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For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

FIVE MATURE TREES TO BE REMOVED

Coronado City Council voted Tuesday to remove four mature Canary Island pines trees along the D Avenue side of the lawn bowling court and one mature Torrey pine tree behind the court.

There is a natural and harmless fungus that lives on the roots of the pines that, according to the lawn bowlers, makes a small section of the court's artificial turf lumpy and affects play.

Canary Island pines can grow from 130 to 200 feet in height. They grow best in Mediterranean climates — the climate of Coronado.

The Torrey pine is the rarest pine in North America. Native to only two coastal areas in California, San Diego and Santa Barbara, these trees are stressed by climate change, drought, and pollution. The needles are adapted to capture moisture from fog, which is why the La Jolla area is renowned for these unique trees.

"We were not consulted. These trees are an incredible asset to our entire community. Mature trees are

UPDATE:

Yesterday, Councilman Casey Tanaka motioned to reconsider the removal of the Canary Island pines. The Torrey Pine was not included in the motion because it was deemed a safety risk, although it is not in danger of failure.

The council will reconsider its vote on the matter Aug. 15.

irreplaceable in this day and age as they are vital to our air quality, our climate, our mental health, and to the aesthetic of our precious urban tree canopy," Coronado Street Tree Committee member Samantha Bey, said of the council decision.

While Coronado has been named Tree City USA, the U.S. Department of

Agriculture calculates that Coronado only has approximately 17% tree canopy coverage. That number is comparable to parts of Point Loma but less than areas of La Jolla with about 30% tree canopy coverage.

According to the Arbor Day Foundation, trees help against climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the trees and soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. Trees also provide shade, attract wildlife, prevent soil erosion, clean our water, and add grace and beauty to communities.

"Other options were presented that could potentially improve the lawn bowling court, such as installing root barriers to prevent the fungus from getting under the court, but since it couldn't explicitly guarantee prevention, it wasn't considered," Bey said.

In the face of climate change, planting more trees is critical. In 2019, Mayor Richard Bailey proposed planting 1,001 trees by the end of 2024. In reality, only a few dozen trees are planted each year as part of the city's Arbor Day celebration.

Coronado, is it in the public's interest to remove these five pillars of our Tree City? Please let your voices be heard by Councilmembers.



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