



**CORAL TREE CARE** for the BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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# State of the Corals

## Tonight's Objectives

- History of the Coral tree
- Coral tree challenges
- Maintenance and long-range planning
- I am only an arborist who lives locally and I am not putting my opinions on these trees but rather attempting to provide some scientific and arboricultural knowledge toward the future planning around these trees.



# OVERVIEW

## History

- 1960s Installation
- Original Vision

## Current Challenges

- Age
- Maintenance Requirements
- New Tree Installation
- Budget
- Irrigation
- Gopher activity
- 

## Strategic Planning Solutions

- Create Maintenance Master Plan
- Prioritize Immediate Actions
- Plan for Long-Term Improvements

- Coral trees originally installed in 1960's
- Trees selected and sourced by passionate locals who loved the unique beauty of the coral tree
- Medians landscaped with green turf for 50 years



# Current Challenges: Existing Trees

- Age — first generation reaching senescence
- Growing Conditions — chronic moisture encourages root rot and root failure
- Maintenance — previous improper pruning frequency and pruning techniques increase hazard potential



# Current Challenges: New Trees

- Sourcing — limited availability and quality
- Budget — managing expected AND unexpected costs
- Maintenance — improving growing conditions and anticipating maintenance needs of next generations of trees

- First, take stock: inventory and map trees; use inventory to monitor and assess needs
- Plan removals and new installations by priority
- **Create a Master Plan** describing Best Management Practices, e.g. pruning guidelines, new tree installation guidelines, and a long-term budgetary plan for improvements



Old decay at base of Coral trees will slowly compromise the trunks and allow for failure. This is the result of old irrigation spraying onto the trunks, and encouraging rot pathogens.





Old trunk where a THIRD trunk failed and the exposed rotted wood is still visible and will not "seal" or improve. Ultimately, this tree will become a removal candidate.



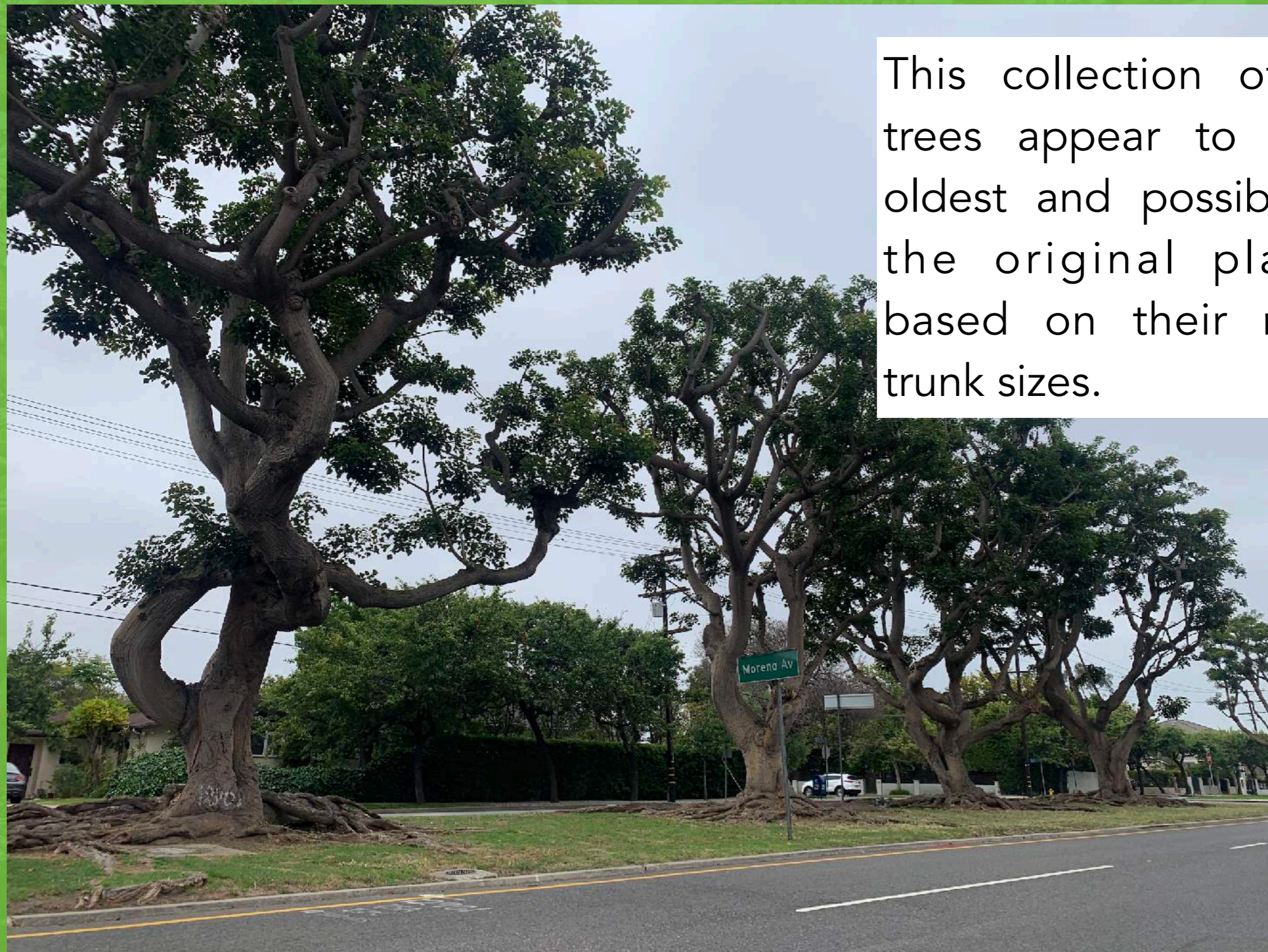
Trees just after pruning, show they attempted to retain a natural shape, reduce some of the upper heavy load, and did not over-thin. This style of pruning has been occurring more so in the last 3 years where the goal has been to "reduce branch and trunk breakage" but reducing canopy end weight.



