



March 30, 2018

**Mr. James Mason**

Deputy Planning Director  
City of Santa Paula  
200 S. Tenth Street  
Santa Paula, CA 93061-0569

**RE: Proposed Housing Project at Tentative Tract 5308 Ap. No. 40-020-0-80**

Mr. Mason,

Pursuant to your request on March 28, 2018 this peer review report has been prepared to comment on the certified arborist report prepared by Mr. Donald F. Rodrigues, Horticulture and Arboriculture Consultant on record for the proposed housing project at tentative tract 5308, Ap No. 40-020-0-80. The purpose of the report was to review the documents provided via e-mail on 3/28/18 and give feedback and recommendations as needed.

**OBSERVATIONS & GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

As noted in the Rodrigues report, this site suffered catastrophic damage to native vegetation due to the Thomas fire last fall. The site was visited by Rebecca Mejia of WCA, Inc., I.S.A. Certified Arborist WE-2355A and Tree Risk Assessor, on Thursday March 28, 2018. The purpose of the visit was to verify that the tree quantities, health, and condition was as reported by Mr. Rodrigues. Numerous trees and shrubs were observed and found to be in burnt and in non-recoverable condition. WCA Inc. agrees with the safety assessment as reported and finds the map to be accurate. Mr. Rodrigues also suggested that another walk-through be performed in late April to assess the condition of the trees listed for preservation, and WCA, Inc. believes this is a prudent measure. The recommend removals list is based on criteria set forth as stated in the Rodrigues report and per industry standards.

With public safety in mind, it is further advised that the developer continue to regularly monitor the trees to look for signs of new growth or indications that the trees are declining in health due to severely damaged tissue. Wood that decays or dries may fail and be a hazard. Subsequent inspections should use the I.S.A Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form. Photographs should be taken of preserved trees to track health and condition over time.



**RECOMMENDATION:**

WCA, Inc. recommends continued monitoring for at least one year for trees identified for preservation. The recommended removals are valid and should be performed in the interest of future public safety. Trees outside of public access areas in the planned development may be preserved for wildlife habitat, and those on the edge of public areas may also be preserved for wildlife habitat provided that the safety concerns have been assessed and hazardous trees reduced in size to mitigate risk. Industry standards and best management practices should be utilized to protect trees identified for preservation during the site construction.

The intent of this report was to provide as complete and unbiased an opinion as possible with regards to the current condition of the Tract 5308 trees discussed above. This is considered a final report. No advanced assessment is needed or requested. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (714) 412-1980.

Respectfully,

*Timothy A Crothers*

Tim Crothers

Plant Health Care Manager

ISA Board Certified Master Arborist #WE-7655BUM

ISA Qualified Risk Assessor

West Coast Arborists Inc.



## **ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITING CONDITIONS**

1. Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible; however, the Consultant can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others. Standard of Care has been met with regards to this project within reasonable and normal conditions.
2. The Consultant will not be required to give testimony or to attend court because of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of an additional fee for such services as described in the fee schedule and contract of engagement.
3. Loss or alteration of any part of this report invalidates the entire report.
4. Possession of this report or a copy thereof does not imply right of publication or use for any purpose by any other than the person to whom it is addressed, without the prior written consent of the Consultant.
5. This report and any values expressed herein represent the opinion of the Consultant, and the Consultant's fee is in no way contingent upon the reporting of a stipulated result, a specified value, the occurrence of a subsequent event, nor upon any finding to be reported.
6. Unless expressed otherwise: 1) information contained in this report covers only those items that were examined and reflects the condition of those items at the time of inspection; and 2) the inspection is limited to visual examination of accessible items without dissection, excavation, or coring, unless otherwise stated. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the tree(s) or property in question may not arise in the future.
7. Arborists are tree specialists who use their education, knowledge, training, and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. It is highly recommended that you follow the arborist recommendations; however, you may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations and/or seek additional advice.
8. Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways we do not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden within trees and below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specific period.
9. Any recommendations and/or performed treatments (including, but not limited to, pruning or removal) of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborist's services, such as property boundaries, property ownership, site lines, disputes between neighbors, and any other related issues. Arborists cannot take such considerations into account unless complete and accurate information is disclosed to the arborist. An arborist can then be expected to consider and reasonably rely on the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.
10. The author has no personal interest or bias with respect to the subject matter of this report or the parties involved. He/she has inspected the subject tree(s) and to the best of their knowledge and belief, all statements and information presented in the report are true and correct.
11. Unless otherwise stated, trees were examined using the tree risk assessment criteria detailed by *ANSI A300 (Part 9)-2011 Tree Risk Assessment, a. Tree Structure Assessment and A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazard Trees (Matheny & Clark)*.