



Consulting Arborist and Horticulturist
Root & Bough
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August 22, 2026

Jeannette Davies
Director of Library Services
Coalinga-Huron Library District
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Ms. Davies:

Background

At your request on August 14, 2026, the following is an arborist report for trees at the Coalinga Branch and the Huron Branch of the Library District. This report includes the survey method, location, species, condition, observations, discussion, conclusions, and tree recommendations. The client provided facts about the trees, and a walk-through and evaluation were performed on August 18, 2026.

Assignment

My assignment was to inspect the trees at the locations, identify their species, assess their health and condition, evaluate any risk beyond the general risk of living with trees, report my observations, discussion, and conclusions, then make recommendations to improve tree health and condition and mitigate genuine risk.

Limits of the Assignment

This report and observations are based on my August 18, 2026, site visit. The trees were assessed using a basic assessment process and ground inspection, which involved a detailed visual inspection of the tree and the surrounding site and could include the use of simple tools. It required the assessor to walk completely around the tree trunk, looking at the site, above-ground roots, trunk, and branches. Information contained in this report reflects observations made only of those items described and only reflects the condition of those items at the time of the site visit.

Observations/Discussion/Conclusion/Recommendations per item

COALINGA Leaning Chinese Pistache - There were two Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*) trees in front of the library. The tree to the northwest was in good condition and health. The tree to the southeast was leaning severely. It had a lean of approximately 33° to the southeast; see Photo 1

on Page 2. It had a diameter at breast height (DBH), measured at 4.5 feet above grade, of 26 inches. There was cracking in the soil on the side opposite the lean; see Photo 2 on Page 2. It also had a cracked buttress root and some wood decay on the side opposite the lean; see Photo 2. The northwest side of the tree near the base, opposite the lean, was indented; see Photo 2. The tree was leaning against the flagpole near the corner of Fourth and Duran; see Photo 3 on Page 3. The flagpole was a 5 1/2-inch-diameter metal pole. The flagpole was slightly leaning due to pressure from the tree.

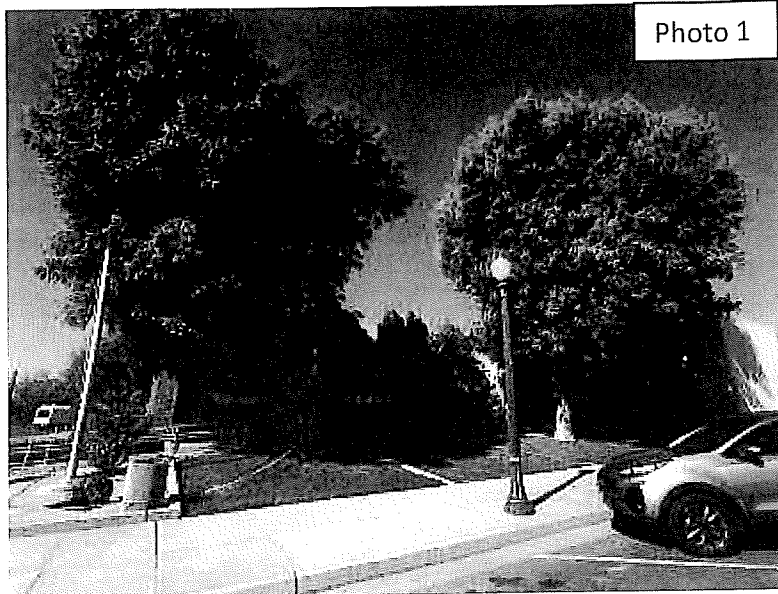


Photo 1

The indentation in this tree, opposite the direction of lean, may have been due to past disease or damage, which could have weakened the root system on that side. The flagpole was likely partially supporting the tree and was leaning under the tree's pressure. If the tree were to fail, it would likely take the flagpole with it, and the flagpole and the tree would fall across the sidewalk between the tree and the library, along Duran Street, and into the parking stalls, including the handicap accessible parking stall on Duran. The targets would be the flagpole, which was also a mitigating factor unless it also fell, in which case it would increase the risk of damage to automobiles parked in the parking stalls on Duran and to any people walking around the southeast side of the tree, and if the tree rolled a little bit more to the south than the east, it could damage the library building. This tree presents a high risk to people, autos and some infrastructure.

