City of Larkspur

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TREE PROTECTION PLAN

Before development, the following should be considered:

(A) Avoid adding backfill over the root zones of existing tree(s).

(B) Avoid compacting soil over the root zones. Do not traffic with heavy equipment, pile debris or materials, or leave equipment standing over the root zones of the trees.

(C) The most effective way to protect trees before development is to install an inexpensive wire fence around the drip line of trees that are to e preserved. If development is intended within the drip line, other precautions can be taken, such as placing hay bales around the trunks so the bark is not struck with equipment.

(D) When removing large limbs, the final cut should not be flush with the trunk of the tree. This removes the branch collar that contains a chemical barrier zone that controls rotting organisms. Traditional surgery paint should not be used; it is of no value and may promote rot.

(E) Use aeration systems such as tiles, geotextiles, wells, and walls as an alternative to paving over root zones.

(F) When working within the root zone, dig trenches and tunnels by hand to avoid unnecessary root damage.

(G) Any root over 3” in diameter that is damaged should be cut flush to eliminate jagged edges. To temporarily control disease and insects apply a mixture of fixed copper and boiled linseed oil (ratio 1 to 6) or orange shellac to the surface.

(H) Irrigate the root zone with a soaker hose. Spread mulch or wood chips over the surface to reduce evaporation.

(I) Adding backfill, compressing soil, paving, etc. retards gas exchanges and limits water percolation through the soil to the roots, promoting die back. This form of chronic stress may cause trees to die prematurely within five to twenty years after development, depending on the degree of impact. Compensation can be attempted through fertilizing, soil mulching, and aerating the soil using high pressure equipment.