



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

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News Release

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Giant camphor tree to be replaced

City and Sacramento Tree Foundation partner to plant new tree at 18th and Capitol Avenue

When the City-owned landmark camphor tree at 18th and Capitol came down last August, many speculated about what might be planted in its place. At least two hundred people turned out to photograph and memorialize the tree when the City announced that the tree needed to come down due to disease.

The City and the Sacramento Tree Foundation have chosen a red oak tree to replace the well canopied and popular camphor. Oaks have been selected as America's National Tree by a national poll conducted by the Arbor Day Foundation, with a congressional bill and the president's signature making it official in 2004.

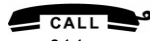
The red oak will be planted on Friday, Jan. 11 at approximately mid-morning at the City's expense.

The tree was purchased from a specimen tree nursery in Oregon and arrived last week. The red oak has a root ball weighing between 1700 to 2000 pounds. While the tree is young now with a diameter of 6 inches, the City's Urban Forester Joe Benassini says that it will grow to a height of around 50 to 60 feet. The red oak is not susceptible to the verticillium wilt that killed the camphor tree.

"The Midtown business community recognizes that a healthy tree canopy is good for business. We applaud Dave Virga (of Paesano's & Mangia) and the City for working together to ensure this important intersection, which is a vital entry corridor into Midtown, is appropriately adorned with a new tree to replace the magnificent camphor," said Midtown Business Association Executive Director Elizabeth Studebaker.

On Saturday, Jan. 12, at 3 p.m., the Sacramento Tree Foundation will host a celebration of life event at the tree site for the foundation’s recently passed board member Miles Treaster, Sr. The late Treaster was founder/owner of Miles Treaster and Associates., a revered interior design and furniture business. Colleagues and friends are welcome to attend. In commemoration of Treaster’s love for the arts and environment, the trunk will be painted electric blue as an extension of the current “Blue Trees” project at 13th and K Streets. The project calls attention to the importance of trees and the global loss of canopy cover. The electric blue paint is environmentally friendly and non toxic, and should wear off within six to 12 months.

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