



## **SAVE OUR TREES**

### **Mistletoe Threatens to Kill Ornamental Pear Trees on Pocket Road**

**Urgent Need:** The City of Sacramento is not able to maintain the health of the 207 ornamental pear trees that line Pocket Road. As a result, mistletoe has infested nearly all of the trees threatening their longevity. Some of the trees have up to 80% infestation and will die within the next 2-3 years. All of them will die prematurely, threatening the natural beauty of our neighborhood.

**Call to Action:** Local residents, businesses, representatives of city government, and private foundations are coming together to develop a plan to ensure the continued growth of trees along the Pocket Road median. To achieve this goal, short- and long-term strategies are under consideration. Short term, mistletoe from the trees will be removed to extend their lives until the long-term strategy can be put in place. Long term, the group is committed to identifying a plan for the gradual removal and replacement of ornamental pear trees with trees better suited to the environment and resistant to mistletoe infestation.

**Who Supports This Idea?** Supporters of this action plan, so far, include the following: residents living in the Pocket area; City Councilman Robbie Waters; Riverlake Homeowners Association; Regis Homes; and, the Sacramento Tree Foundation, which has created a special fund for this project.

**Who Opposes This Idea?** No one is opposed to this idea; rather, all residents and businesses in the Pocket area will benefit from it.

**More About the Short-term Strategy:** The ideal timeframe in which to prune the trees is prior to *early March* when the trees will flower and produce foliage. An initial estimate for a certified arborist to remove the mistletoe is \$16,000.00. Funding is being sought for this activity and steps are being taken to coordinate this activity with Riverlake Community Association and appropriate city officials.

**More About the Long-term Strategy:** The long-term strategy will: educate the public about this issue and finance the removal and replacement of the pear trees and provide for the continued maintenance of the new trees. The plan will be closely coordinated with Riverlake, the City of Sacramento (the entity responsible for the upkeep of the median), and interested local residents. Legal, financial and business interests will be addressed.

**What is Needed Now:** Much of the anticipated cost for removal of the mistletoe has been raised from donations. However, there is a gap in funding—and we are asking for your immediate help! Many Pocket area neighbors have contributed to this fund (average amount=\$100), but more is needed by early March. Every donation helps, and *it is tax deductible!* Please help by sending a check to Sacramento Tree Foundation, 191 Lathrop Way, Suite D, Sacramento, CA 95815. Make your check payable to: Sacramento Tree Foundation. And, to make 100% certain you are giving to this fund, mark it “**Pocket Rd. Mistletoe Project**” in the memo portion of your check. Thank you!

For **More Information** Contact Brian O’Hearn at 916.421.7113 or [brian\\_o’hearn@premierinc.com](mailto:brian_o’hearn@premierinc.com)