

**HERITAGE TREE NOMINATION**  
**CITY OF ENCINITAS**  
**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
505 South Vulcan Avenue  
Encinitas CA 92024  
(760) 633-2710

resubmit  
individual  
12158E  
1202 melba

**HERITAGE TREE**

**Urban Forest Management Program Administrative Manual Procedures Section 9.00**

The Planning Commission may designate a tree or trees as a Heritage Tree/s upon finding that it/they is/are unique and of importance to the community due to any of the following factors:

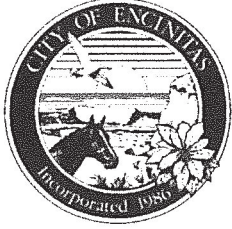
1. The tree/s is/are one of the oldest and largest of its species.
2. The tree/s is/are of unique form or species.
3. The tree/s has/have historic significance due to an association with an historic building, site, street, person or event.
4. The tree/s is/are a defining landmark or significant outstanding feature of a neighborhood.

For a tree/s to be considered for designation as a Heritage Tree, a nomination form must be submitted to the Planning Division. The tree/s will be inspected by staff to make sure all designation criteria are met. The nomination request along with the results of staff's inspection will be forwarded to the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) for evaluation. If the nomination is approved by the EAC, the nomination will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for final approval.

**Heritage Tree Designation Process:**

1. The nomination form (attached) is submitted in person to the Planning Division at the above address or mailed to the same.
2. Nomination requests are gathered throughout the quarter year (January to March, April to June, July to September, and October to December).
3. At the end of a quarter, the nomination requests received are processed by Planning Division staff and routed for review to the Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works Department, and/or a City Arborist, as applicable, depending on the locations of the tree/s and nature of the requests.
4. Once the staff evaluation is completed, the nomination requests and staff evaluation are presented to the EAC for the EAC to make recommendations to the Planning Commission.
5. The EAC recommendations are presented along with the staff evaluations to the Planning Commission for final determinations on the nomination requests. Upon a finding by the Planning Commission that one of the above factors is applicable to a nominated tree/s, the tree/s shall be designated as Heritage Trees.
6. All trees designated as Heritage Trees will be included in a list with specific tree locations. The list will be available at the Planning Division at the above address.
7. All trees designated as Heritage Trees will be subject to the provisions of the Urban Forest Management Program Administrative Manual Procedures.
8. Trees may be removed from the list of Heritage Trees by the Planning Commission upon its own motion or upon approval of a written request for removal from the property owner. Removal of a tree from the list of Heritage Trees shall proceed through the same process outlined above for designation.
9. The designation or removal of designation as a Heritage Tree may be appealed in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter 1.12 of the Municipal Code (Appeals).

**Any tree, including designated Heritage Trees and trees nominated for Heritage Tree designation, that is determined to be a *hazardous tree* may be removed without notice in accordance with Section 6.00 of the Urban Forest Management Program Administrative Manual Procedures.**



**HERITAGE TREE NOMINATION FORM  
CITY OF ENCINITAS  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

505 South Vulcan Avenue  
Encinitas CA 92024  
Phone (760) 633-2710

Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_  
Community Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following. Submit the completed form in person at the Planning Division or by mail to the address above.

**APPLICANT:**

Name: Jeryl Anne Kessler Phone: [REDACTED]  
(Last, First, Middle Initial) email: [REDACTED]  
Organization: MASHE Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City Encinitas State CA Zip 92024

Jeryl Anne Kessler 9/22/22

Signature of Applicant Jeryl Anne Kessler Date

Print or Type Signatory's Name

**If the tree/s is/are on private property, the property owner must provide written authorization.  
Provide a copy of the Grant Deed for ownership verification.  
Applications not properly authorized or submitted without a Grant Deed will be rejected.**

**PROPERTY OWNER(S):**

Name: City Of Encinitas Public Works Phone: 760.633.2922  
(Last, First, Middle Initial) email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: 505 S. Vulcan Ave.  
City: Encinitas State CA Zip: 92024

Signature of Applicant, Owner or Authorized Agent\* Date

Print or Type Signatory's Name

\*If applicant or authorized agent signs for owner, provide a letter of authorization signed by owner.

**TREE INFORMATION**

Location: North Side of Melba Road and East of Blue Jack Road 1202 Melba tree12158E  
(Please provide property address or nearest property address if possible.)

Nearest Cross Street/s: Melba and Crest Melba and Balour

(continued on next page)



# 1220 Melba – Heritage Tree Application – Publicly Maintained Trees

- **Tree No: 12158ETREE**
- **Tree Species: *Pinus torreyana***
- **Height: 45' to 60'**
- **Diameter: 34" and 23"**
- **Health: Fair**
- **Estimated Tree Age: 20 to 28 years**
- **Estimated Planting Date: Between 1994 and 2002**



## HISTORY AND NOTES

please include this historical note for all Heritage Tree application

Our community has always known there was something special about the Melba Road

tree canopy which is a row of mature Torrey Pines, Oaks and towering Cypress trees

lining the street in this neighborhood, a place where old and new Encinitas and Cardiff

converge. This spectacular breathtaking tree line created by these tree groupings can

be seen along the entire stretch of Melba road, located on the border of old Encinitas

and the Cardiff District 3, from I-5 to Balour. It provides the community with an incredible tree canopy and has been enjoyed by families in the neighborhood for many

generations when walking or biking to school.