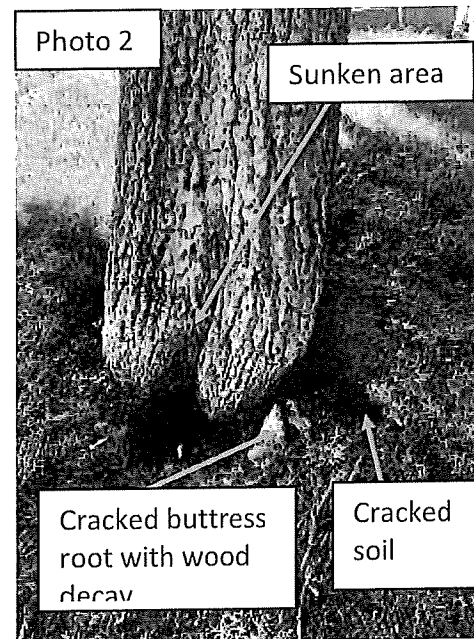


Photo 2

Sunken area

Cracked buttress root with wood decay

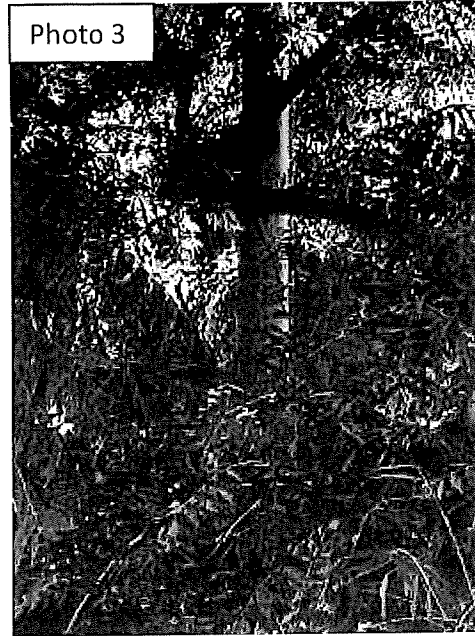
Cracked soil

I recommend the tree be removed and the stump ground out.

COALINGA Aphid Problem - To the left of the main entrance, on the outside of the building, was a Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica* var.) tree infested with aphids, which were exuding honeydew, creating a sticky mess on the sidewalk and the shrubs beneath the tree. There were two Chinese Hackberry (*Celtis sinensis*) trees on the west side of the library in the little park area, which had a severe infestation of Chinese Hackberry woolly aphid. They were dripping with sticky aphid exudate, and the aphids were sucking sap from the trees.

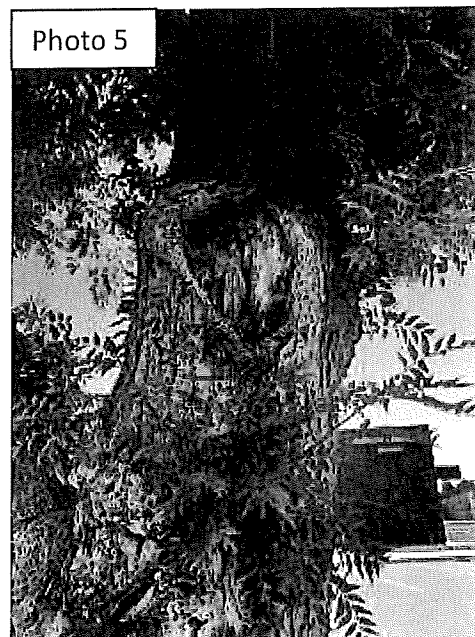
Regarding honeydew: This sticky substance is insect excrement that contains a high sugar content. When it builds up, it grows a black mold called sooty mold, which eventually stains the concrete and everything else under the trees and gets tracked into buildings. The mold does not significantly harm the trees, but draining the carbohydrate-rich sap from them can weaken them severely over time and make them more susceptible to other threats.

