



CITY OF TUCSON

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Irene Ogata, Urban Landscape Manager
Department of Urban Planning & Design
(520) 791-4505
Email: Irene.Ogata@tucsonaz.gov

Date: July 6, 2007
TTY: 791-2639

Olive Tree To Remain At Leo Rich Theatre Plaza

A 20-year-old olive tree with a trunk diameter of 34 ¼” will remain in place near a construction site adjacent to the Leo Rich Theatre plaza at the Tucson Convention Center. Saving the tree is the collective opinion of professional arborists, contractors, and the City’s Urban Landscape Manager, Irene Ogata.

The City of Tucson evaluates trees using specific criteria established by the International Society of Arborists. Experts valued the olive tree at more than \$61,000. “The cost to move the olive tree is estimated at \$30,000,” said Ogata. “The best use of funds and maintaining mitigation measures against urban heat island effects is to preserve the tree in place.” The construction project involves installing water lines that connect City facilities in the area to a heating and cooling generating plant at the Convention Center.

Because trees preserve the area’s walkability and urban feel, the City’s General Services Department will replace each tree that has been removed with two drought tolerant varieties. This includes replacing two mulberry trees, one rhus lancia and an Aleppo pine removed to accommodate equipment and trenching for pipes.

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