



Walter Levison
CONSULTING ARBORIST



PNW-ISA Certified Tree Risk Assessor #593 ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist #401 ISA Certified Arborist #WC-3172

**Assessment of sixteen (16) trees
at
858 Sierra Vista
Mountain View, CA**

Prepared at the Request of:
Paul Ryan, Property Owner

Site Visit:

Walter Levison, Consulting Arborist (WLCA)

4/26/2012

Report:

WLCA

4/30/2012

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



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Attached:

Tree Data Charts, 2 Pages
Tree Location Map, 1 Page



1.0 Assignment and Background

The author (WLCA) was requested by Mr. Paul Ryan, property owner of the subject property at 858 Sierra Vista, Mountain View, California, to assess and prepare a written arborist report for sixteen trees proposed to be removed for a residential development project.

This report complies with City of Mountain View's planning division submittal requirements for arborist reports.

Note that only two (2) of the sixteen trees are technically protected by the municipality as "heritage trees" (American elms #1 and #2).

Only trees with one or more stem measuring 4 inches diameter or greater were included in this initial study.

I have included a digital image of each tree below in this report, as well as a tree location map for reference. Numbers on the tree map correspond to racetrack shaped aluminum numbered tags affixed to the mainstem of each tree at 3 to 6 feet above grade. Tags are numbered "1" through "16".

2.0 Observations and Discussion

- a) Protected Trees: Trees #1 and #2 are the only heritage trees on the site. These are American elms (*Ulmus Americana*): a species which has been decimated for decades and is practically an extinct species in its straight, non-hybridized form. These two specimens are in poor overall condition (40 out of 100% overall condition ratings), and exhibit various structural defects such as narrow mainstem forks with included bark, and heavy branch endweight that in the case of these two trees is difficult to mitigate due to the lack of inner canopy live wood or foliage. The lack of inner live wood/foliage is a result both of natural shading and limb growth, and of past heavy pruning to remove this inner wood.

The canopies of the two trees are lopsided west toward the existing residence to be demolished.

In the long term, these two trees are poorly suited to preservation due to the species susceptibility to Dutch elm disease (DED), and due to the structural issues noted above. Their remaining safe and useful lifespan (SULE) is estimated to be 5 to 10 years at best, less if DED comes into play (note that foliar condition was not assessed due to the trees' being out of leaf at the time of survey. Overall tree condition may be worse than that stated here).

Almost all specimens of this species have now been removed in the public domain due to decline resulting from DED infection (e.g. Burlingame City Hall, etc.).

- b) Fruit trees: Trees #3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 are edible fruit trees (e.g. avocado, pear, apple, plum, persimmon, orange), ranging in overall condition from poor to good. Most of these trees are of relatively low value, though some are of large stature. None of these trees are large enough to be considered "heritage trees" in terms of single stem diameter.



- c) Raywood ash: Trees #14 and 15 are Raywood ash: a cultivar of *Fraxinus oxycarpa* that has been declining for about a decade due to "Raywood ash decline": a fungal disease consisting mainly of *Botryosphaeria stevensii* (source: Tom Gordon, UC Davis researcher). Dieback consists of cankers on branches which eventually kills large portions of the canopy which then need to be pruned out, leaving a remnant tree of little or no value.

According to research, soil moisture availability plays a major role in keeping Raywood ash healthy and free of cankers from this malady (Gordon).

The two specimens on this site are currently in fair overall condition, with vigor (foliar density, twig extension, etc.) being estimated due to the trees being out of leaf on the date of my survey.

- d) Tree of Heaven: Tree #16 is an *Ailanthus altissima*: a species considered by many to be an invasive pest plant that is categorically eradicated. The tree may have been a volunteer started by a fertile seed dropped by a bird in its feces while sitting on the property boundary fence. These trees are very fast growing and weak wooded.

3.0 Heritage Tree Protection

All trees with a stem measuring 15.3 inches diameter at breast height are protected as heritage trees.

In addition, oaks, redwoods, and cedars are protected at the 3.8 inch diameter threshold.