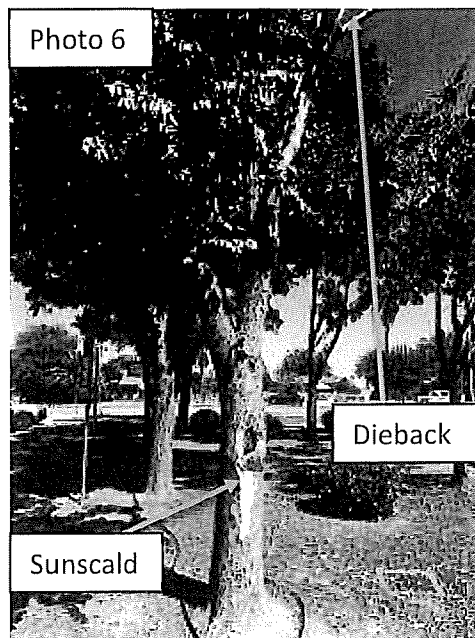
Have the Crape Myrtle and Chinese Hackberry trees with aphids treated by a Qualified Applicator licensed by the State Department of Pesticide Regulation. They should have the appropriate categories on their license for the particular work. They should use a systemic insecticide, such as one containing imidacloprid or a similar compound, once per year during the January–March period, as a soil drench or injection. This eliminates spraying pesticides up into the tree and the air. If done properly, it should keep aphids and other sucking insects from becoming a problem for the whole season.



COALINGA Other Trees - There were two liquidambars (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and four Bradford Pears (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford') in the park area to the west. They all appeared to be in fair to good health and condition. There were two more Bradford Pears in the northwest turf area near the backflow device and the trash enclosure. They appeared to be in good health and condition at the time of inspection.

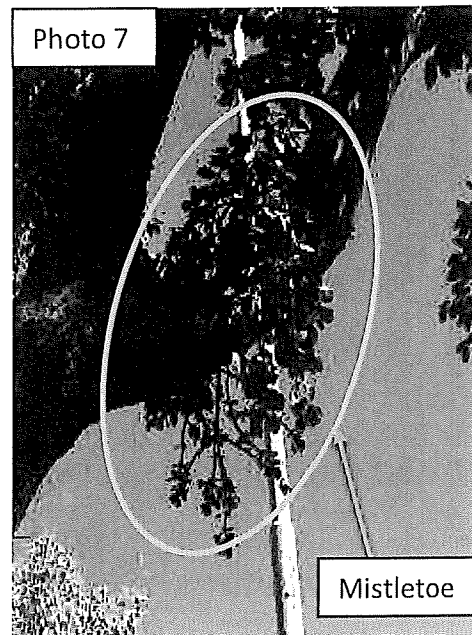
HURON Chinese Pistache - There were eight mature Chinese Pistache along 'O' Street in front of the Library. Most of the Pistache trees had some wood decay in the trunk where old branches had been cut off; see Photos 4 & 5 on Page 3. None of the Chinese Pistache along the street appeared to pose a high risk at the time of inspection. These Chinese Pistache trees should be inspected annually.



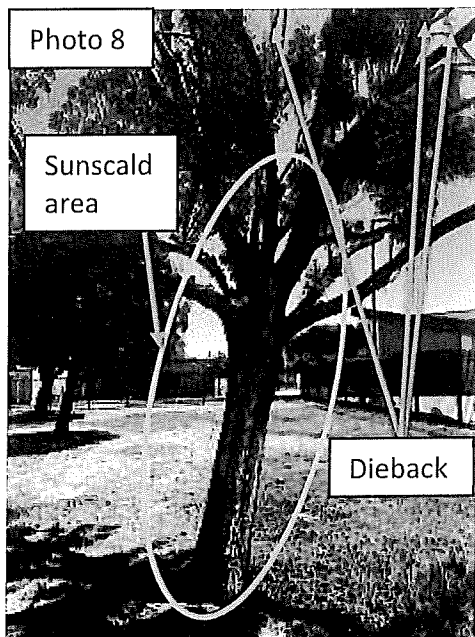


with dieback of large branches; see Photo 6 on Page 4. This tree should be removed and replaced with a better species or just removed.

There was mistletoe growing in a few of these trees; see Photo 7 on Page 4, and it should be pruned annually.



