

October 19, 2015 – A resident sent an email informing RCSD that three trees just removed from the parkway at 2941 Copa De Oro Dr. and that stump grinding of trees was still in progress. Mary Kingman drove to residence and found a crew of workers indeed had removed the trees and were finishing up the stump grinding. After being told the removal was illegal, they explained that the resident had thought since she planted the trees herself, she thought she could have them removed. RCSD sent resident a letter with violation and penalty for removing the trees.

October 29, 2015 – Resident of property who is a renter called and talked to Mary Kingman. He had opened letter since it was address to 'Rossmoor Resident'. He provided the name, address and phone number of the property owner and explained that she was an elderly woman who had no idea that she was not allowed to remove the trees. She assumed that since she planted the trees that she could remove them.



October 19, 2015

Rossmoor Resident  
2941 Copa De Oro Dr.  
Rossmoor, CA 90720

Re: Trees Illegally Removed

Dear Rossmoor Resident,

Three parkway trees in front of your home at 2941 Copa De Oro Dr. were found to have been removed without authorization from RCSD in violation of RCSD Policy 3080.

Unauthorized removal or homeowner/resident caused damage of a parkway tree is a misdemeanor subject to penalties. In addition, the homeowner will be required to pay to the RCSD the value of the removed trees and the cost of a 24-inch box replacement tree.

Our records indicate that the species of removed trees is *Ficus microcarpa* 'Nitida', also known as Indian Laurel Fig. They were approximately 8' tall, with a value of \$1,380 each. The cost of replacement tree is \$180.00. Therefore, you are required to submit payment to the RCSD in the amount of \$4,320.00 by December 20, 2015. You may remit your payment to:

Rossmoor Community Services District  
3001 Blume Dr.  
Rossmoor, CA 90720

Pursuant to RCSD Policy 3080, if the payment is not made by the deadline, the RCSD has the authority to pursue litigation to seek collection of the expenses and damages resulting from the unauthorized tree removal.

If you have any questions, please call me at the RCSD office at (562) 430-3707. Thank you for your assistance in the above matter.

Thank you,

James Ruth  
General Manager

**ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

**AGENDA ITEM C-2**

**Date:** November 4, 2015  
**To:** Tree Committee  
**From:** General Manager James D. Ruth  
**Subject:** DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER REGARDING UPDATE AND PRESENTATION OF RCSD BROCHURES DESIGNED TO EDUCATE AND INFORM ROSSMOOR RESIDENTS ABOUT RCSD, THE ROSSMOOR URBAN FOREST AND TREE POLICY

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive report of the District Tree Consultant.

**BACKGROUND:**

C-2. DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL MANAGER REGARDING UPDATE AND PRESENTATION OF RCSD BROCHURES DESIGNED TO EDUCATE AND INFORM ROSSMOOR RESIDENTS ABOUT RCSD, THE ROSSMOOR URBAN FOREST AND TREE POLICY

- a. Violations of Tree Policy
- b. Diseases Causing Decline or Death of Rossmoor Trees
- c. Effects of Drought Stress on Rossmoor Trees

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. RCSD Brochures: 'The Trees of Rossmoor' and 'Behind The Wall'
2. Chart Containing Violations of Tree Policy, Diseases Causing Decline or Death of Rossmoor Trees and Effects of Drought Stress.

## Urban Forest Facts

- One average sized tree makes enough oxygen for a family of four for a whole year.
- Mature shade trees can make your house 20 degrees cooler in summertime.
- Houses with mature trees in the front yard sell for more money than houses without trees.
- Streets lined with trees are quieter – less traffic noise.
- The more green space in your community, the better the community's health.
- Everybody who can see trees has less stress.