Per the above definition, American elms #1 and #2 are protected as heritage trees, and cannot be removed without first obtaining a formal tree removal permit from the City of Mountain View. Mitigation may or may not be required.

4.0 Consultant's Qualifications

- Contract Project Arborist, SFPUC Bay Division Pipe Lines 3, 4, 5 (construction phase) 2010-present
- PNW-ISA Certified Tree Risk Assessor #593
- ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist #401
- Millbrae Community Preservation Commission (Tree Board) 2001-2006
- ASCA Arboriculture Consulting Academy graduate, class of 2000
- ISA Certified Arborist #WC-3172
- B.A. Environmental Studies/Soil and Water Resources UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California 1990



- Peace Corps Soil and Water Conservation Extension Agent
Chiangmai Province, Thailand 1991-1993
- Associate Consulting Arborist
Barrie D. Coate and Associates
4/99-8/99
- Contract City Arborist to the City of Belmont
5/99-present

Continued education through attendance of arboriculture lectures and forums sponsored by The American Society of Consulting Arborists, The International Society of Arboriculture (Western Chapter), and various governmental and non-governmental entities.

(My full curriculum vitae is available upon request)

5.0 Bay Area Vendors

Advanced Tree Care- Rob Weatherill
(Provides pruning, cabling, bracing, support prop engineering and installation, sudden oak death treatments, fertilization and other services as a "full service" tree care firm)

Redwood City

Scheduling
(650) 839-9539

Maguire Tree Care - Paul Maguire
(One of the only ISA-Certified Arborists who actually performs his own pruning).

Half Moon Bay

Cell 650-245-2620

Trees 360
Can provide an ISA Certified Arborist to perform the actual pruning, upon request.

Saratoga

(408) 866-1010

(The above sources have been known to provide high-quality arboriculture services in the past. They are not guaranteed or endorsed by the author.)

6.0 Assumptions and Limiting Conditions

Any legal description provided to the consultant/appraiser is assumed to be correct. Any titles and ownership to any property are assumed to be good and marketable. No responsibility is assumed for matters legal in character. Any and all property is appraised and evaluated as through free and clean, under responsible ownership and competent management.

It is assumed that any property is not in violation of any applicable codes, ordinance, statutes, or other government regulations.

Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible; however, the consultant/appraiser can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.



The consultant/appraiser shall not be required to give testimony or to attend court by reason of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of an additional fee for such services as described in the fee schedule and contract of engagement.

Unless required by law otherwise, the possession of this report or a copy thereof does not imply right of publication or use for any other purpose by any other than the person to whom it is addressed, without the prior expressed written or verbal consent of the consultant/appraiser.

Unless required by law otherwise, neither all nor any part of the contents of this report, nor copy thereof, shall be conveyed by anyone, including the client, to the public through advertising, public relations, news, sales, or other media, without the prior expressed conclusions, identity of the consultant/appraiser, or any reference to any professional society or institute or to any initiated designation conferred upon the consultant/appraiser as stated in his qualifications.

This report and any values expressed herein represent the opinion of the consultant/appraiser, and the consultant's/appraiser's fee is in no way contingent upon the reporting of a specified value, a stipulated result, the occurrence of a subsequent event, nor upon any finding to be reported.

Sketches, drawings, and photographs in this report, being intended for visual aids, are not necessarily to scale and should not be construed as engineering or architectural reports or surveys unless expressed otherwise. The reproduction of any information generated by engineers, architects, or other consultants on any sketches, drawings, or photographs is for the express purpose of coordination and ease of reference only. Inclusion of said information on any drawings or other documents does not constitute a representation by Walter Levison to the sufficiency or accuracy of said information.

Unless expressed otherwise:

- a. Information contained in this report covers only those items that were examined and reflects the conditions of those items at the time of inspection; and
- b. the inspection is limited to visual examination of accessible items without dissection, excavation, probing, or coring. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the plants or property in question may not arise in the future.

Loss or alteration of any part of this report invalidates the entire report.

Arborist Disclosure Statement

Arborists are tree specialists who use their education, knowledge, training, and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist, or to seek additional advice.

Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways we do not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden within trees and below ground. Arborist cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specified period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments, like any medicine, cannot be guaranteed.

Treatment, pruning, and removal of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborist's services such as property boundaries, property ownership, site lines, disputes between neighbors, and other issues. Arborists cannot take such considerations into account unless complete and accurate information is disclosed to the arborist. An arborist should then be expected to reasonably rely upon the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.

Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risk associated with trees is to eliminate the trees.

7.0 Certification

I hereby certify that all the statements of fact in this report are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith.

Signature of Consultant



8.0 Digital Images



Right to Left: Trees #1 and #2



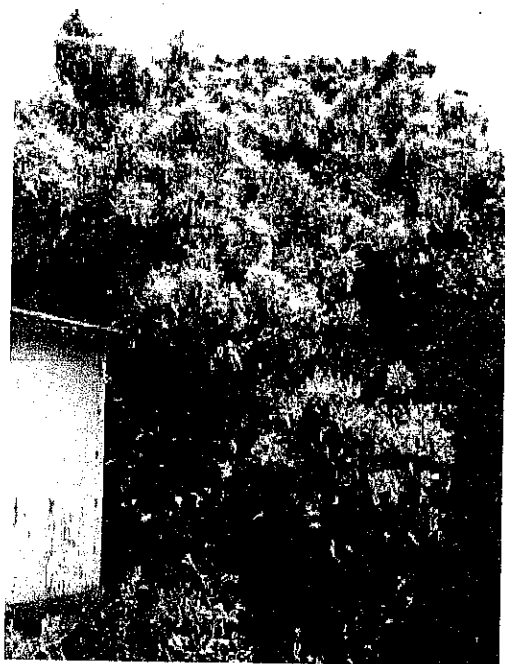
Orange #3



Apple #4



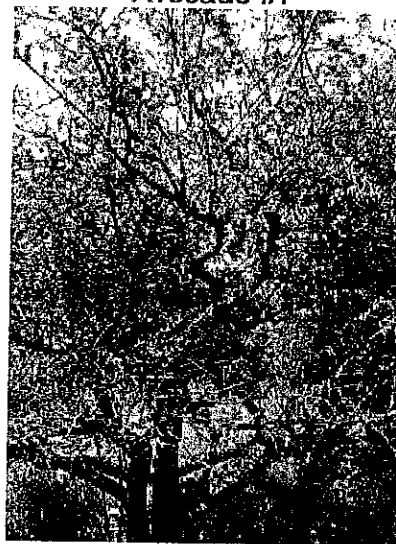
Plum #5



Avocado #6

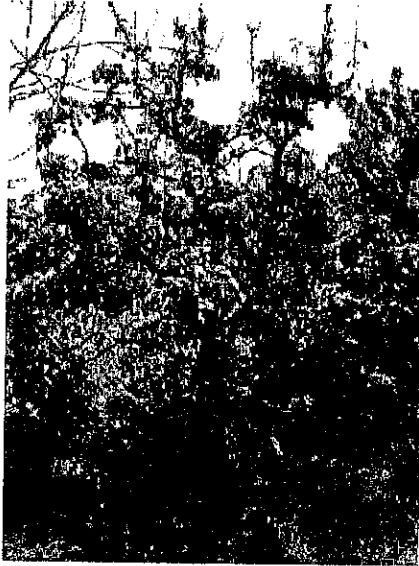


Avocado #7



Persimmon #8

Apple #9



Pear #10 with fireblight bacterial infection.



Apricot #11 with bacterial blight infection (*P. syringae*).



Plum #12



Apricot #13 with *P. syringae* infection.



Left to Right: Raywood ash specimens
#14 and #15



Tree of Heaven (volunteer tree) #16.