This section of Melba Road, with is at the intersection of Wotan, has a rural feeling,

that is quite similar to the adjacent Wotan Road which had once been described and

defined by our Mayor Blakespear in a newsletter of August 2016

Catherine@blakespear4encinitas.com "as worthy of maintaining it's rural character."

Also In 2017, both Mayor Blakespear and Tony Kranz voted to approve an amendment to the city's Municipal Tree Ordinance (Chap. 15.02) to add protections 'required to protect its urban forest and its Heritage Trees.' "The City will use

best

practices to protect existing trees from the impacts of development and maintenance

projects," the amendment reads. Additionally, the opening line under the chapter

"Protection of Trees" states: "Every effort should be made to protect trees during

construction." Tree preservation was also recently brought up in the December 2021

City Council meeting where the entire council reaffirmed their commitment to tree preservation in Encinitas.

At times we have taken these beautiful sacred trees for granted because we did not

know that they could be threatened, but want to correct and protect them now.

We

realized that these trees on Melba Road provide a gift like no other area of town.

During my research of the proposed adjacent Staver housing projects on Melba Road

and the impact on the neighborhood, we learned that the trees can be associated with

the property when it was first developed in the early 1920's. We have aerial photos

from 1928 and 1939 which shows they were present at that time (Attachments B).

We

also think that a gentleman named Anton Van Amersfoort planted these trees.

Anton

appears to be one of the original residents and steward of the land in Encinitas. He

planted trees throughout Encinitas. He owned several plots of land in Encinitas and was the owner of what is now known as the Botanical Gardens. We believe he planted trees all along Melba road which was at the top end of his property, now currently owned by the Staver Trust.

I have been able to confirm several facts about Anton from my research.

1. Anton owned an 80 acres ranch which was part of the original land of the Botanical Gardens.

2. Anton's presence was also noted in the "California Avocado Association 1927 Yearbook 12: 41-48 San Diego County Avocado History". Anton Van Amersfoort planted eleven acres eight years ago. Because of the scarcity of water for the first

four years, his orchard was maintained by the dry farming method. About one-half of

the orchard is planted to the Fuerte variety, with perhaps ten per cent each of Queen, Dickinson, Anaheim and miscellaneous for the others. That Mr. Van Amersfoort could bring this orchard through four years of dry farming and now have it

in such excellent condition is a tribute to his understanding of tree growing. He is a

strong advocate of the excellence of the Fuerte variety " (This information is based

on the Botanical Gardens Website and confirmed with family relatives. Anton owned

the Botanical Gardens Property prior to the Larabees. He got the property from a

foreclosure sale in 1923 and sold it to the Larabees in 1943. a more specific date of

development from the documents)

3. As late as 1938 Van Amersfoort still owned this property on Melba Rd. and in Encinitas and still described himself as a "rancher." He was also the original owner of

the land that became known as the Botanical Gardens.

Based on Aerial photos we believe that Anton Van Amersfoort, who lived and owned the property in 1923, planted most of the mature trees in the area. We have uncovered Anton's name on a deed through the county and also on an easement of the Staver property. (Attachment A)

With the help of historical fact finding of Encinitas history we learned that Anton was

an extremely important person in the history of Encinitas. Anton Van Amersfoort owned at least 16 different properties in the general area and was a founding member of Encinitas Water District. He was a key player in providing water to Encinitas from Lake Hodges, and Anton Van Amersfoort served on the water district

board 1919-1928 based on Coast Dispatch Newspaper and Water Bond records from UCSD Ed Fletcher archives. In that role he supported a bond in 1925 that would

supply Encinitas water from Lake Hodges. This bond measure contributed to the establishment and settlement of the coastal community and beach town of Encinitas

which later became the flower capital of the world. Anton had the vision to



foresee

the importance of water and irrigation in Encinitas arid natural conditions. His leadership position in the water district influenced the development of our local water

source, and he lived on this property and planted these amazing Encinitas Torrey Pines, Oak and Cypress trees. This land along Melba Road is now City owned property. There are many trees in the neighborhood that were most likely planted by

Anton based on aerial photographs (Attachment B) we have found in archival records, which document the age of the trees. With all this wonderful historical information surrounding the Staver property and the fact that Anton planted these

trees, we feel that the Melba trees meet all the criteria for Heritage Trees. These tree

lined corridors, should be designated as Heritage Trees.

These specimens which are shown as off-site trees identified in the Torrey Pacific Corporation Melba Project Arborists Plan, are rated in

good to fair condition, . By requesting the designation of these

trees as Heritages, we acknowledge that the future public improvements on this rural

section of Melba Road should accommodate preservation of these trees. We have received input from specialists including providing professional guidance on how to best preserve these significant historic trees and also accommodate sidewalk and roadway improvements using creative context-sensitive and complete street

principles. Recommendations include meandering the road and sidewalk, care being taken when designing and constructing trenching and grading within the root zone, if

roots need to be pruned a qualified landscape preservationist can be consulted to assure limited damage, to assess and address stability, and to recommend canopy pruning in response to root pruning. We are available to provide these mature tree preservation specifications if requested.



12558

12143

# Encinitas Publicly Maintained Species Statistics

- Torrey Pines (*Pinus torreyana*)
  - Total number of Torrey Pine – 897 Trees
  - Number of Torey Pines with Diameters greater then 30 inches – 80 Trees
- Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)
  - Total number of Coast Live Oak– 401 Trees
  - Number of Torey Pines with Diameters greater then 15 inches – 72 Trees



Trees over 60 feet in height in the Melba Vicinity maintained by PW.