



In August of 2019 at Mountain Brook Condominiums at 99 E Middlefield Road in Mountain View a very large Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*) in the courtyard of the property failed losing nearly half of its canopy. The portion of the tree that failed landed in the courtyard pond and also took down some smaller trees in the process. Should have any of the residents been in the vicinity during the failure they would have undoubtedly suffered major personal injury or even death.

Upon close examination of the tree that experienced the failure, evidence of bark beetles was discovered. Bark beetles are a very real threat to Monterey Pines in the area. Once a tree becomes infested with beetles there is little that can be done to save the tree. Typically, preventative measures are more successful than reactive measures. The structural integrity of this tree was compromised and the resulting failure was significant and could have been so much worse.

There are 3 additional Monterey Pines in the courtyard of this property that also show evidence of bark beetles. All three, including the fourth that has since been removed due to the massive failure, were likely planted when the property was built multiple decades ago. Therefore, all 3 trees being very large and mature would cause severe damage to persons and property should they experience similar failures to the one that occurred in August of this year.

Each of these trees is over 60 feet tall with a DBH over 25". Each tree has evidence of bark beetles. According to the UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program website it is best to remove these trees while the canopies are still green. Once the foliage turns red most of the beetles have already emerged meaning the trees is completely dead and also gives the beetles a chance to travel to nearby trees. By removing these compromised trees now, it will prevent an unexpected and potentially devastating failure as well as prevent the beetles from spreading. The tree that failed was weakened and compromised by the beetle infestation.

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Each of the 3 trees, besides exhibiting evidence of beetles in the way of pitch tubes at the trunk base, all show signs of distress in the form of “flagging” the phenomenon where a tree branch will turn bright orange, an indicator usually of