Another Coral, just after pruning. Natural and not over pruned, but rather tipped back at the ends to reduce branch end weight.

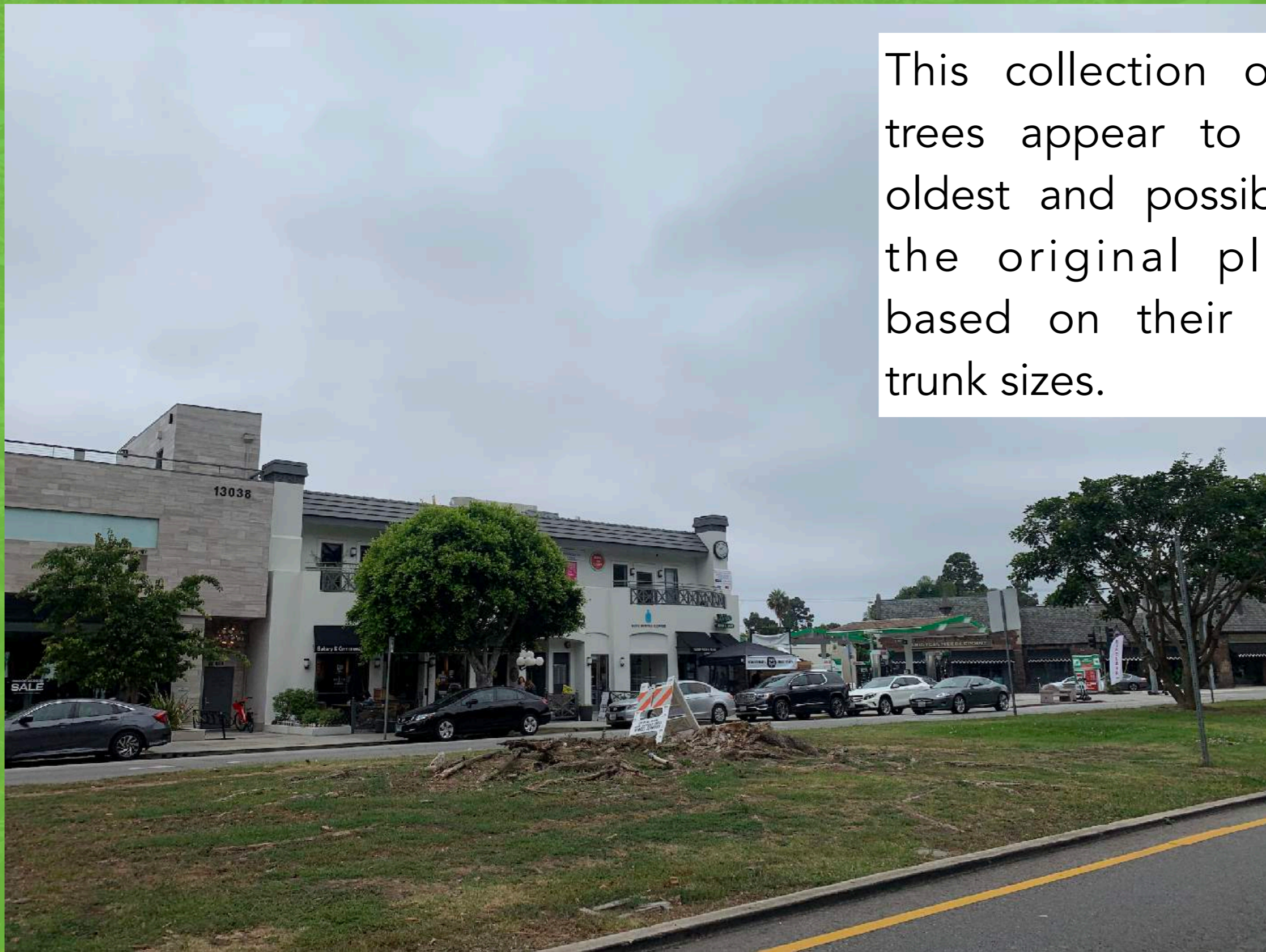


Another example of a recently pruned Coral Tree



This collection of Coral trees appear to be the oldest and possibly from the original planting, based on their massive trunk sizes.

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Coral tree where the median is narrowest and needs clearance for cars. Pruning has been goal based to keep the canopy from being over extended into the street.