Tree Tag #	To be Removed Per Current Site Plan	Author Recommends Removal Due to 'Very Poor' Condition	Suitability for Preservation (Ratings are Independent of Proposed Site Work)	Expect Severe Unmitigable Impacts Due to Site Plan Related Work	Trunk 1 (In.)	Trunk 2 (In.)	Trunk 3 (In.)	Trunk 4 (In.)	Trunk 5 (In.)	Adjusted Trunk Diameter inches @ 54" A.G. (1+2+3+4+5)	Trunk Circumference (3.14 X diameter)	Heritage Tree Min Vw (15.3" DBH or greater, all species, or oaks/redwoods/cedars > 3.8" DBH)	COMMON NAME & Scientific Name	Height and Canopy Spread (ft.)	Health & Structural Ratings (0-100%, each)	Overall Condition Rating (0-100%)	FIELD NOTES	Tree Protection Zone Radius (Build Limit in Feet, Preliminary, Assume Full Perimeter Cut)	Recommend Eliminate or Modify Proposed (T)trench route, (E)excavation, (F)foundation to point, (C)concrete or Asphalt work.	Protection & Maintenance (pp)chain link fence, (tb)trunk buffer, (rb)root buffer, (p)prune, (rp)root prune, (f)fertilization, (m)mulch, (w)water, (MCN)lot, (r)resistograph
1	X		P		277					277		X	American elm (Ulmus americana)	45'0"	75/35	45% Poor	Vigor is a spruced (was cut or lost during survey). Canopy top slight wash, with midweight heavy west section. Difficult to move by reducing endweight. Some lower live wood has been stripped out at the base in the past during improper pruning. Multiple conductor maintenance work at 6 feet to 12 feet above grade causing bark removal issues (structural defect) which indicates that the tree has potential for failure at this junction due to the wood being disturbed between the two main stems. Tree will require significant endweight reduction if retain.			
2	X		P		288					288	935	X	American elm (Ulmus americana)	45'0"	75/35	40% Poor	Same as above for tree #11			
3	X		M		5	5	4	3	2	15.0	na		Edible orange (Citrus sinensis)	15'15"	75/75	75% Good	Multiple trunks 2 inches to 5 inches diameter each. Foliage can be sticky to transparent			
4	X		G		6.8					6.9	21.7		Edible apple (Malus domestica)	13'0"	80/80	80% Good				
5	X		P		9	8	4	7	5	37.0	118.2		Edible elm (Ulmus americana)	20'20"	75/60	65% Fair	Bark incision (structural defect) at 2 feet on main trunk system. 80 to 100% live crown ratio due to lack of past pruning. Good spring leafout.			
6	X		G		12.9	10.7				23.5	74.1		Edible succadee (Ficus americana)	25'15"	80/70	75% Good	Large spreading specimen of the species			
7	X		G		13.8	12.0				25.8	81.0		Edible succadee (Ficus americana)	30'15"	80/70	75% Good	Large spreading specimen of the species			
8	X		M		7.0					7.0	22.0		Edible persimmon (Diospyros sp.)	16'18"	85/60	65% Fair				
9	X		G		5.3	4.4				9.7	30.5		Edible apple (Malus domestica)	15'18"	80/70	75% Good				
10	X		P		5.5					5.5	17.3		Edible pear (Pyrus communis)	15'15"	40/40	40% Poor	Foliage lateral deflection, about 35 specimens remaining. Weak branches of terminal shoots and lower canopy. Difficult to control this disease once it is widespread in a tree or orchard.			

