

September 18, 2020

To whom it may concern at the Department of Beaches and Harbors and TreesOfTheMarina.Com, Marina Del Rey,

We understand these South African Coral Trees (*Erythrina Caffra*) are at "risk" with plenty of potential targets, and I understand the desire to eliminate the risk completely. However, it is my belief that we can greatly mitigate these risks and keep the trees. These are feature trees that are important to the community as they are the official tree of Los Angeles.

The only tree that is likely to topple over and must be removed is VM-29. None of the other trees have had their anchor roots severed too severely. They are most at risk from failing branches.

The tree that was completely removed already had its roots severed to put in a concrete sidewalk walkway. There were other options, such as a suspension sidewalk, that could have been utilized and kept the roots intact. VM-29 has a heavy lean and uprooted root mass, with severed anchor roots. This is the only tree at risk of toppling and needs to be removed. The other three left in question are firmly grounded, even with the exposed root system.

These trees have likely reached full maturity and are close to their life expectancy, which as you know ranges from 40 – 150 years. With proper care and maintenance they could live many more years.

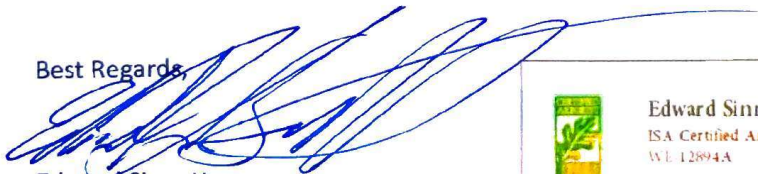
The reason two large branches have fallen off in the 8 months I have lived here is due to improper pruning and planning. These trees have massive canopies and large root systems. They are not meant to be planted so near one another. The second, and more important, error, is the heading (topping) cuts made when they were pruned. This imprudent method of pruning has created this hazardous situation. Topping cuts cause trees to become stressed and use all stored carbohydrates to focus on uncontrolled explosive growth of water sprouts from the cut limb. These water sprouts create weak unions on an already medium-to-weak wood. This growth adds more weight than is supposed to be on a branch with weak unions, which results in branch failure.

There will be no way to completely eliminate the risk of falling branches on potential targets, but that is the case with any tree in a public area. Serious mitigation of risk can be achieved with restoration pruning and proper care. A heavy weight reduction with the proper placement of cuts would alleviate risk. These trees need to be pruned a minimum of twice annually. Some of the large leaning leaders should be removed completely and / or cabled, but the trees can be saved.

I inspected the corals in the area and saw no sign of disease or boring beetles (shothole borer).

These are very important, iconic trees, to our community. They provide plenty of social and environmental benefits.

Best Regards,



Edward Sinnott

