



==== CITY OF =====

NEWPORT BEACH

Municipal Operations Department Monthly Activities Report

To: Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission
From: Municipal Operations Department
John Salazar, Acting Deputy Director



New Eucalyptus Disease Sampling in Newport Beach

The City's Plant Health Specialist contractor, West Coast Arborist, coordinated with the City's Tree Trimming Contractor, Great Scott Tree Service, to take samples from several Sugar-Gum Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) trees for what is reportedly a newly discovered disease infecting Eucalyptus trees throughout Southern California. The samples were taken from a Eucalyptus tree at Bonita Canyon Sports Park.



This event was significant enough that arborists from several external organizations supervised the collection. They noted that the symptoms of this newly discovered disease have been seen in San Diego, Los Angeles, Riverside and Orange counties, but the cities of Tustin and Irvine have been significantly

impacted. Newport Beach was specifically selected since it provided samples from trees that have regular irrigation, which were needed as a 'control sample'.

Trees that exhibit this disease have copper-colored leaves and it noticeably impacts one or several large limbs simultaneously causing severe dieback. The tree tries to fight back by growing numerous small shoots (called epicormic growth) in an attempt to create more food-producing leaves.

All samples were taken to the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner's Laboratory, and results have not been revealed as of this writing. However, it is suspected that this new disease is a new form of *Botryosphaeria*. This disease is a common fungal infection that usually occurs in *Ficus* trees and numerous other ornamental trees and in crops such as grapevines, apples and walnuts. It is thought that drought stress brings about this disease, hence an irrigated tree was needed to eliminate this theory. *Botryosphaeria* is difficult to cure once it has infected the main trunk or structural branches, which is worrisome, but it does not always kill the entire tree immediately and pruning the impacted branches can slow or stop the spread of the disease.

Municipal Operations-Streets and Beaches

During the recent storm surge, Streets and Beaches Division undertook massive cleanup operations in a variety of areas. Staff spent two days manning the trash interceptor located in the San Diego Creek that collected 5.5 tons of debris that was removed.





In addition, the log boom at Northstar Beach collected 15 tons of debris that was removed by staff. Oceanside beaches also had a great deal of debris wash ashore. Using heavy equipment and ground crews, 25 additional tons were collected and removed. The storm also brought strong winds blowing beach sand onto the boardwalk. Both wind fencing in place, along with regular back dragging of the sand away from the boardwalk, helped mitigate the effects of onshore wind systems.

Trees Maintenance

During the months of December and January, Great Scott Tree Service (GSTS) trimmed trees in Grid 17 (Balboa Peninsula), Grid 12 (CDM), and Grid 15 (Lido Isle) responded to 26 tree-related emergencies during one inclement weather event, plus completed 13 service requests.

| Month of: | # of Trees Trimmed: | # of Trees Removed: | # of Trees Removed Because a Problem Tree: | # of Trees Planted: |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| December | 1,247 | 18 | 0 | 20 |
| January | 1,515 | 28 | 0 | 6 |

Prepared By:
 Kevin Pekar, Superintendent
 Parks and Trees Section