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# City of Sacramento

DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNITY SERVICES  
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SOLON WISHAM, JR.  
DIRECTOR

July 31, 1980  
**FILED**  
By the City Council  
Office of the City Clerk

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Board of Supervisors  
Sacramento, California

AUG 12 1980

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Dutch Elm Disease Prevention Program - Final Report

## SUMMARY

The City and County entered into a joint-powers agreement in November 1976 for the purpose of preventing the spread of Dutch Elm Disease into Sacramento County. The program was operated from FY 76-77 through FY 79-80. A total of 6,161 trees were trimmed and 294 removed at a cost of \$1,174,621. The program is no longer funded by either agency.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The discovery of Dutch Elm Disease in neighboring Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties prompted the City Council and Board of Supervisors to declare DED a nuisance and to adopt a joint-powers agreement to prevent the spread of the disease. The City Director of Community Services was selected to administer a 3-1/2 year program with consultation and assistance from the County Agricultural Commissioner.

Due to funding limitations, the program was concluded effective 6/30/80. Approximately 2/3 of the large, older elm trees in the City and County were serviced by the program. All of the areas having large concentrations of elms were serviced. The majority of the trees were trimmed for removal of dead wood and some trees which contained heavy decay were removed. The disease is still a potential threat to the trees of Sacramento although no outbreaks in the County have been discovered to date.

The State of California has continued its eradication efforts in communities where the disease was discovered, and latest reports indicate that the outbreak in California has been contained. Only one additional infected area has been found in the past year. It should be noted that the elm is afflicted by other diseases and insect problems which, coupled with drought conditions and aging, have generally adversely impacted the health of the elm population.

The Sacramento efforts are evaluated as successful in meeting most of the program objectives. Experience indicates that dead limbs will accrue approximately three years after a tree has been trimmed. There is a need for a continual cycle of trimming and a program of eventual reforestation with other species.

The four year program produced the following results:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| A. <u>Tree Services:</u>  | Total trees trimmed - 6,161<br>Total trees removed - 294 |
| B. <u>Expenditures:</u>   | Total expenditures - \$1,174,621                         |
| C. <u>Appropriations:</u> | Total appropriations - \$1,219,173                       |

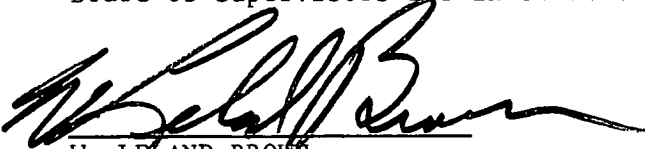
Trimming and tree removal activities were focused on several areas of the City and County as depicted in the attached Exhibit A.

FINANCIAL DATA

Funds in the amount of \$1,219,173 were appropriated jointly by the County and City in various amounts throughout the four years of the program. No additional funding is recommended at this time.

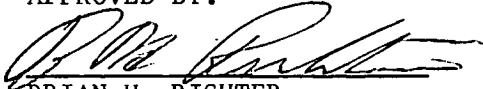
RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this report be provided to the City Council and the Board of Supervisors for informational purposes.



W. LELAND BROWN  
Agricultural Commissioner

APPROVED BY:



BRIAN H. RICHTER  
County Executive

County -

Respectfully submitted,



SOLON WISHAM, JR., Director  
Department of Community Services

APPROVED BY:



WALTER J. SLIPE  
City Manager

City - August 12, 1980

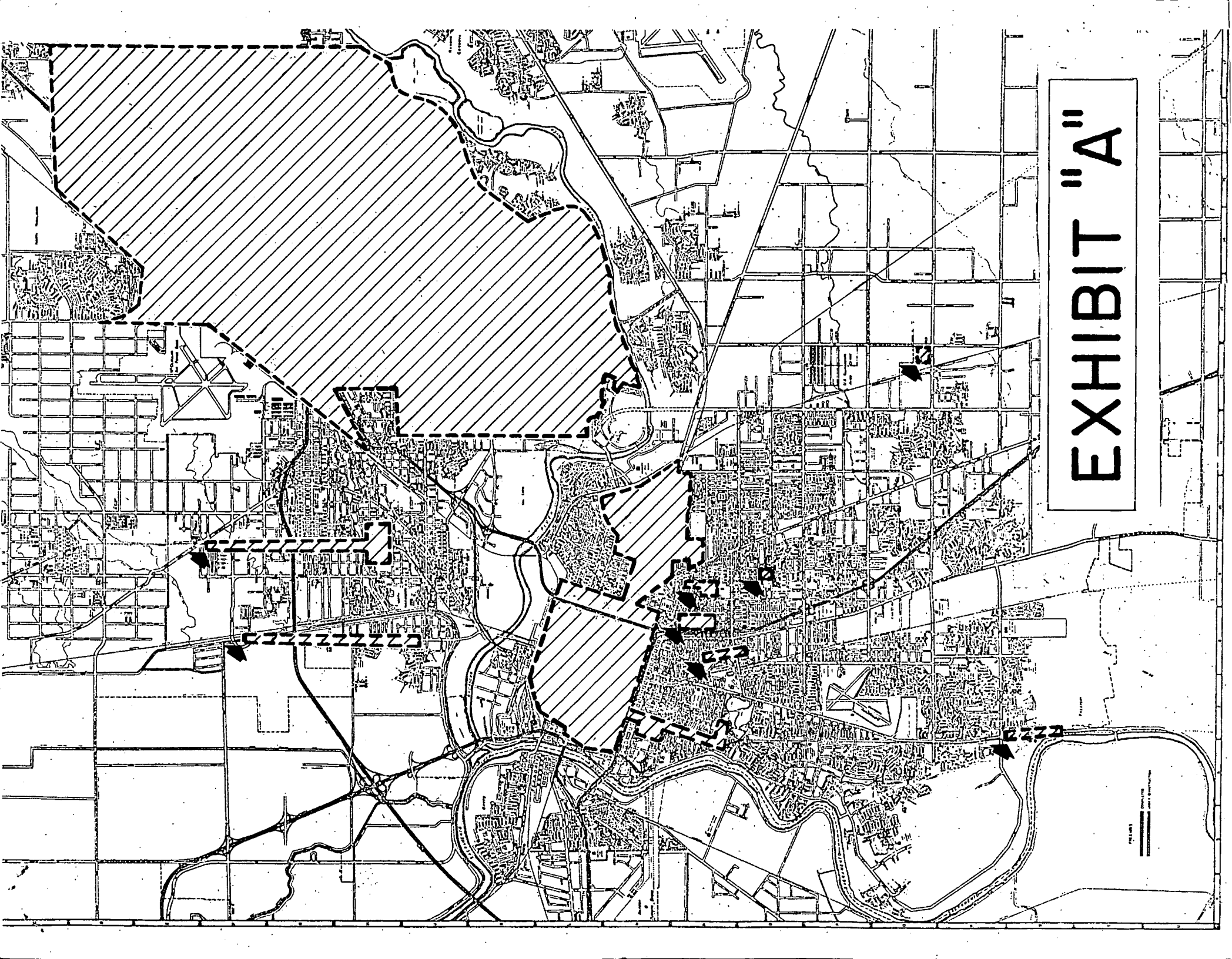


EXHIBIT "A"