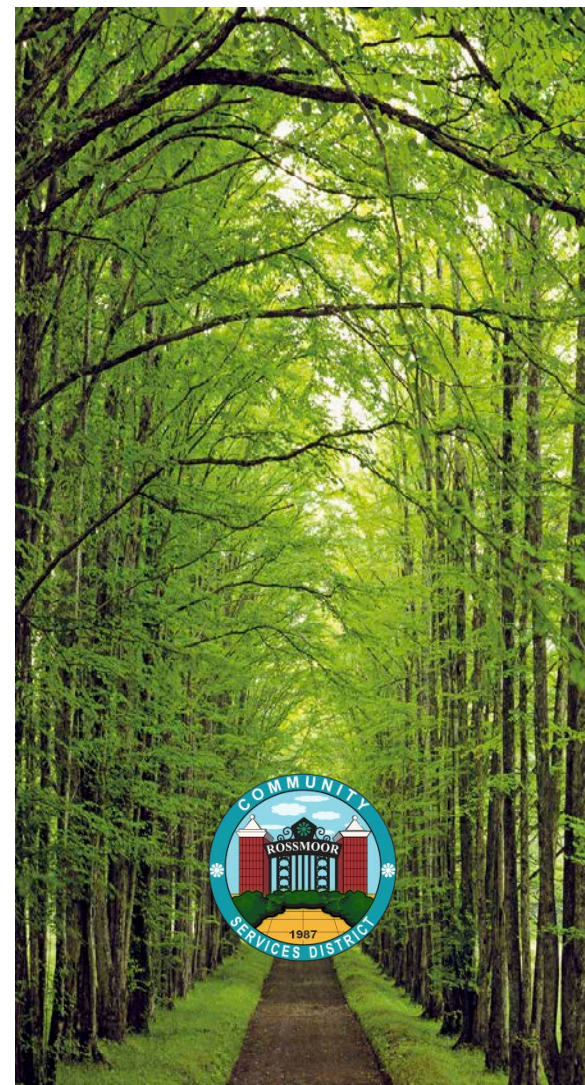
Mature shade trees can make your house 20 degrees cooler in summertime.

## Tree Legacy

- A tree is a living thing, just as we are. It lives on food, water, sunlight and oxygen. It needs to dispose of its biological waste, which results in leaves dropping. It tries to reproduce if possible, resulting in fruit, seed pods or seedlings. It develops health problems, especially with age, but also can grow more graceful and beautiful with age. The more we can do to care for our aging urban forest, the better it will look and can be enjoyed by generations to come.
- 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.
- The District has a goal to plant all vacant parkway sites in Rossmoor with a new tree. We will need the community's help in caring for these new trees.
- The District Tree Consultant will work with residents on choosing a tree species that is both approved as a District Parkway Tree and blends in with their front yard landscaping as well as other trees on the same street. A list of approved trees is available on the District website.
- With the community's help, our beautiful urban forest can continue to thrive and insure Rossmoor's status as a Tree City U.S.A.



Click on the  
Urban Forest Link  
Found on our website:  
[www.rossmoor-csd.org](http://www.rossmoor-csd.org)



## THE TREES OF ROSSMOOR

Rossmoor Community Services District  
"Our pride is rooted in our urban forest."

[www.rossmoor-csd.org](http://www.rossmoor-csd.org)

# Natural Architecture



While there are many aspects of Rossmoor that define it as a 'superb suburb', the trees play a huge role in its appeal. The trees are what attract most people who first drive through Rossmoor's streets. They are reminded of another place, a bygone age; when neighborhood streets were shaded by broad tree canopies that nearly touched each other from across the parkways. Where majestic trunks reach for the sky and bare branches form a graceful silhouette against a backdrop of blue.

RCS D knows that protecting Rossmoor's vast urban forest of mature trees is vital since the trees are such an integral part of the community. Not only do the mature trees provide beauty and shade but are important to the health and welfare of Rossmoor's residents.



# RCS D Tree Policy-Key Points

It is important to know that it is illegal for residents to prune or remove the parkways trees in Rossmoor. Please help the District to maintain this policy by informing new neighbors of it and reporting any violations to RCS D. Residents that feel their tree needs pruning or care can contact the District Tree Consultant, Mary Kingman, for an evaluation.

