



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Public Information

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**LARPD Studying Condition of Heritage Valley Oak Tree at Sunset Park**

*LIVERMORE* – A second outside arborist report, from Dryad, LLC arborists, has been received by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, which contracted for the study to assist in determining the condition and future management of the Valley Oak tree that, according to some tree age estimate methods, is about 200 years old. On-staff certified arborists from LARPD and the City of Livermore have assessed the tree and have been concerned about the public’s safety and possible failure due to detection of rot and the tree’s close proximity to the park’s tot lot. Temporary fencing and signage went up at that time to warn the public to keep a distance away from the tree for safety reasons. An outside arborist report was commissioned by LARPD and received in November from HortScience, Inc. Both reports are posted for public review on the District’s website: [www.larpd.org](http://www.larpd.org) under “Sunset Park Valley Oak Reports.” The tree is unique, not only because of its size and age, but because of a large low horizontal limb, supported by a pole, that has been a favorite of neighborhood children for decades. “We have received plenty of public input and feedback on the desire to save this tree,” said General Manager Tim Barry. “I’m glad to see how enlightened the public is to the many benefits trees provide us in our parks and appreciation, in particular, for the older trees. The park district obviously loves and cares for trees daily, but there are many factors involved in considering what’s in the best interest of the public and the District in serving the public in this situation, so we are taking our time to study all of the issues and provide information to our Board for consideration.”

A staff report, with findings from the arborists’ reports, will be presented to the District’s Board of Directors at their meeting of Wed. March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

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