HURON Raywood Ash - Behind the library in the park-like area, there were seven Raywood Ash (*Fraxinus oxycarpa* 'Raywood'). Most of these trees were in fair to good health and condition



except for one. The farthest one east, closest to the school to the southeast; see Photo 8 on Page 4, leaned strongly to the east, with a large percentage of trunk damage and exposed wood facing west and southwest. The southwest-facing side received the hottest afternoon sun, a common cause of sunscauld. The bark on the trunk and some of the scaffold branches facing toward the southwest had been burned off, and the tree had damaged tissue that had wood decay in it. The tree was in very poor health and had extensive dieback on the school side. I recommend removal of this tree.

This type of tree needs a fairly high level of irrigation. They should have some sort of irrigation installed within their root zone between the trunk and the outer portion of the canopy, commonly referred to as the drip line. No water should hit the trunks at all, if possible. This will help keep

diseases from taking advantage of them. They should not be severely pruned, and the branches of the canopy should be left wide enough that the sun cannot hit the trunk of the tree for very long at any given time. If these trees are over-pruned, they cannot adapt quickly enough to the sunshine on the south, southwest, and west sides, and they will get sunscald. After the sunscald, wood decay fungi and insects will take advantage of them and enter into them. This is one of the reasons severely pruning a tree's canopy is extremely harmful to it. I have attached a section of basic pruning guidelines on Pages 6 & 7 for your use when working with tree pruning personnel.

There was one more Ash tree that had sunscald on its trunk in the past and had wood decay and insects in it; see Photo 9 on Page 5. Its bark had since been shaded by its own branches and had grown back over much of the wounded area. The decay inside it was not dramatically affecting its health, but in the long term, it may compromise its structural integrity. The tree should be monitored annually. This tree was north/northeast of the library building toward the school where there were a container, temporary classrooms, and a basketball hoop.



HURON Camphor - There was one Camphor tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) to the north of the Hackberry trees in the lawn area near the entrance flagpole. This tree was in fair condition but appeared to be underwatered. I recommend increasing the irrigation somewhat.

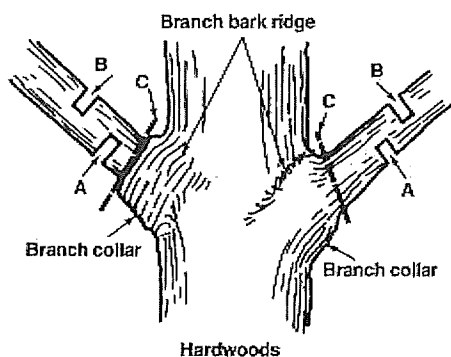
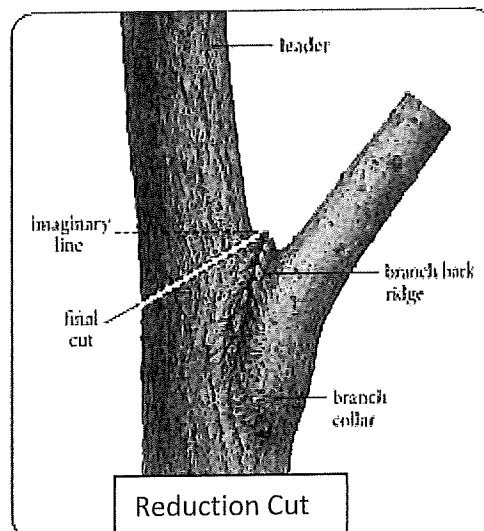
Basic Tree Pruning Guidelines

Arborists adhering to the Pruning Standards WILL NOT:

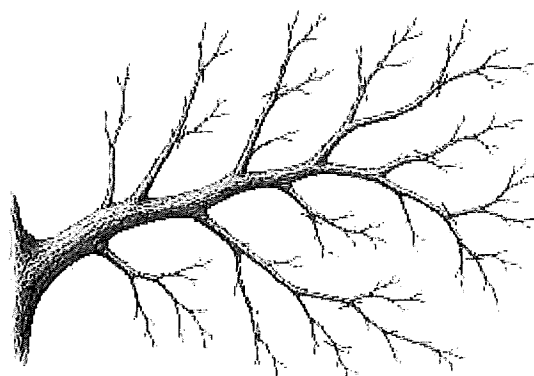
- leave branch stubs
- make unnecessary heading cuts
- cut off the branch collar or make a flush cut
- top or lion's tail trees (stripping a branch from the inside leaving foliage just at the ends)
- remove more than 25 percent of the live foliage of a single branch
- remove more than 25 percent of the tree's total live foliage in a single year
- damage other parts of the tree during pruning
- use wound paint
- prune without a good reason
- climb the tree with climbing spikes, except for removals

For removal of outside weight, length, or height, use Reduction Cuts, which are the kind of pruning that reduces the length of a branch or stem back to a lateral branch large enough to assume apical dominance, typically a branch which is one-third to one-half the size of the branch being cut. Outside weight can also be removed by thinning of heavy branches. Appropriate thinning removes weight by making small cuts that have no serious long-term effects on the tree, while maintaining a tree's natural beauty.

Right -



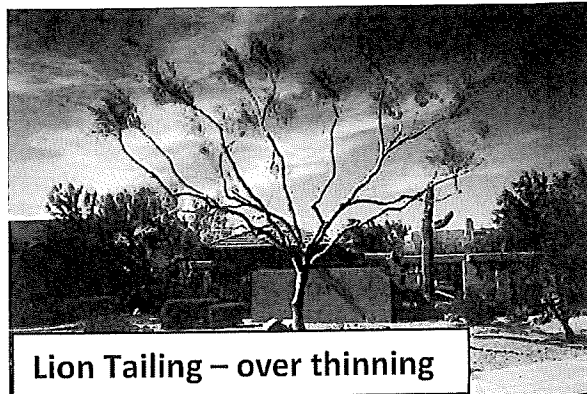
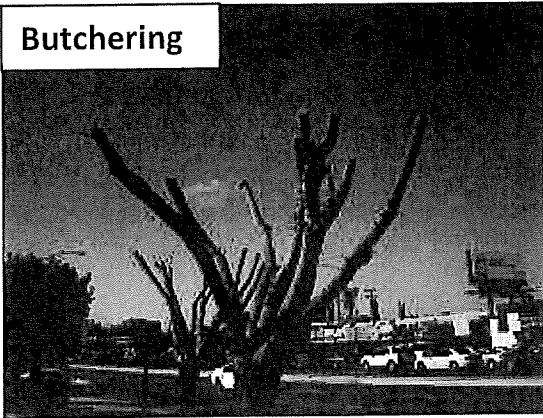
Do not cut behind the branch collar