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.

# Parkway Landscaping Guidelines

Shrubs, flowers and turf compete with newly planted trees for nutrients and water and when planted around established trees, can potentially create conditions for root or crown rot. Keep all plant material at least 2' from the base of the tree. Artificial turf needs to be installed with circle or a rectangular border for tree that is at least 2' from the base to allow water to penetrate and to avoid rot. Any landscaping or hardscape work within the parkway requires a permit from Orange County Public Works. Tree roots within 5' of the base of a tree should be carefully avoided when doing any landscaping within the parkway. The removal or damage to roots close to a tree can cause instability and affect the long-term health of the tree. Please be cautious while removing and installing turf or paving materials.

**Suggestions for drought tolerant parkway ground covers:**



## GRASSES

- Sedge Grass - Carex spp.
- Blue Fescue - Festuca glauca
- 'UC Verde' Buffalo Grass - Buchloe dactyloides



## GROUND COVER PLANTS

- African Daisy - Osteospermum fruticosum
- Arctotis acaulis - African Daisy
- Erigeron glaucus - Seaside Daisy
- Dymonida margaretae - Silver Carpet
- Thymus Serpyllum - Creeping Thyme
- Thymus praecox - Elfin Thyme
- Grevillea lanigera 'Coastal Gem' - Coastal Gem Grevillea
- Fragaria chiloensis - Beach Strawberry
- Arctostaphylos 'Pacific Mist' - Pacific Mist Manzanita
- Salvia 'Bee's Bliss' - Bee's Bliss Sage
- Ceanothus 'Yankee Point' - Creeping California Lilac



## SUCCULENTS

- Echeveria imbricata - Hens and Chicks
- Sedum spp. - Stonecrop
- Oscularia deltoids - Pink Ice Plant
- Aptenia 'Red Apple'
- Crassula spp. - Sempervivum



# Trees provide vital habitat for native bird and animal species.



## Contact us



**MARY KINGMAN**  
Tree Program Specialist  
[mkingman@rossmoor-csd.com](mailto:mkingman@rossmoor-csd.com)  
3001 Blume Drive  
Rossmoor, CA 90720  
(562) 430-3707



**WEST COAST ARBORIST**  
<http://westcoastarborists.com/>  
[www.rossmoor-csd.org](http://www.rossmoor-csd.org)

# Tree Care

- Young trees with yellow, curling or brown-edged leaves are asking you for water.
- Young trees do NOT like weed whackers, blowers or mowers - stay away!
- Mulch - about 3 or 4 inches deep - holds water and makes your trees healthier.
- The best way to water a tree is with a soaker or a long-term trickle - your lawn sprinkler system doesn't do the job.
- No swings or attachments of any type (i.e. signs, foil, nails, staples, etc.) may be placed on parkway or median trees. This may damage the tree and can pose liability issues for the district.





GENERAL MANAGER  
JAMES D. RUTH



### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Rossmoor Community Services District is to provide superior, cost-effective, services that enhance the quality of life for the residents of Rossmoor.

#### MAIN OFFICE

**562.430.3707**

#### RECREATION OFFICE

**562.431.0525**

*After Hours Answering Service*

*Emergencies Only*

**562.497.0118**

[www.rossmoor-csd.org](http://www.rossmoor-csd.org)

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

*Orange County Sheriffs Department*

*Non-Emergency*

**714.527.9100**

*R.F. Dickson-Street Sweeping*

**562.923.5441**

*Orange County Public Works*

**714.955.0200**

*Orange County Animal Control*

**714.896.7400**

*CR&R Waste & Recycling Services*

**1.800.826.9677**



# BEHIND THE WALL



ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
3001 Blume Drive, Rossmoor, CA

OFFICE HOURS  
MON-FRI  
9 AM-5 PM



**WELCOME TO ROSSMOOR!** Whether you are a new or existing member of the community, we would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some information on our local government and how Rossmoor is managed as an unincorporated community within the County of Orange, along with some policies that may apply to you as a resident.