Coral Trees in Santa Monica have similar challenges. This tree is rotted at the base on the right side





See close up of the trunk where decay is advancing through the trunk, the bark is dead, and it will eventually cause that side of the tree to die and fail.



A recent tree failure in Santa Monica, Also due to a poor root plate and multi-trunk structure.



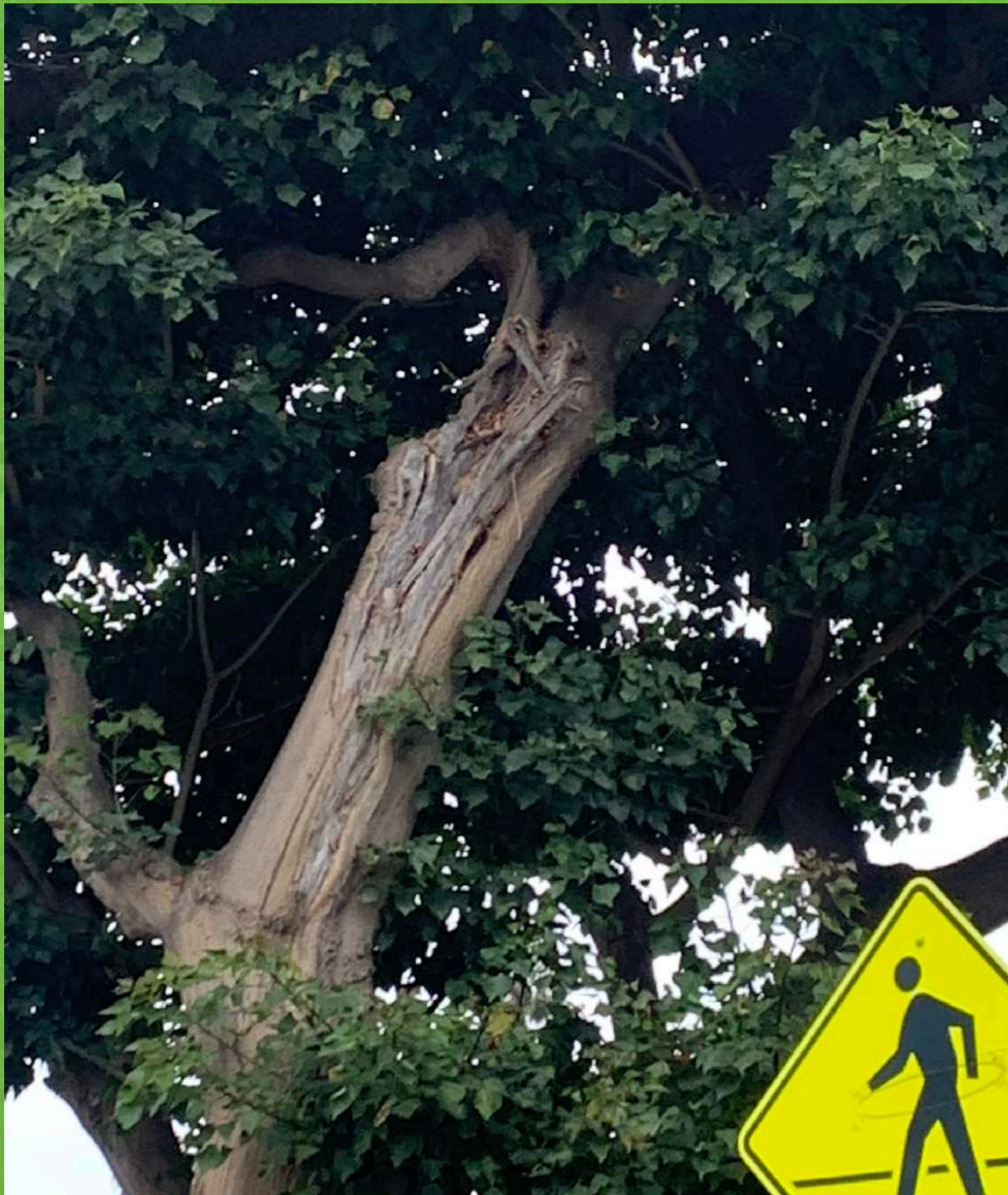
A recent tree failure in Santa Monica, Also due to a poor root plate and multi-trunk structure.



