

Town of Yucca Valley
PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Chair and Planning Commissioners
From: Jared Jerome, Associate Planner

Date: March 5, 2021
Meeting Date: March 23, 2021

Subject: Native Plant Permit (NPP) 146-21, 6573 Prescott Avenue, Yucca Valley CA.
APN: 0601-542-04; Removal of One (1) Detached Dead Western Joshua Tree.

Recommendation:

That the Planning Commission approve the application for NPP 146-21, to remove one (1) Western Joshua Tree, based upon Ordinance 291 Section 9.56.130 that a project proponent may remove a detached dead Western Joshua Tree or detached limb.

Prior Review

There has been no prior review of this matter.

Executive Summary

Native plant permit applications are acted upon by the Planning Commission for review and action at this time.

Order of Procedure

- Request Staff Report
- Request Public Comment
- Council Discussion/Questions of Staff
- Motion/Second
- Discussion on Motion
- Call the Question

Discussion

Applicant: Neil Rauschenberg
Address: 6573 Prescott Avenue
APN: 0601-542-04
Zoning: Single-family Residential (RS-2)
Parcel Size: 0.45 acres

The application has been filed with the Town to construct a single-family home. As part of that process, an application for the removal of regulated native plants has been submitted. Only the native plant permit application is before the Commission; not the construction permits for the single-family residence.

The applicant proposes to remove one (1) detached dead Western Joshua Tree. The Western Joshua Tree is believed to have died of natural causes.

Section 9.56.070 of Ordinance 291 requires photos, descriptions of the trees, and a letter from the applicant's arborist; which are attached to this report.

Section 9.56.130 states:

The Planning Commission may issue a permit to authorize either the removal of a dead western Joshua tree or the trimming of a western Joshua tree. The proponent or its agent may remove a detached dead western Joshua tree or detached limb of a western Joshua tree. All other removals and all trimmings of western Joshua trees authorized by permits issued pursuant to this subsection may be completed by a desert native plant specialist. Planning Commission may issue a permit in accordance with this section without payment of mitigation fees, provided that the dead western Joshua tree or the limb(s) to be removed:

- (1) Has fallen over and is within 30 feet of a structure; or*
- (2) Is leaning against an existing structure; or*
- (3) Creates an imminent threat to public health or safety.*

Alternatives

Staff recommend no alternative actions. The application is consistent with the Town's adopted standards.

Fiscal Impact

NA

Attachments:

NPP 146-21 6573 Prescott

ORD 291 Joshua Trees

9.60 Permit Procedures