While the County of Orange Public Works department maintains the roads, sidewalks, gutters and curbs of Rossmoor and also helps to maintain the street trees, the RCSD has authority over the parks within Rossmoor and the trees within the parks, parkways and medians.

The RCSD has a policy in place that protects the trees that make up the substantial urban forest within the community. Residents are not allowed to prune, trim, remove, damage or plant trees within the parkways, which is the strip of land between the curb and sidewalk of residential homes. The penalties for violating such policies are enforceable by law. RCSD works to maintain the trees and keep them healthy, safe for residents and quickly replaces any tree that must be removed due to death or disease.



*Tree lined communities are known to have less crime and friendlier people. Trees are aesthetically pleasing, reduce stress levels and urban heat islands, promote a sense of community and create feelings of well-being.*

**ROSSMOOR TAKES GREAT PRIDE IN BEING A TREE CITY USA.** With over 5,500 trees within an area of only 1.5 square miles, the large mature trees are what attract many new residents and improve the quality of life of existing residents. There are many benefits to having a large amount of trees in a community. Trees are proven to increase property value by up to 20%, cut utility costs by up to 50% and 100 large, mature trees can remove 12 tons of carbon dioxide and 646 pounds of other air pollutants. Tree lined communities are known to have less crime and friendlier people. The trees reduce stress levels, promote a sense of community and create feelings of well-being.



**HISTORY:** In the early 1980s the County was faced with a sizeable deficit in Rossmoor County Service Area No. 21 (CSA 21). Rossmoor had three choices: Cut services, consolidate CSA 21 with other CSAs in the county, or form an independent Community Services District (CSD). A special district has many of the powers of a city with the notable exception of land-use planning. **The RCSD was formed in November 1986** as a result of a general election. **Powers granted were:** public recreation facilities and services, street lighting, road rights-of-way services, sewer services and, subject to consent from the County of Orange, refuse collection and disposal. These included specific services previously provided by CSA 21: local park development and maintenance, road-related landscape maintenance, street sweeping and community center/recreation programs. At that time, this included Rossmoor Park, the mini-parks and Montecito Center. **In November 1990, Rossmoor voters approved a ballot measure** to acquire Rush School and surrounding grounds and to tax themselves to pay for one or more bonds to acquire the property now known as Rush Park.

*Rossmoor is known for its splendid urban forest, beautiful homes and strong family values.*



**RCSD TODAY:** Rossmoor Community Services District is located in the Community of Rossmoor in Orange County, California. Approximately 10,500 residents make their home in this unincorporated bedroom community located behind a signature brick wall situated between the cities of Seal Beach and Los Alamitos. The Special District of Rossmoor is governed by a five member Board of Directors, who are elected by the residents of Rossmoor and operates under the supervision of a General Manager. Rossmoor is managed by the Rossmoor Community Services District, or RCSD. The RCSD office staff is comprised of a General Manager, administrative assistant, general clerk, accountant, park superintendent, recreation superintendent, one full-time and one part-time park and recreation assistant and a street tree consultant.

**BOARD MEETINGS** are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7 pm in the Rush Park Auditorium. The public is welcome to attend. The RCSD works closely with the Rossmoor Homeowner's Association (RHA) which is a non-governing, community organization made up of resident volunteers.



## Issues Affecting the State of Rossmoor's Urban Forest Data

<b>Violations 2015</b>	
Illegal Trims	15
Illegal Removal	1
Non-District Plantings	2
Swings on Parkway Trees	13
<b>Drought Affects</b>	
Large Branch Failures	56
Young Tree Deaths	18
<b>Tree Disease Deaths 2015</b>	
Pytophthora siskiyouensis	37
Xylella fastidiosa	3
PSHB	2