Tree looks healthy, but base of trunk is rotted and this branch could fail without warning.



Tree looks healthy, but base of trunk is rotted and this branch could fail without warning.



Santa Monica Coral trees look lush, but they have also had a history of branch failures.



Santa Monica coral tree at 26th,  
tree in decline.



Santa Monica - newer trees are focused on "single trunk" grown trees that have better structures. This single trunk at the base is helpful, as it doesn't allow irrigation spray to get in between the multi-trunk "crotches" and allow decay pathogens to begin as easily.





Santa Monica Coral with a beautiful full canopy, however at the base the trunk is rotted.



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Santa Monica beautiful Coral tree, and bleeding canker from drought stress. This is a common problem throughout So Cal.



Santa Monica beautiful Coral tree, and bleeding canker from drought stress. This is a common problem throughout So Cal.



Santa Monica Coral tree - left side is rotted, and upper portion of canopy is dying back.



Santa Monica Coral tree - left side is rotted.



Coral tree - looks lush and full - but base of tree has decay



Coral tree - looks lush and full - but  
base of tree has decay





Santa Monica Coral tree - large limb failure, due to just general weight, species tendency to shed limbs, summer branch drop, end weight, etc.



Santa Monica Coral tree with decay at base of trunk



Santa Monica Coral tree with decay at base of trunk



City of LA Coral tree - with decay at the base



City of LA Coral tree - with decay at the base



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City of LA Coral tree - with decay at the base



Areas where coral trees have been removed.





These coral trees are on Sunset Boulevard and each year the owner hacks them which has resulted in one of them dying and the rest of them flush back with heavy growth which can break in the summer months, This is not an effective way to manage these trees.



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Current conditions of the coral trees are on Sunset Boulevard shows dying tree.



Current conditions of the coral trees are on Sunset Boulevard shows dead tree.



# Newspaper Articles

*Your community newspaper*

*Brentwood news, sports and features*

Price 25c

*Brentwood* **POST**

Los Angeles, California 90049, Thursday, July 22, 1982



## Another one down

*Still another coral tree topples — due to lack of pruning, this tree on the San Vicente Coral Tree Parkway between Avondale Avenue and 26th Street toppled early this week. SOS Coral Tree, the Brentwood citizens group formed to save the coral trees by raising funds to have them pruned annually announces \$55,000 pledged so far toward its goal of \$150,000 which will be invested in U.S. Treasury bills, with the interest used to care for the trees. Anyone wishing to make a donation or to volunteer to help the cause should call 550-1051.*

# Newspaper Articles

B-8—Thurs., Aug. 12, 1982 EVENING OUTLOOK

## A SPECIAL GIFT FOR ALL OUR BRENTWOOD NEIGHBORS

As members of the Brentwood community, we share our neighbors' concern for the beautiful Coral Trees on San Vicente. And we want to do our part to see that they're perfectly maintained, forever.

That's why we've committed to SOS CORAL TREES an amount equivalent to one percent of all certificate deposits of \$10,000 or more\* (6-month minimum) opened at our Brentwood office through December 31, 1982—or until the SOS CORAL TREES Foundation has reached its goal.

If a thousand of our Brentwood neighbors open qualifying accounts, it will mean State will contribute a minimum of \$100,000 to save the coral trees. And the first \$25,000 is on us, regardless of how many accounts are opened.

We want to be good neighbors. And we want to be our neighbors' favorite Savings and Loan.

\*1/10% annualized on \$100,000 "Jumbo" CDs.



**State Savings** / BRENTWOOD  
AND LOAN ASSOCIATION



2538 San Vicente at 26th Street

A SERVICE OF FINANCIAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA • ASSETS OVER \$5 BILLION

Thank you!



**Lisa Smith**

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