
RIO VISTA COMMUNITY

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UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017, 6 P.M.

RIO BRAVO COUNTRY CLUB, 15200 CASA CLUB DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD 93306

Tree Decline

We think of the Bakersfield area as the garden spot of California, and trees are a part of the attraction of our fair city. Trees pass through the circle of life, i.e., growth, maturity, decline and death, and in Kern County they do so more rapidly than in many other locations.

Unfortunately, most trees in landscapes do not live to great age in Kern County in part because the Kern climate often does not resemble where respective shade trees grow naturally. More specifically, stresses caused by warm summer temperatures, low humidity, and alkaline soils can shorten tree longevity. Perhaps the most obvious example is coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, remarkably successful in Bakersfield considering mountain locations of natural stands, but frequently displaying needle discoloration even in young trees due to stress.

The term decline refers to progressive loss of vigor and health. Decline may include slow growth, sparse foliage, dieback and undersized foliage. Decline is an inclusive word where more specific causes of a malady may not be known, and trees exhibiting poor growth often do not have one identifiable cause responsible for their decline. Insects, fungi, microorganisms, and the growing environment may all contribute. Sometimes the word “pressure” is used to describe the effect on trees of parts of the environment which are not favorable.

Decline because of age is to be expected. Trees of the same species and similar ages may simply decline together without a specific infectious agent moving among them.

Continues on page 2

Shade and Ornamental Trees

It’s no secret that trees are an invaluable resource to the earth – they provide oxygen, remove carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide, help lower temperatures, act as wind and sound barriers, prevent soil erosion, and add natural beauty to the landscape.

The Board of Directors highly recommend homeowners considering future tree placement/replacements should consult the Kern County’s Farm and Home agency’s *Shade and Ornamental Trees for Kern County Landscapes* resource located at cekern.ucanr.edu/files/215053.pdf; trees are listed by botanical name, common name, geographical areas where tree is adapted rating, growth rate, mature size, and problems associated with that tree, i.e., brittle, infestation susceptibility, etc.

Before you begin the process of placing any trees, please be sure to submit your landscape design plan(s), in addition to providing an Architectural Request and Neighbor Notification form to the Design Review Committee for approval. The Architectural Request and Neighbor Notification forms are available at www.hoacity.com/rvca.

Trees give the earth so much, and it’s time for us to return the favor.

Assessment Billing

RVCA has a MONTHLY billing cycle; assessments are due on the first (1st) day of each month. Accounts become delinquent after fifteen (15) days past due, and will be assessed accordingly. Please indicate the invoice number with your payment.

Tree Decline – Continued from page 1

Decline can be caused by perennial or continual irritation by one factor, e.g., decline of pin oaks due to inadequate uptake of iron. Many tree species can be affected by drought stress or sunburn.

Also, as trees become larger, demand for water increases, and so previously adequate irrigation may become limiting. Trees weakened by these factors become abnormally susceptible to fungi and insects, especially boring insects.

Decline can be caused by drastic injury plus secondary stress, e.g., the decline of native oaks after root loss as the result of construction of excavation. Although less severe a consequence, sycamore or ash may be affected by defoliation caused by anthracnose. Defoliation is most damaging if the foliage is removed just as leaves become fully expanded. This loss triggers a second flush growth during the same season, and the replacement of growth depletes the stored carbohydrate reserves of the tree and leaves it more susceptible to attack by secondary insects.

Decline can be caused by contributing factors such as girdling roots, restricted rooting space leading to water stress, cankers and water molds, soil compaction, or severe trunk wounds. Trees in parking lot plantings often have very small soil volumes for roots with resulting stress, stunting, and short life.

(Source: cekern.ucanr.edu/files/98586.pdf | Karlik, John “Tree Decline” University of California Cooperative Extension, Bakersfield, California - September 13, 2007)

Holiday Decorations

All decorations are permitted up to 15 days prior to the holiday and must be removed within 10 days after the holiday. All decorations celebrating holidays in December and January must be removed by January 10th each year.

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Fred Wiley

fwiley@orba.biz

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Raj Doshi

4rajudoshi@gmail.com

Secretary

Phil Crosby

crosby110@hotmail.com

Member at Large

Jeff Thompson

Member at Large

Benjamin Adams

Community Association Manager

Mario Valenzuela

(661) 456-9436

mario@hoacity.com

Assistant Association Manager

Sarah Resa

(888) 495-2316, extension 102

sarah@hoacity.com

HOA Management Solutions, Inc.

Post Office Box 12710

Bakersfield, California 93389-2710

(888) 495-2316

www.hoacity.com

rvca@hoacity.com

Online Resources

Governing documents including CC&Rs, Bylaws, Articles, Meeting Agendas, and Minutes are available for instant viewing at www.hoacity.com/rvca

Acrobat Reader must be installed to view these documents.

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