

**FIRST CERTIFIED ARBOR CARE
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RE: Joshua tree report for 56778 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley CA 92284

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to verify that a native Joshua trees on the adjacent property to this development will not be disturbed by the proposed construction activities as described in the plan--to comply with State of California requirements elaborated in *San Bernardino County Information Bulletin IB-0016, Joshua Trees*.

Scope

Section 3.0 *Background of IB-0016* notes the following:

- That the Joshua tree is *a candidate for listing as an endangered species*,
- That the remedies of removal or transplanting to make room for development are not currently an approved option,
- That the threshold triggering reporting is the presence of a Joshua tree within 40 feet of proposed construction.
- A determination that *no Joshua trees are affected by the proposed grading/construction* must be made before proceeding with the project.
- That this evaluation and report may be done by an ISA Certified Arborist®.

Extenuating circumstances & existing conditions

The development and the single Joshua tree on the adjacent site to the west have existed for many decades. The only woody plants on the site are a dead (or dying) mulberry tree, and a declining cottonwood tree on the western property line to the rear of the building. Otherwise, the entire lot behind the front of the building is paved with asphalt. There is no habitat for any native vegetation apart from annual herbaceous plants sprouting in cracks in the pavement. There is no evidence of damage to the Joshua tree. The tree has naturally shed a few branches and flower stalks.

Qualifications of Author

The author, Paul E. Chaney, holds a BS degree in Ornamental Horticulture from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He has been a California licensed C-27 landscape contractor since 1988 and a D-49 tree service contractor since the State required it 1992. He holds ISA Certified Arborist® credential WE-0135A and is Tree Risk Assessment Qualified. Since 1988, he has reported extensively on construction impacts to trees for CEQA compliance during the development review process. Mr. Chaney wrote the first CEQA arborist reporting standards for the cities of San Bernardino, Fontana, Highland, and Yucaipa. His experience includes over 35 years of observing how trees respond to nursery production practices, structural and maintenance pruning treatments, and damage from various causes, including those that are construction related. Mr. Chaney's consulting clients have included engineers, developers, architects, landscape architects, landscape contractors, attorneys, insurance companies and adjusters, home and business owners, and public agencies, including the County of San Bernardino and the State of California.

Evaluation & Specifications

The plan for the proposed refurbishment of the commercial property shows an allowance for a protected root zone around the Joshua tree on the adjacent property.

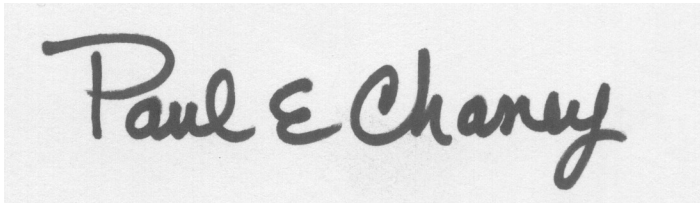
The following steps shall be taken to protect the protected root zone (PRZ), which radius extends from the tree trunk to one foot beyond the farthest extent of the longest branches (approximately ten feet).

1. The existing asphalt pavement shall be broken and removed in the PRZ while minimizing disturbance to the soil underneath.
2. No scooping of debris in the PRZ with a loader bucket shall occur, but rather, pieces of the debris shall be lifted and loaded out of the PRZ by hand.
3. Small debris and rocks shall be raked and removed, bringing the soil in the PRZ to a smooth, even grade.
4. Edges of the extent of the pavement shall be retained in an industry-standard manner consistent with other specifications in the plans.
5. Trenching for utilities, or digging for any other purpose shall not be allowed in the PRZ.
6. Pavement is allowed to drain toward and into the PRZ.
7. Native plants may be allowed to grow in the PRZ, and a natural mulch layer should be allowed to accumulate.
8. Irrigation in the PRZ for the benefit of the Joshua tree is allowed, but water must not be applied closer than 4 feet from the tree, and at intervals not more frequent than every 3rd month. Joshua trees rot, fall over, and die from excess water, both in converted landscapes and in natural settings (washes and arroyos). Too much water causes excess growth, and branches get long and heavy and break from their own weight.
9. Two trees, a mulberry and a cottonwood, as well as a stump, should be removed completely.

Conclusions

The Joshua tree on this site has survived many decades. The proposed refurbishment of the parking lot, in accord with the protection specifications, will not adversely affect it. There are no native woody plants or habitat on the site.

PAUL E. CHANEY
ISA Certified Arborist® WE-0135A

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature reads "Paul E Chaney" in a cursive, flowing script.