

Jodi Patrich
Balboa Island Resident
RE: Tree assessment walk - Marine Ave.
10/04/18

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Per the request of Ms. Bole, I was asked to assess the current condition of the 42 street trees along the 2 blocks of Marine Ave. on both sides of the street. Knowing that I would not be able to assess the trees with the detail often used when preparing a formal Tree Assessment Report due to my current teaching schedule, I agreed to walk the street and give a professional assessment of the trees and their general health.

Observations: The 42 trees observed are comprised of mostly *Eucalyptus citriodora* (26), *Eucalyptus maculata* (1) *Eucalyptus nicholii* (2), *Eucalyptus rudus* (8), *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* (2) along with 1 small *Ginkgo biloba*, 1 *Spathodea campanulata*, and 1 unknown (*Pittosporum* sp.) .

Most of the *Eucalyptus* were in fair to good condition with evidence of some branch tip dieback on several the *E. citriodora* species. The estimated age was between 70 and 80 years for most of the larger *Eucalyptus* having grown into their surroundings over that time. There were 4 planting holes vacant. There was also an artificial turf covering over the planting squares covering the soil and wrapping up to the root crown area (trunk flair). I only observed what appeared to be lerp psyllid on one of the *E. maculata*, but the tree didn't seem to be damaged from the psyllid infestation and was in full leaf. The trees seemed to have been pruned regularly and were not showing any signs of needing structural pruning or maintenance thinning. Evidence of hard root pruning was evident on one tree (see picture) due to proximity to the curb.

Opinions: Branch tip dieback is generally associated with root issues. The trees having grown into their spaces over many decades receive their water mostly when it rains as water percolates through the streets, sidewalks and planter openings. Having 7 of the last 10 years being droughty years with less than normal rainfall, and covering being placed over the planting holes in the last few years, my first guess would be lack of water to the roots as well as the benefits of rainfall leaching any excessive accumulated salts down away from the root systems. There was smaller than expected evidence of heaving and lifting from tree roots on the sidewalks and in the streets.

Eucalyptus are uniquely fast growing and long-lived trees. *E. citriodora* are known to survive among limiting infrastructure and are not known to damage sidewalks like some other large species. The trees show signs of regular thinning and other than a few branch stubs being left behind on the tree, seem well visited by pruning crews and maintained for their area. There were no signs of wood rot diseases that would signal immediate attention or pose a danger.

I feel that the "Astro turf" should be addressed and possibly removed. Tree root crowns need to be exposed to the air and kept dry and injury free and this addition cannot be doing the trees any good and might be contributing to issues mentioned previously.

The trees showing tip dieback should be regularly monitored allowing for proactive decisions to both help the trees and maintain public safety.

A thorough Tree assessment report should be perused prior to any major changes to the trees' surroundings. This would allow full information to any potential concerned parties.

Rick Harlow



Street scene looking North



The worst of the branch observed



Astro turf covering root crown



Root Pruning