Removal of Weight via Thinning

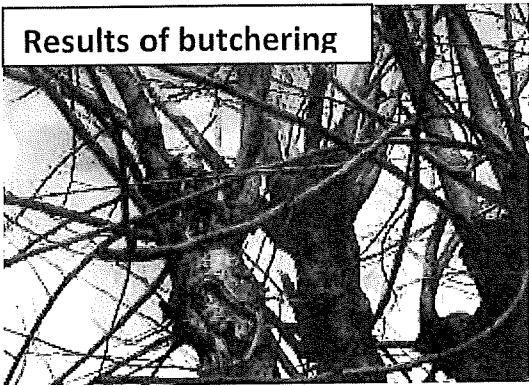
Wrong -

Butchering

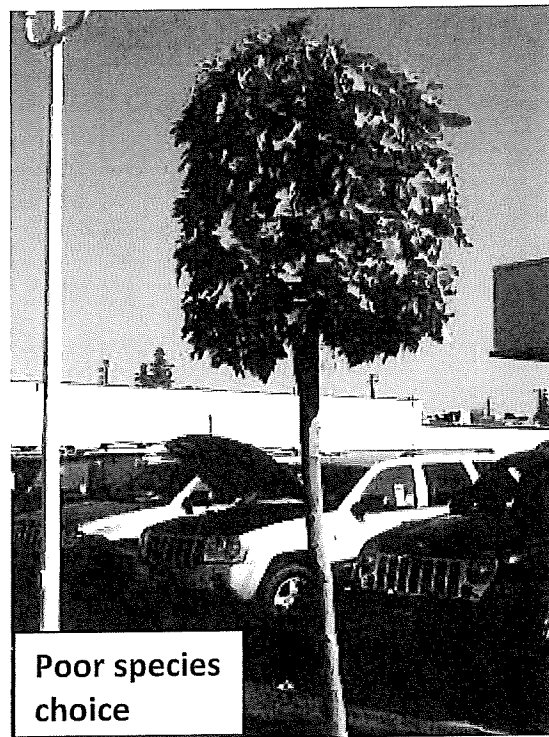
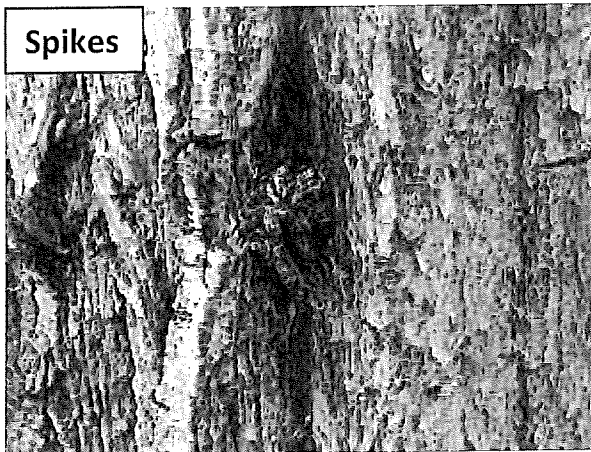


Lion Tailing – over thinning

Results of butchering



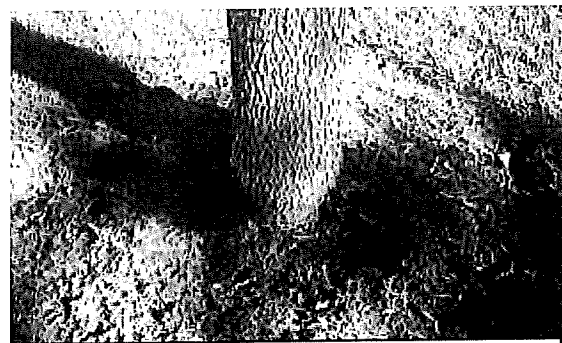
Spikes



Poor species choice



Mechanical damage



Organic matter against trunk and root crown

Certificate of Performance

I, John K. Pape, Certify:

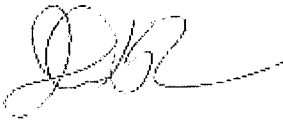
- That I have inspected the trees and/or property evaluated in this report. I have stated findings accurately, insofar as the limitations of the Assignment and within the extent and context identified by this report;
- That I have no current or prospective interest in the vegetation or any real estate that is the subject of this report, and have no personal interest or bias concerning the parties involved;
- That the analysis, opinions, and conclusions stated herein are original and are based on current scientific procedures and facts, and according to commonly accepted arboricultural practices;
- That no significant professional assistance was provided, except as indicated by the inclusion of another professional report within this report;
- That compensation is not contingent upon reporting a predetermined conclusion that favors the client's cause or any other party.

I am a **Registered Consulting Arborist** with the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA).

I am a **Certified Arborist** with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

I have attained professional training in all areas of knowledge asserted through this report by completion of certification and by routinely attending pertinent professional conferences and by reading current research from professional journals, books, and other media.

I have rendered professional services in a full-time capacity in the field of horticulture and arboriculture for more than 50 years.

Signed: 

