SIGE COMMON AREA TREE MAINTENANCE POLICY

Revised 12/2023

The purpose of this document is to spell out the policies of the Homeowners Association Board of Directors regarding the maintenance of common area trees.

1. Trees in the common areas are assets of the Homeowners Association. Every 2-3 years a professional arborist will conduct an evaluation of the Association trees and provide advice on what is needed to maintain the health of the trees. This evaluation will include suggestions for proper trimming and/or removal. Trimming of most trees aside from citrus and pine can occur at any time of the year. Removal of a tree may occur if the tree represents a safety hazard and/or if it becomes exceptionally pest ridden or inflamed with disease.

2. No tree will be topped as part of the trimming as this damages the tree as it takes away much of the leaf-bearing crown which can result in the temporary starving of the tree. Topping will also cause the tree to send out rapid growth shoots below the cuts that further weaken the tree. Not surprisingly, this type of topping allows sunburning of the tree as well.

3. In situations where an HOA area tree causes one or more homeowners to complain the tree is blocking their view and they would prefer to have the tree removed, the following process will be followed:

a. If all affected homeowners and the Landscape/Maintenance Committee agree (in writing) that there is an obvious problem, the tree will be removed at the homeowners’ expense. Replacement with a suitable desert tolerant plant will be determined by the Landscape/Maintenance Committee. NOTE: If the tree is over 10 feet in height, the HOA Board of Directors must also agree on its removal. All cost/compensation for the removal and/or replacement (with a suitable desert plant) will be paid in advance of the work to be performed.

b. When conflicts arise between homeowners about a tree, the HOA Board of Directors will have the final say on what happens to said tree. Once again, the affected homeowner requesting the tree be removed will be responsible for the cost of removal and/or replacement (with a suitable desert plant). Not all trees removed from common areas will be replaced. The Board of Directors will determine whether trees will be replaced based on the reason for removal and other criteria.

4. When having HOA common area trees removed, removal must be done by a licensed and insured tree service company.