Tree Tag #	To be Removed Per Current Site Plan	Author Recommends Removal Due to 'Very Poor' Condition	Suitability for Preservation (Ratings are Independent of Proposed Site Work)	Expect Severe Unmitigable Impacts Due to Site Plan Related Work	Trunk 1 (in.)	Trunk 2 (in.)	Trunk 3 (in.)	Trunk 4 (in.)	Trunk 5 (in.)	Adjusted Trunk Diameter Inches @ 54" A.G. (1-2-3-4-5)	Trunk Circumference (3,14 X diameter)	Heritage Tree Min Vw (15.3" DBH or greater, all species, or oaks/redwoods/cedars > 3.8" DBH)	COMMON NAME & Scientific Name	Height and Canopy Spread (ft.)	Health & Structural Ratings (0-100% each)	Overall Condition Rating (0-100%)	FIELD NOTES	Tree Protection Zone Radius (Build Limit in Feet, Preliminary, Assume Full Perimeter Cut)	Recommend Eliminate or Modify Proposed (T) trench route, (E) excavation, (F) foundation to original, (C) concrete or Asphalt work	Protection & Maintenance (p) chain link fence, (t) trunk buffer, (r) root buffer, (pr) prune, (tr) root prune, (f) fertilization, (m) mulch, (w) water, (MON) monitor, (r) resistograph
11	X	P			8.6	7.3	6.0			22.9	71.9		Edible spicet (Ficus emarginata)	21/25	25/40	50% Fair	Tree exhibits symptoms of severe fruit based dieback (Pseudomonas syringae) including dieback and gummy exudations.			
12	X	M			8	5	5	4		20.0	62.8		Edible plum (Ficus vesiculata)	10/13	30/55	75% Good				
13	X	P			6.6	5.5	5.4			17.9	56.2		Edible apricot (Ficus americana)	16/25	30/30	30% Fair	Tree is out of field of survey, so varying density/extension was estimated based on visual assessment of large trees seen over site, especially specimens which are experiencing dieback (through dense) according to Thomas Gaudin, a UC Davis researcher who has been studying this disease for some time. Due to this new dieback issue, I typically recommend removal of Edible ash and/or oak or other tree species for future plantings at the site.			
14	X	P			12.9					12.9	49.5		Reynolds ash (Fraxinus Raywood)	30/30	60/60	60% Fair	This specimen is highly susceptible to 'Raywood ash dieback' (Empoysium ulmivora) which often kills trees over time, especially specimens which are experiencing dieback (through dense) according to Thomas Gaudin, a UC Davis researcher who has been studying this disease for some time. Due to this new dieback issue, I typically recommend removal of Edible ash and/or oak or other tree species for future plantings at the site.			
15	X	P			12.0					12.0	37.7		Reynolds ash (Fraxinus Raywood)	30/30	60/60	50% Fair	(As same as above for tree 11-1)			
16	X	P			5.5					5.5	17.3		Tree of Unknown (Unknown species)	25/10	70/70	70% Good	Yellow tree. This specimen is widely considered to be a fast growing, well-wooded, invasive 'tree' species, and is evaluated by many land managers such as PACE.			

Notes:
1. Only trees measuring greater than or equal to 4 inches diameter at 4.5 feet above grade were included in this study.
2. Trees with multiple stems totaling 15.3 inches diameter were NOT considered 'Heritage Trees'. Only trees with a single mainstem measuring greater than or equal to 15.3 inches diameter at 4.5 feet above grade were considered 'Heritage' specimens in this study.

Protection and Maintenance Codes in the Charts Above:

TP2: Tree protection fence chain link, with 2" diameter iron pipe driven 24" into the ground, 8 to 10 feet on center, every space.
PB: Root buffer consisting of wood chips made by one quarter cut 1 1/2" thick chips. 12 inch thick. 18 inch deep.
RB: Root pruner. Prune woody roots measuring greater than or equal to 1 inch diameter by cutting back 45 degrees from the trunk.
E: Excavation. Foundation to original, concrete or Asphalt work.
F: Fertilization. Fertilization with wood preservative. Bandled around the crown immediately around the trunk.
M: Mulch. 2-4 inch wood mulch, 2-4 inch deep.
P: Prune. Prune woody stems to a diameter of 1 1/2 inches.
PR: Root Prune. Prune woody roots measuring greater than or equal to 1 inch diameter by cutting back 45 degrees from the trunk.
R: Resistograph. Resistograph readings taken at the lowest 3 feet of the trunk (usually between 4 and 6 feet above grade).
T: Trench. Trench for utility lines, 24 inches wide, 24 inches deep.
W: Water. Watering system installed around the tree.
MON: Monitor. Monitor tree health and condition to be determined through discussion with General Contractor, Irrigation Specialist, and/or ISA Certified Arborist, or performer directly by an ISA Certified Arborist, and shall conform to the ANSI A300 standards.