




DATE: December 13, 2017

TO: Board of Directors 

THROUGH: Steve Abbors, General Manager

FROM: Susan Weidemann, Property Management Specialist II

SUBJECT: Picchetti Winery Eucalyptus Tree Removal

---

District staff are contracting for the removal of a large decaying eucalyptus tree located at Picchetti Winery that is a safety hazard.

### Background

In late August of this year, Ms. Pantling (tenant) contacted District staff to report that the very large eucalyptus tree located near the parking area and the trailhead of the Zinfandel Trail appeared to be leaning. Additionally, she stated that a portion of the trunk had split and revealed a large hollow opening. Squirrels have been actively burrowing and building nests in the opening. Staff engaged a certified arborist to evaluate the tree. The arborist's report stated that the tree is in very poor health. The large cavity and the discovery of live fruiting bodies on the north side of the tree suggest the presence of Sulfur or Bracket fungus. This fungus is a rapid wood-decaying disease. The large cavity is approximately one-third of the entire base of the tree, which means the entire load of the tree has shifted to the east side of the tree where root stress is evident and *will* result in the tree's collapse. The tree is a safety hazard to visitors to the preserve and Picchetti Winery.

Staff contacted seven tree care companies and received two written bids; one from Davey Tree at \$49,720 (**not** including stump removal) and one from Bay Area Tree Specialists at \$25,000 (including stump removal). Staff selected Bay Area Tree Specialists to cut and remove the tree, grind the stump and remove the debris. The contractor is scheduled to remove the tree in early January.

The tenant has roped off the area under the tree. Staff posted signs to notify the public why the District is removing the tree. Additionally, staff sent a letter to neighbors whose line-of-sight may include this tree. To date, staff has not received any responses.