



DATE: September 20, 1999 **ATTACHMENT B**

TO: Ed Gawf, Director of Planning and Community Environment

FROM: Dave Dockter, Planning Division Arborist

SUBJECT: Rinconada Oak Heritage Tree #2 Designation
Arborist Report and Appraisal

PURPOSE: For City Council review as Attachment B of City Managers
Report dated October 25, 1999

ARBORIST REPORT

This report provides data for the Coast Live Oak known as the Rinconada Oak. The report is prepared for the purpose of providing City Council with an overview of the tree's size, health, history and value to the community, to aid their consideration for the tree to be designated as City of Palo Alto Heritage Tree #2, in addition to its status of a protected tree within the Palo Alto Municipal Code, Chapter 8.10.

LOCATION OF THE TREE

The tree, identified by a plaque mounted at the tree's base, is located in the 20-acre Rinconada Park picnic area, near the intersection of Embarcadero and Guinda Street.

SPECIES, HABITAT, SIZE AND AGE OF THE TREE

The subject tree, *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak is native to California and indigenous to the Palo Alto region. The tree is 52-inches in diameter, 75-feet in height and has a crown spread of nearly 120-feet. The tree's age is over two centuries, as estimated during the 1994 Palo Alto Centennial dedication of the tree.

HEALTH AND CONDITION OF THE TREE

The Rinconada Oak is in relatively good health and condition. For decades, its growth has been opportunistic in the park soil, and benefiting from moisture and fertilizer supplied by turf maintenance surrounding the canopy perimeter.

My observation indicates that the tree is:

- ❖ well-rooted with little chance of toppling over
- ❖ supporting fair annual shoot growth (an average of six-inches over the last 5 years)
- ❖ of fair structure, fitted with several support guy wires

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

In 1994, during the Palo Alto Centennial celebration, the tree was publicly recognized as an outstanding specimen, and was honored with a plaque donated by the Palo Alto Tree Task Force and dedicated by Mayor Liz Kniss as Heritage Tree No.2.

MAINTENANCE OF THE TREE -- PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The Rinconada Oak has been maintained by the Departments of Parks and Golf and Public Works operations and will continue to be in the future. The tree needs no special attention other than

periodic inspection of the tree and occasional loosening of the soil within the dripline of the tree. The branching architecture has been fitted with support cables to improve stability of massive branches during high winds. In 1998, Parks Department further improved conditions around the tree by removing the turf and irrigation and mowers away from the trunk area.

APPRAISAL

National, state, municipal and real estate recognize that plants have value beyond their aesthetic contribution to a landscape, and that their contribution can be assessed. The following horticultural appraisal, using the current Guide for Plant Appraisal authored by the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers and published by the International Society of Arboriculture, includes consideration of the tree species, size, condition and location factors that influence the value of a tree. The appraised value of the Coast Live Oak known as the Rinconada Oak is estimated to be \$32,600.00.

RESOURCES

Paul Dias, Director of Parks and Golf, Community Services Department
Dave Sandage, City of Palo Alto, Public Works Managing Arborist
Wayne Fluss, City of Palo Alto Arborist



THE RINCONADA OAK

THE COAST LIVE OAK AT RINCONADA PARK HAS BEEN FIRMLY STANDING FOR OVER TWO CENTURIES. BROADER THAN IT IS TALL, ITS 120-FOOT CROWN SPREAD PROVIDES COOLING SHADE FOR PARK USERS AND EVEN TEMPERATURE FOR IT'S ROOTS. IN 1994, THE TREE WAS HONORED WITH SPECIAL RECOGNITION BY MAYOR KNISS AND THE PALO ALTO TREE TASK FORCE.