Date: August 22, 2026

Name: John K. Pape

Registered Consulting Arborist #585

Certified Arborist #WE-3517A

Assumptions and Limiting Conditions

1. Any legal description provided to the consultant is assumed to be correct. Title and ownership of all property considered are assumed to be good and marketable. No responsibility is assumed for matters legal in character. Any and all property is appraised or evaluated as though free and clear, under responsible ownership and competent management.
2. It is assumed that any property is not in violation of any applicable codes, ordinances, statutes or other governmental regulations.
3. Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible. The consultant can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.
4. Any diagrams, sketches and photographs in this report are intended as visual aids and are not to scale, unless specifically stated as such on the drawing. These communication tools in no way substitute for, nor should be construed as, surveys, architectural or engineering drawings.
5. Loss or alteration of any part of this report invalidates the entire report.
6. Possession of this report or a copy thereof does not imply right of publication or use for any purpose by any other than the person to whom it is addressed, without the prior written or verbal consent of the consultant.
7. Distribution of this confidential report in any format to others not directly involved or pertinent to a client's claims is prohibited without the consent of the consultant.
8. This report represents the opinion of the consultant. In no way is the consultant's fee contingent upon a stipulated result, the occurrence of a subsequent event, nor upon any finding to be reported.
9. The consultant shall not be required to give testimony or to attend court by reason of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of an additional fee for such services as described in the fee schedule, an agreement or a contract.
10. Information contained in this report reflects observations made only of those items described and only reflects the condition of those items at the time of the site visit. Furthermore, the inspection is limited to visual examination of items and elements at the site, unless expressly stated otherwise. There is no express or implied warranty or guarantee that problems or deficiencies of the plants or property inspected may not arise in the future.
11. Changes to tree or site conditions after completion of the field inspection that are caused by severe weather, construction, accidents, insects, disease or other agents may change the structural integrity of a tree or tree part and increase risk. These types of future changes in condition and their impact on the tree cannot be reasonably predicted during a risk assessment.
12. This assessment was restricted to the designated tree(s) and did not assess any other nearby trees that may present potential hazards to people or property.
13. Recommendations for risk reduction treatments may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborist's services such as cost, public sensitivity, property management considerations, and other issues. This assessment did not consider these factors but focused on the structural integrity of the subject tree(s) and relative risk to the public at the time of this inspection and during normal weather conditions.

Disclosure Statement

Arborists are tree specialists who use their education, knowledge, training and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist, or to seek additional advice.

Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways we do not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden within trees and below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specified period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments, like any medicine, cannot be guaranteed.

This assessment is based on predictions of tree behavior during normal weather conditions and the condition of the tree at the time of the field inspection. Normal weather conditions are defined as wind less than 30 mph in speed and rainfall that does not saturate the soil and destabilize the tree root system.

Time frames for risk ratings and recommended mitigation are not a guarantee period for tree or tree part stability. Tree or tree parts may fail at any time after the inspection.

Treatment, pruning, and removal of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the Arborist's services such as property boundaries, property ownership, sight lines, disputes between neighbors, and other issues. Arborists cannot take such considerations into account unless complete and accurate information is disclosed to the Arborist. An Arborist should then be expected to reasonably rely upon the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.

Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live, work and play near trees is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate risk from trees is to remove trees, but removal is generally only preferred if recommended by a Certified Arborist or Registered Consulting Arborist, because it also eliminates the multitude of benefits provided by trees.

Any products mentioned or recommended are not endorsed or guaranteed to be successful. Any shortcomings in those products are the responsibility of their manufacturers, not Root & Bough Enterprises, Inc. All products must be used according to their label instructions.

Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendation of the arborist, or to seek additional advice.

Davies, Jeannette

From: john@rootandboughinc.com
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 7:43 AM
To: Davies, Jeannette
Subject: Treatment work for infested trees

You don't often get email from john@rootandboughinc.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
Jeannette,

I don't know how your district handles some of the work I recommended, particularly the treatment work. Maybe the City of Coalinga has a Qualified Applicator licensed for ornamental tree treatments that can do it. There are not too many private companies that do such work for hire. But in Fresno there is Tree DoctoRx. Their number is 559.251.7907. If you decide to give them a call, let them know I referred you. I can give them the info regarding your situation if go that way, i.e. trees size and insect type, and they can give you a price.

Regards,
John

John K. Pape
Principal



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Ph. 559.426.6181 / Fax 559.426.6169
john@rootandboughinc.com

Registered Consulting Arborist #585 / Certified Arborist #WE-3517A-Tree Risk Assessment Qualified / Tree & Plant Appraisal Qualified / Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor #8151 / Licensed Pest Control Applicator #98330 / Licensed Structural Pest Operator #12529 / Formerly Licensed Landscape and Tree Care Contractor (24 years)

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