

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Andrew Gilich
Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development
Eric Nolan, Arborist
City Council Members
Mike Leonard, CAO

From: City of Biloxi Tree Committee

Tracy Wyman, Chair (Ex-Officio)
Robin Lang, Secretary (1)
Shirley Peterson (2)
Matt Dubaz (3)
Susan Peterson (4)
Carroll Campbell, Vice Chair (5)
Christine Davis (6)
Pam Barlow (7)

Date: September 10, 2021

Re: **Case No. 2021027, Treasure Bay Casino RV Resort**

In serious consideration of achieving balance between economic development and tree protection, the Tree Committee has reviewed the tree removal plan for this property provided by the City Arborist, and makes the following comments / recommendations:

1. It is understood that this site proposes an excellent opportunity for a welcoming RV Park with vegetation native and important to this region, providing an meaningful experience for guests.

However,

2. Several trees on the tree removal plan (either noted for removal or protection) have been mis-identified or labeled with an inaccurate size.

Two such instances are shown in the attached, and summarized below, however this is just a small sample:

- a) 35" Live Oak proposed for conservation actually measures 52" DBH (a 17" difference).
- b) 14" Live Oak proposed for removal actually measures 30" DBH (a 16" difference).

There are many, many more trees on this plan inaccurately sized or labeled, and therefore the Tree Committee recommends this plan be resubmitted with an up-to-date tree survey, which is a standard requirement of the LDO.

As a note, there are indications of mechanical damage on at least two trees proposed for removal, shown in the attached.

3. In general, it does not appear that sufficient effort has been made to protect the greatest number of protected trees for this site. For instance:
 - a) Some large live oak trees with a damaged limb (indicated on the attached) could be protected with the damaged limb removed by a qualified professional.

- b) Some large live oak trees close to a proposed roadway or RV lot (indicated on the attached) could be retained with very little alteration to the plan.
- 4. “Shade Trees” and “new ornamental” trees are listed as proposed new plantings. The Tree Committee recommends “shade trees” be labeled as “Live Oak, Magnolia or Bald Cypress”, and that the “ornamental trees” be labeled as “native understory trees” or “cabbage palm”, based on the Tree Species replanting list available on the City of Biloxi Tree Committee web page.
- 5. Until this is submitted, the Tree Committee cannot make a final recommendation.
- 6. Water Oaks. Once an up-to-date and accurately labeled site plan is received, the Committee would agree on the removal of any water oak that is in the way of an RV lot or a roadway.
- 7. Mitigation. Whatever the outcome of the decision of the Planning Commission, the Tree Committee recommends that mitigation / replanting occur on-site as much as is feasible, at a rate of 3:1 (as required in the LDO), and that mitigation requirements be met with Live Oaks, Magnolia, and Bald Cypress only.