bark beetles. Each tree is also very close to resident buildings and walkways, there are few places any of these trees or even branches could fall that would not pose a serious threat to the people who live there. One tree in particular is growing at a slant and has the majority of its canopy weight overhanging a walkway. Its branch structure contains multiple very long and heavy limbs. The other trees contain multiple dead limbs as well as flagging. They all have poor structure with very large V crotches and likely included bark.

It is my recommendation that these trees be removed to eliminate the very real threat of failure and a continued decline in their health as a result of the bark beetle infestation. This is a preventative measure because waiting until a significant event happens in order to remove the trees is not an option since any failure from these trees would be severe. It is only a matter of time before these trees succumb to the beetle infestation and are weakened to the point of failure. As we approach the winter season the property owners and residents of the community are very concerned about the trees and eager to have them removed in order to regain some peace of mind following the failure of the tree that could have easily claimed someone’s life had they been in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The trees shall be replaced at a 2-1 ratio with 24” box Chinese Pistache trees.

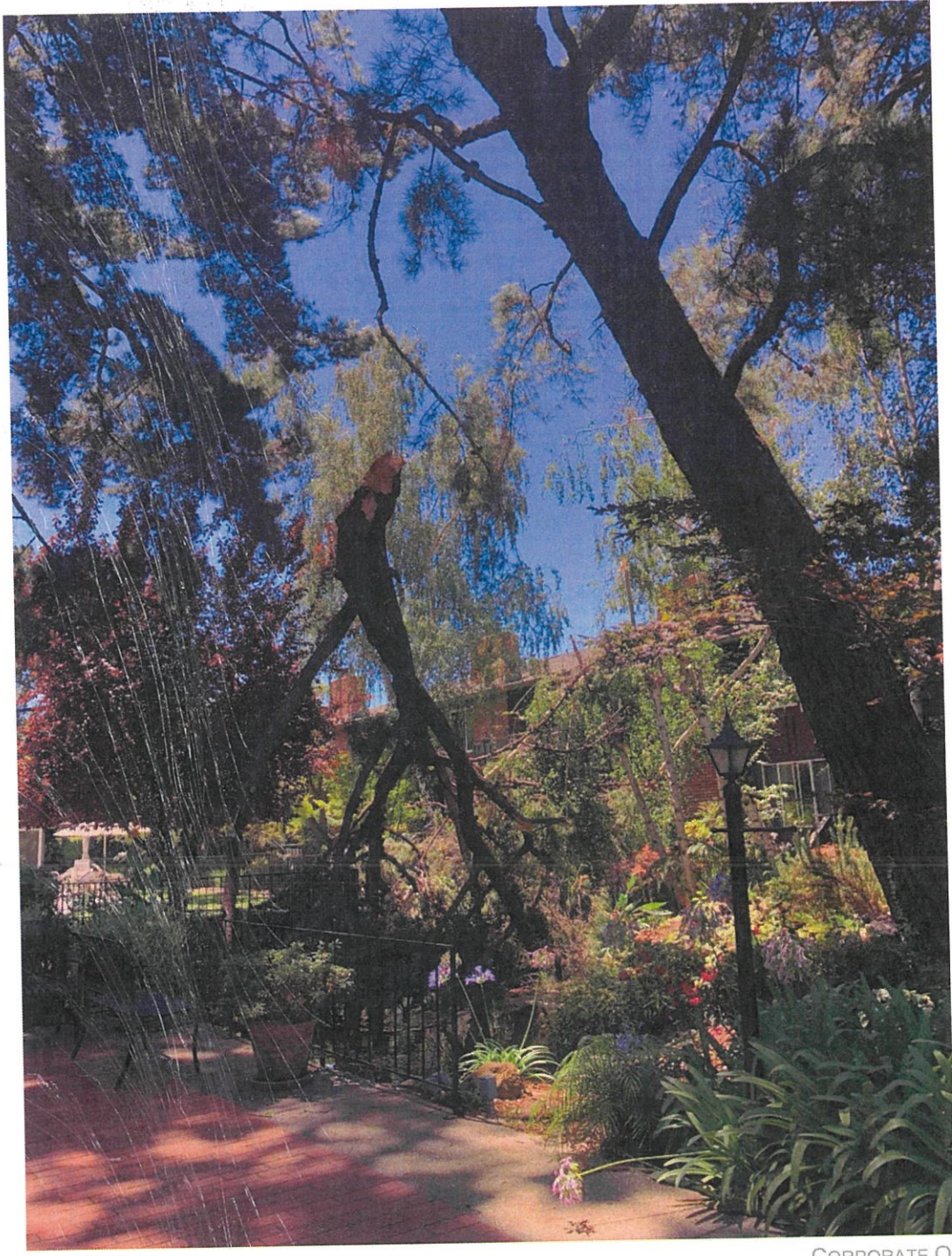
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Kim Zetterlund

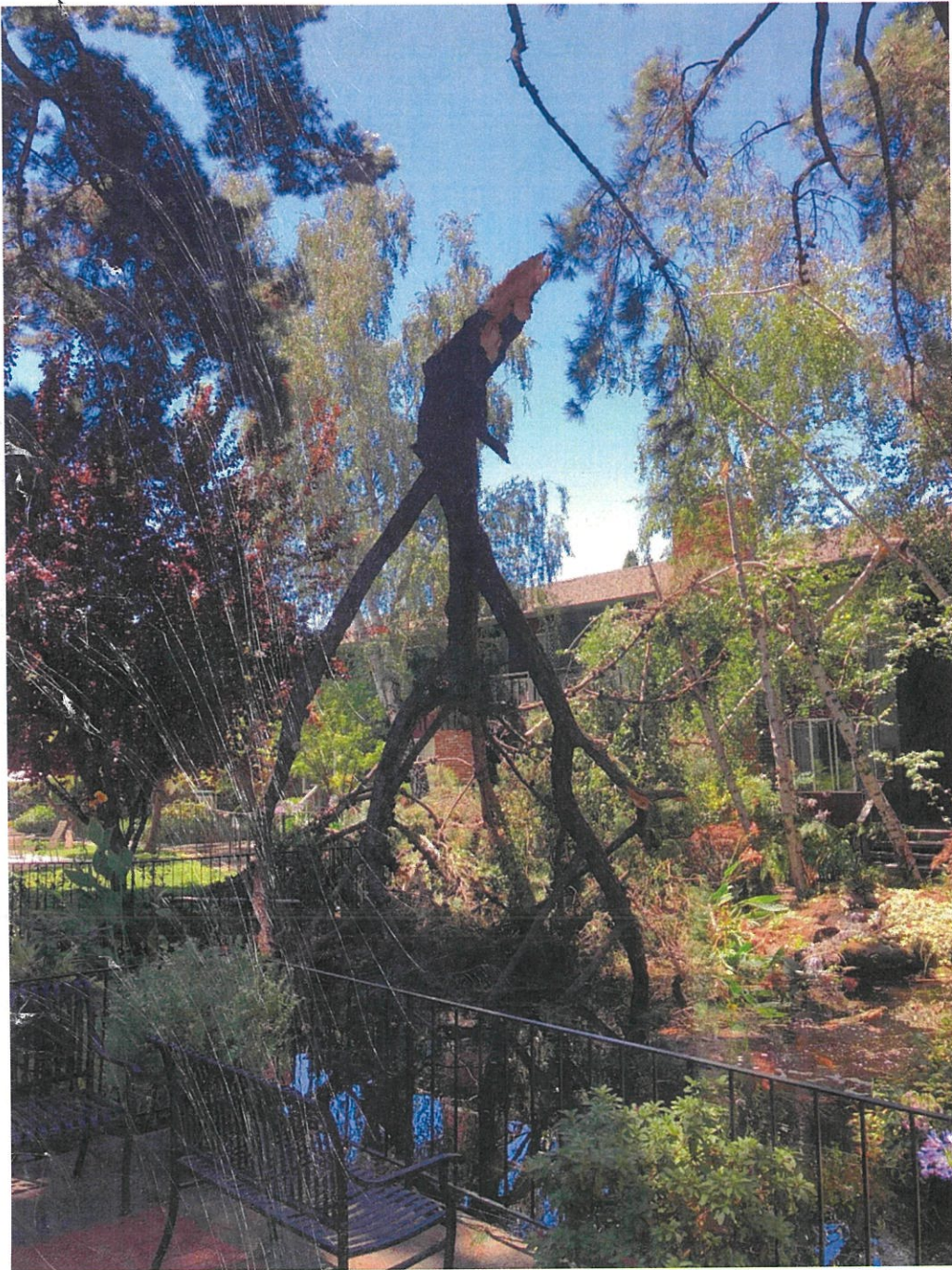
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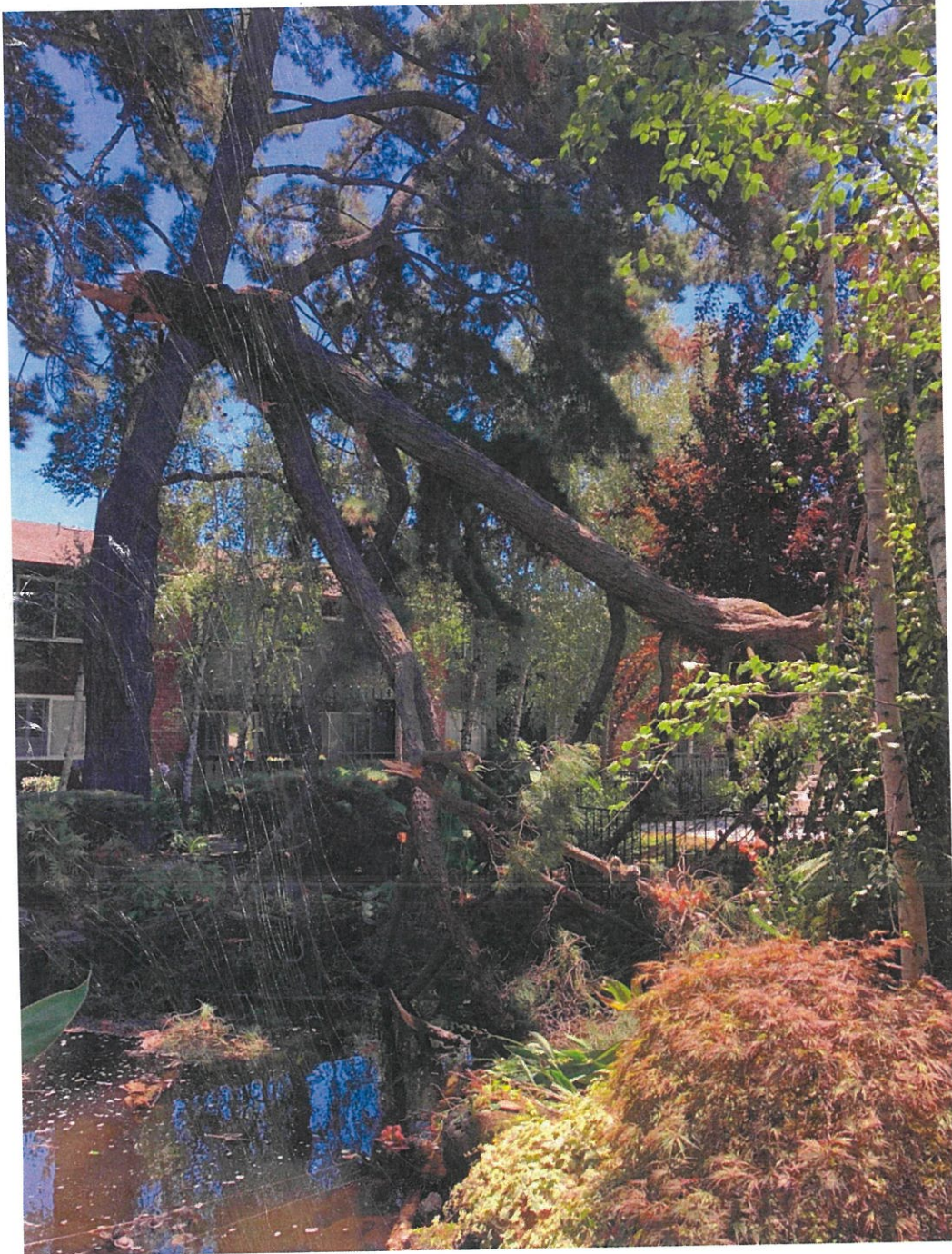
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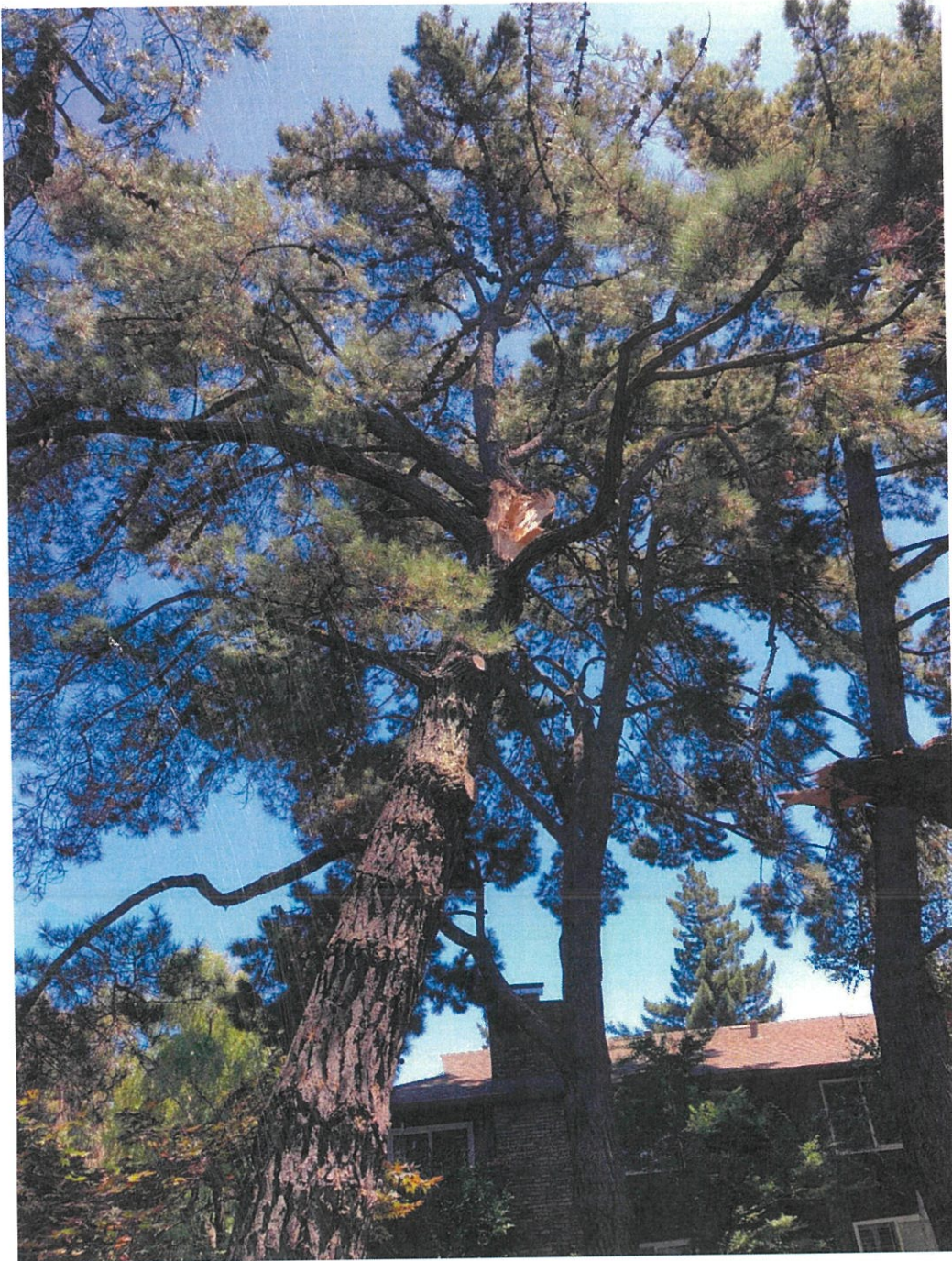