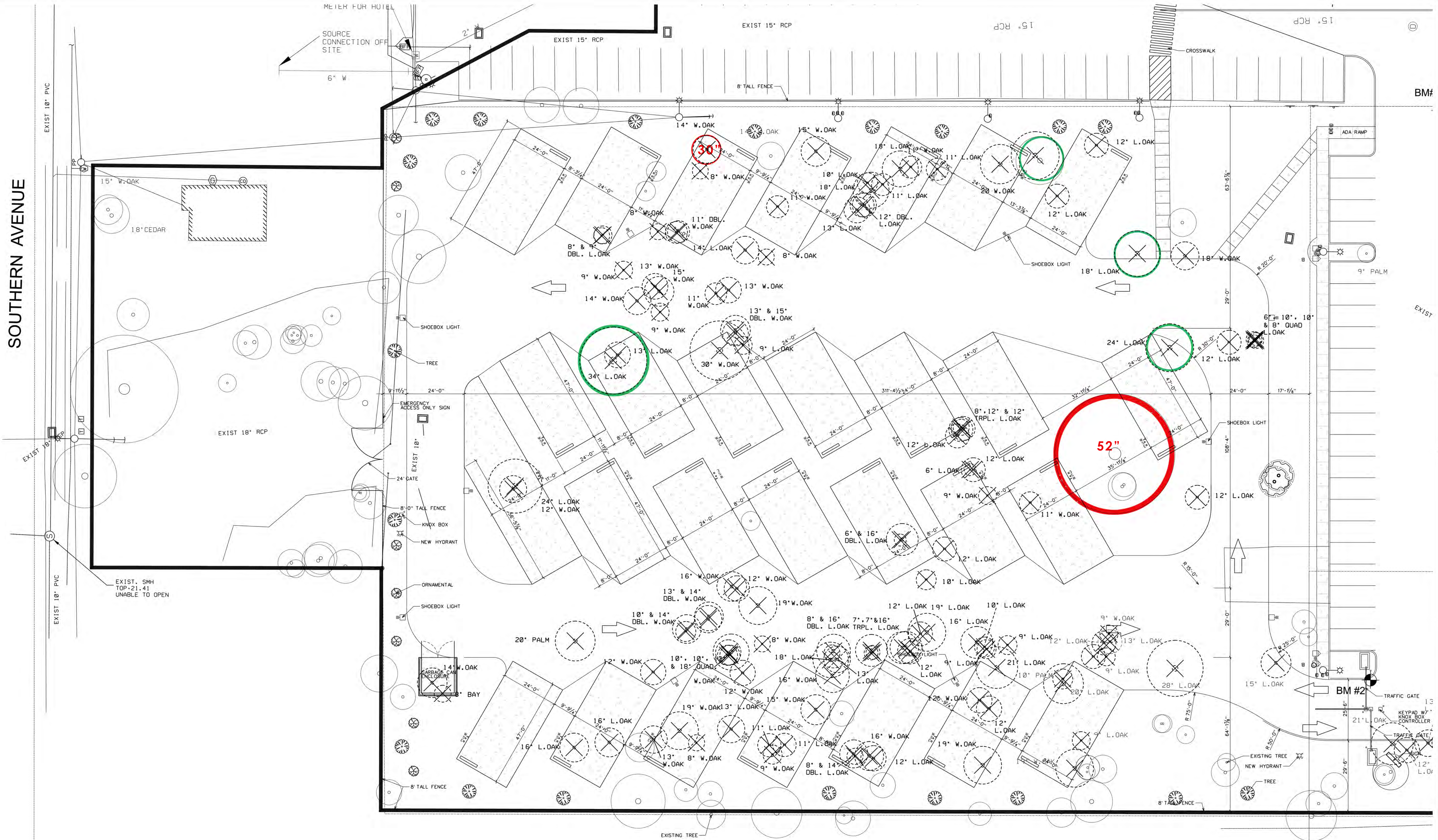
Mechanical Scarring



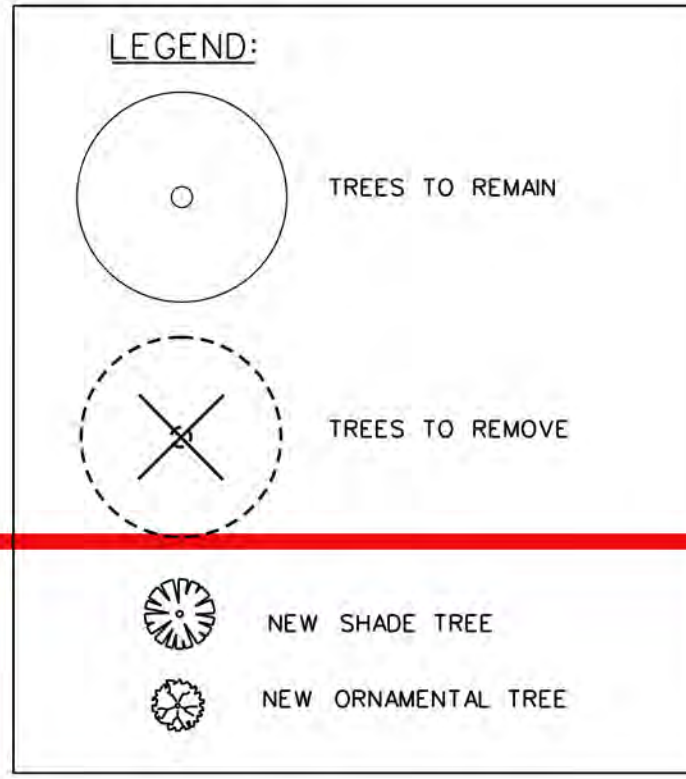
Evidence of inaccurate tree survey
 Left: 30” Live Oak, labeled as 14” Water Oak (proposed for removal).
 Right: 52” Live Oak labeled as 34” Live Oak (proposed to remain).
NOTE: Compare to 17” wide paper in the photo)



SOUTHERN AVENUE



TREE PLAN
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"



68 LIVE OAKS TO BE REMOVED
56 WATER OAKS TO BE REMOVED
1 BAY TO BE REMOVED
(125 TREES TOTAL)

29 LIVE OAKS TO REMAIN
24 WATER OAKS TO REMAIN
7 BAY TREES TO REMAIN
1 MAPLE TO REMAIN
1 BIRCH TREE TO REMAIN
1 MAGNOLIA TREE TO REMAIN
2 CEDAR TREES TO REMAIN
2 ELM TREES TO REMAIN

ADDED:
19 SHADE TREES
7 ORNAMENTAL TREES

*TREE COUNT IS BY NUMBER OF TRUNKS AT 48"
PALMS ARE OMITTED

- Example of a incorrect survey / sizing label
- Unnecessary proposed removals. Can be protected.

- Specify Native Species**
- Shade Trees should be Live Oak
- Ornamental should be Magnolia, Bald Cypress, Cabbage Palm**
- Understory trees as per City of Biloxi Native Tree Species Guide on the city of Biloxi Tree Committee Web page**

Sheet Number:
A101



Treasure Bay
CASINO AND HOTEL
NEW RV PARK
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Revisions:
Project No: 020-006
Date: APRIL 2021
Drawn: JOL
Checked: MAH



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TBC - RV Park

Species	Size	Trees Proposed to be removed Quantity	Trees proposed to remain Quantity
Live	6"-11"	21	8
Oak	11"-15"	29	12
	16"-20"	12	2
	21"-25"	4	2
	26"-30"	1	2
	31"-35"	1	1
	36"+	0	2
	Water	6"-11"	12
Oak	11"-15"	30	8
	16"-20"	9	4
	21"-25"	4	3
	26"-30"	1	0
	31"-35"	0	0
	36"+	0	0
	Bay	6"-11"	1
11"-15"		0	1
Maple	6"-11"	0	0
	11"-15"	0	1
Cedar	6"-11"	0	0
	11"-15"	0	0
	16"-20"	0	2
Magnolia	6"-11"	0	0
	11"-15"	0	0
	16"-20"	0	1
Elm	6"-11"	0	0
	11"-15"	0	2
	16"-20"	0	0
Birch	6"-11"	0	1
	11"-15"	0	0
	16"-20"	0	0

Total Trees

125

67

**Palms are excluded