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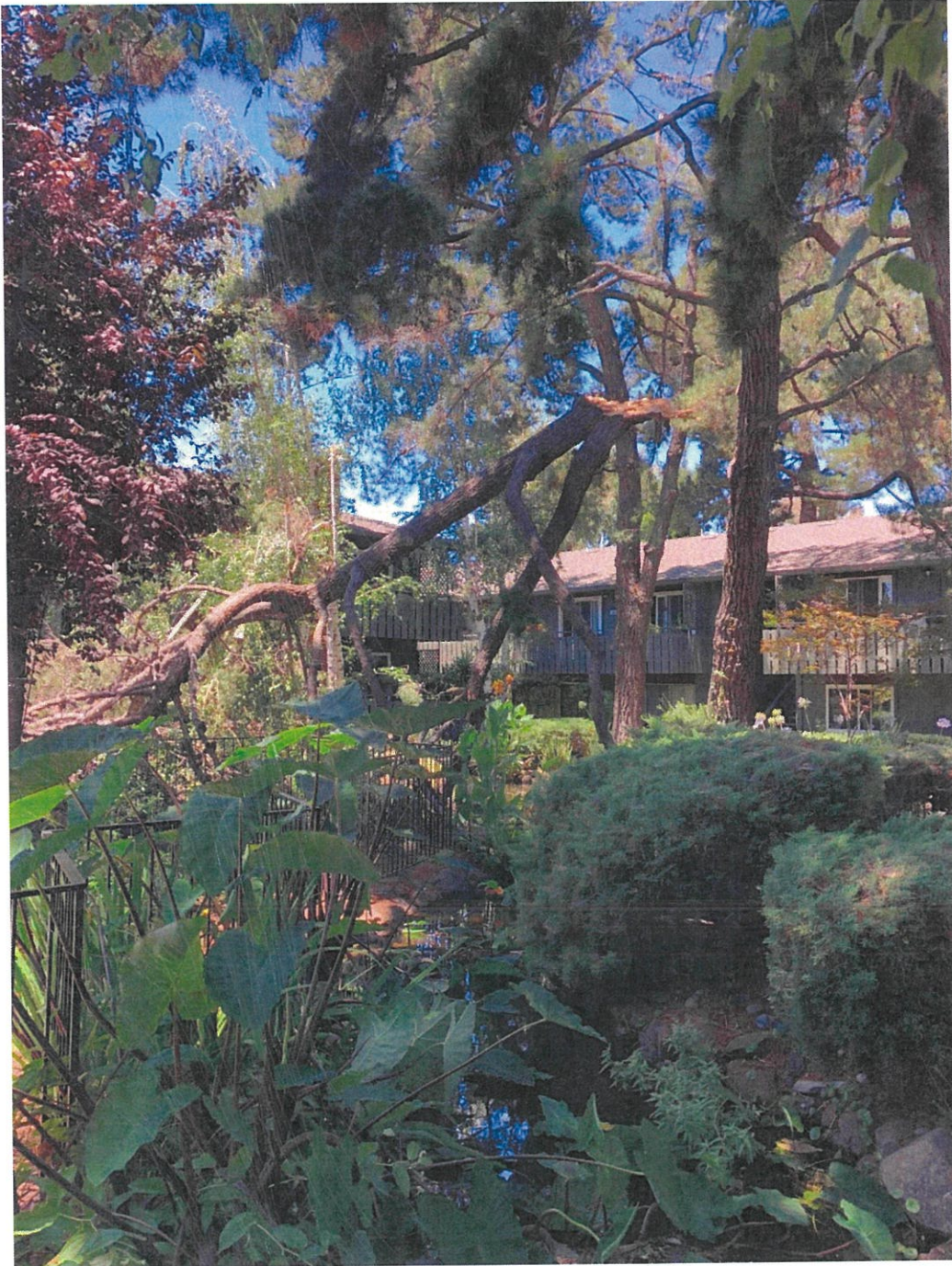
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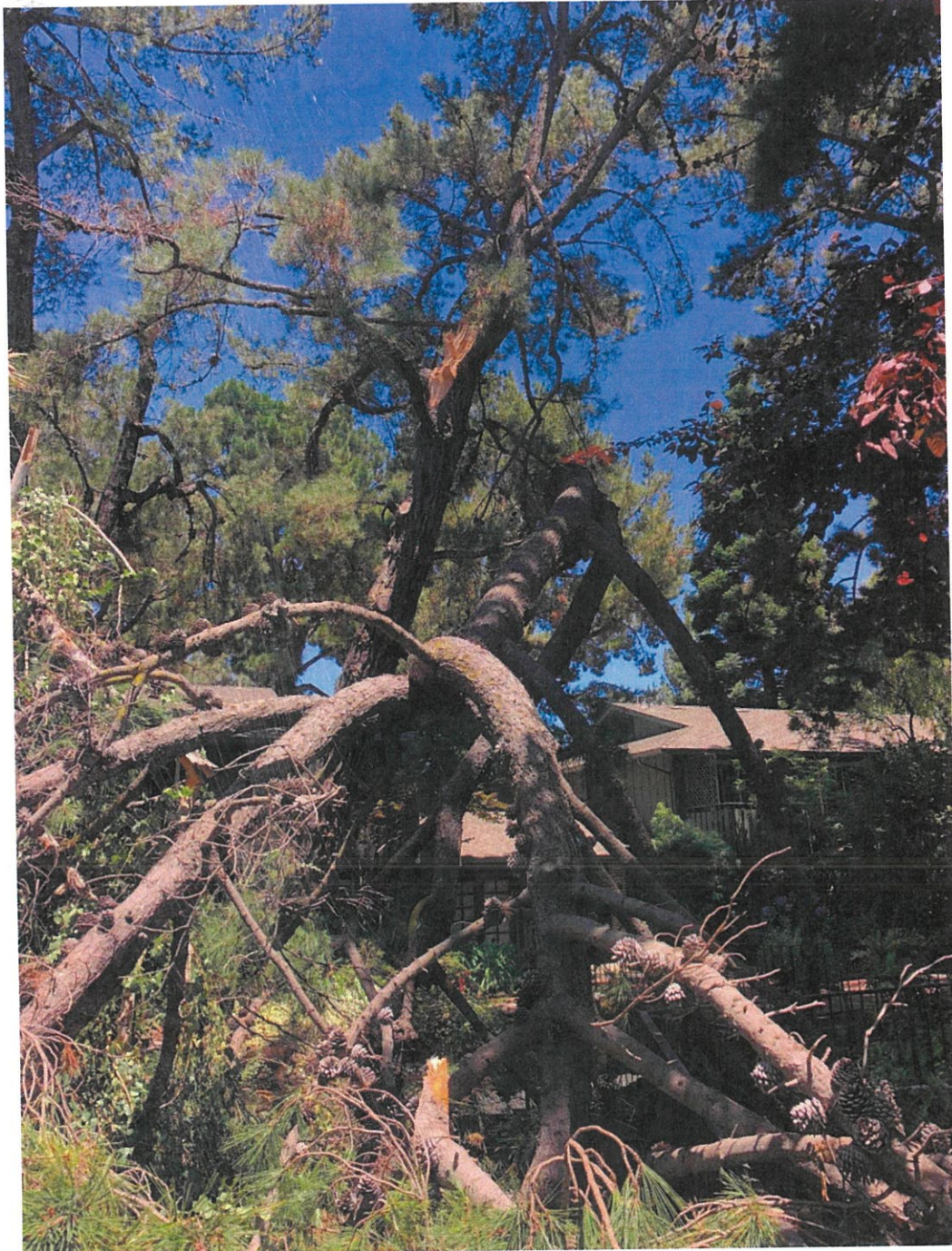


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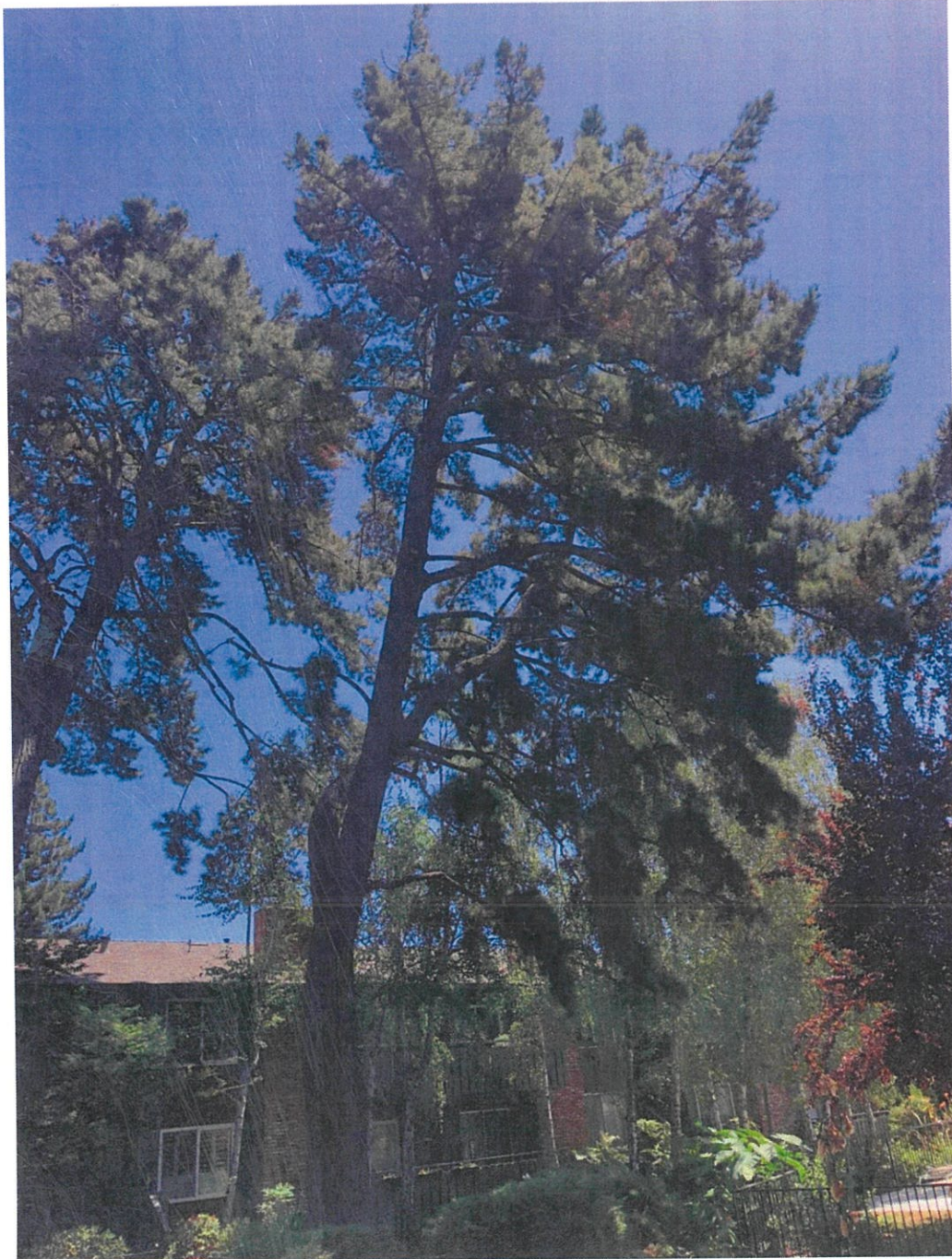
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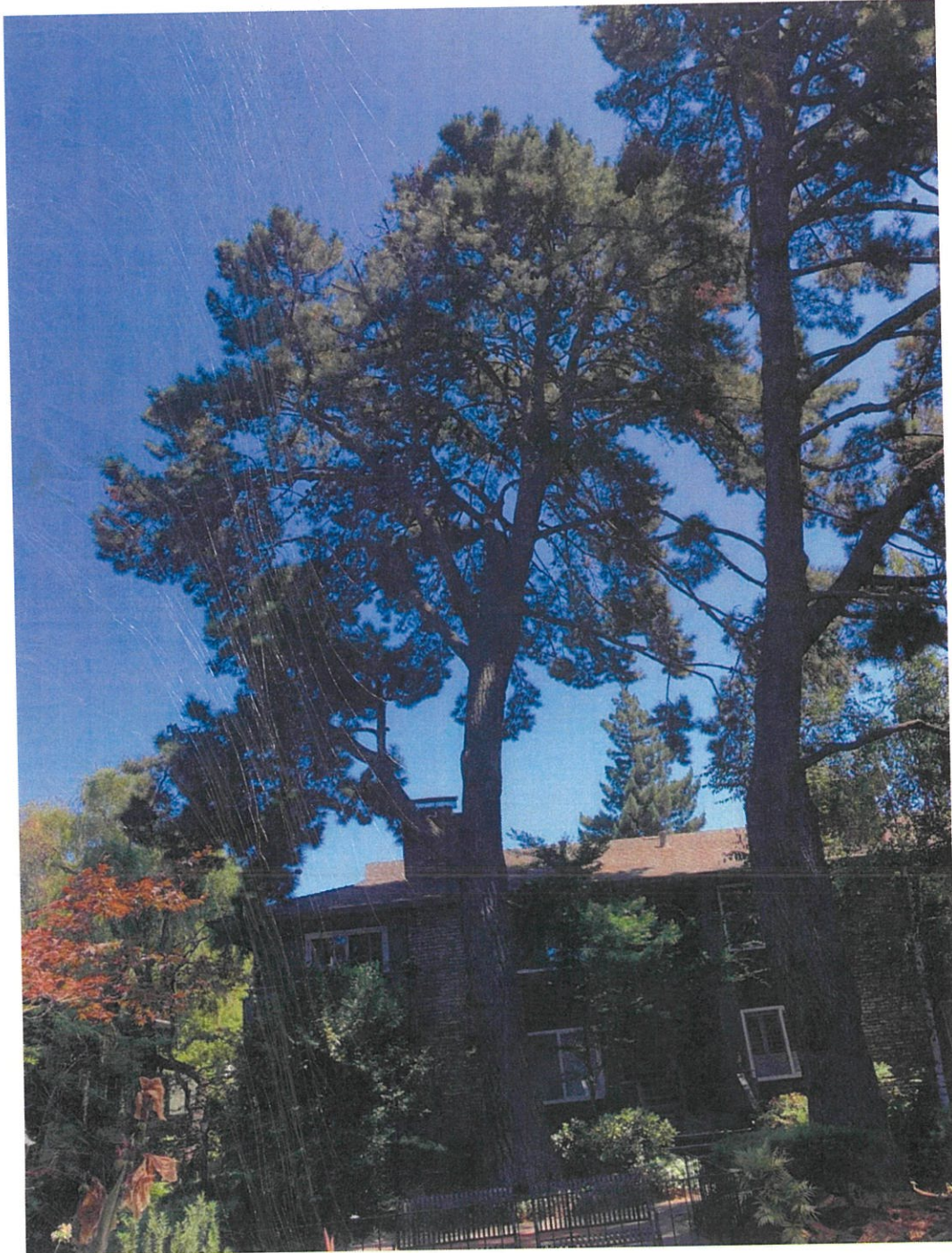
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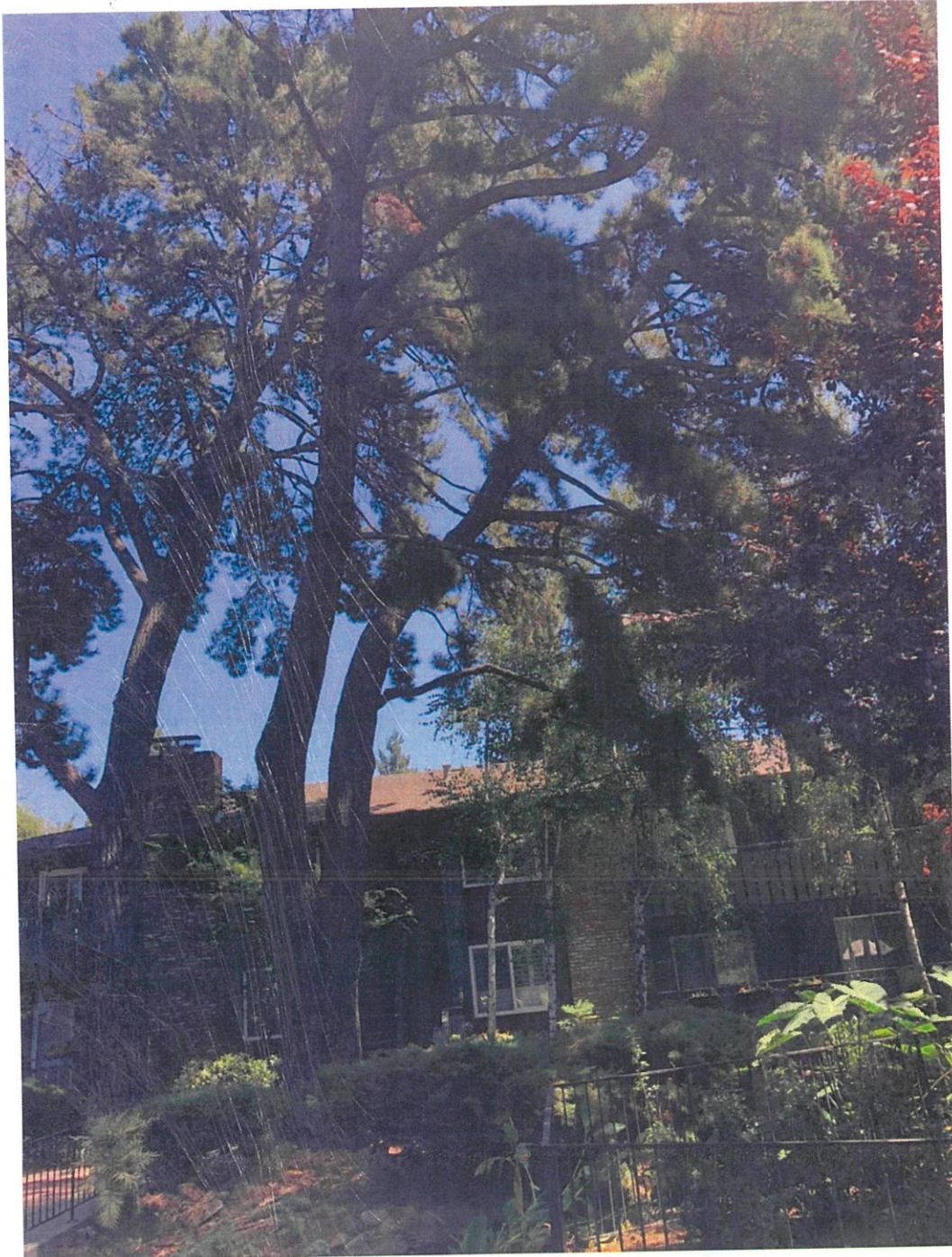
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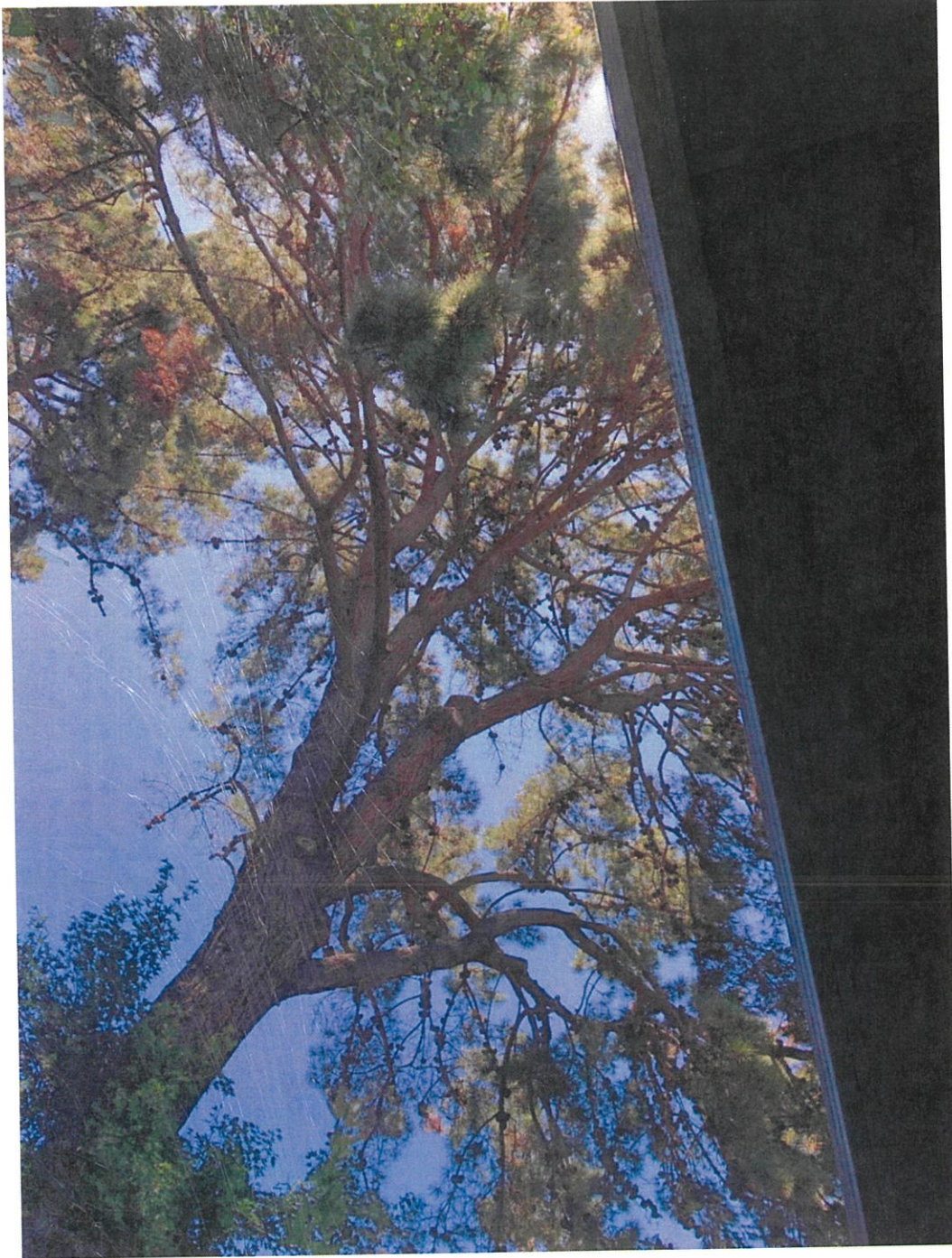


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