



## Mayne Tree Expert Company, Inc.

STATE CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE NO. 276793

CERTIFIED ARBORISTS • PEST CONTROL • ADVISORS AND OPERATORS

JEROMEY INGALLS

President

Certified Arborist: WE7076A

QAL 138432

535 BRAGATO ROAD, STE. A  
SAN CARLOS, CA 94070-6311

TELEPHONE: (650) 593-4400

EMAIL: info@maynetree.com

December 4, 2024

Mrs. Cherie Malic



Dear, Mrs. Malic,

RE: 5 FOREST GLEN ST., MOUNTAIN VIEW (ARBORIST REPORT)

I visited the above site on November 27, 2024, at your request. The purpose of my visit was to inspect and comment on a large Deodar Cedar located at the front of the home, describe the overall health and structural stability, and determine if the tree is responsible for damage to the neighboring property.

### Limitations of this Letter

The inspection of this tree and the surrounding area is based on a visual-only inspection; I accept no responsibility for any unseen or unidentified defects associated with this tree or on the property.

### Observations

During my time on site, I inspected the tree and found the diameter to be 21.6 inches when measured at 4½ feet above the natural grade as defined in the Mountain View Heritage Tree Ordinance. I estimated the height to be approximately 60 feet high and the canopy spread to be approximately 33 feet wide. I gave it a condition rating of 55. This rating is based on form and vitality and can be further defined by the following table:

0	–	29	Very Poor
30	–	49	Poor
50	–	69	Fair
70	–	89	Good
90	–	100	Excellent

This tree is located roughly 8 feet from the front of the home along the private street in a planting bed.

**Tree Survey**

<b>Tree #</b>	<b>Species Common (Scientific)</b>	<b>Diameter (inches)</b>	<b>Condition (percent)</b>	<b>Height (feet)</b>	<b>Spread (feet)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Liquidambar	21.6	55	60	33	Located in front of the home roughly 8 feet away from the foundation, roots are lifting the walkway creating an uneven surface, roots damaging irrigation lines, curb and road, there is a five-stem attachment at 20 feet high, it appears this tree was topped near the same location of this multi-stem attachment, it has a poor form, and good vigor.

**Observations**

This liquidambar tree grows in a planter bed along the front of the home near the street (Picture #1). The roots of this tree have caused substantial damage to the irrigation system (Picture #2). An irrigation geyser in front of the home found this damage, which led to the discovery that the rotors had caused the damage. The roots have also damaged the curb and street, creating an uneven front walkway (Pictures #3 through #6). This tree has a five-stem attachment 20 feet (Pictures #7, #8, and #9). This location appears to be where the trees were topped in the past, which is consistent with the other multi-stem attachments in the Liquidambar trees lining the private street. Overall, this tree has good vigor and poor form.

**Discussion**

Liquidambar trees are notorious for having substantial surface roots that cause damage to driveways, walkways, foundations, retaining walls, or any other hardscape within their root zones.

"Good street trees only if given a wide parking strip in which to grow: their surface roots can crack sidewalks, create a nuisance in lawns." Sunset Western Garden book pg. 437

This tree is located 8 feet from the foundation of the home and less than 2 feet from the street. There is extensive cracking of the asphalt near the tree, and the front walkway has been lifted higher on the tree side, creating an uneven walking path to the front of the home.

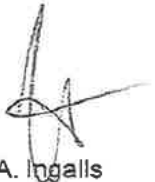
A multi-stem attachment is a weak attachment, especially when forming around an old topping cut. This problem is addressed in the book *Arboriculture: Integrated Management of Landscape Trees, Shrubs, and Vines* (Harris p. 410): "Heading, unfortunately, is often used by well-intentioned but ill-informed people to reduce tree size. In such pruning, main branches are cut to stubs with little regard for their location. Regrowth from below the cuts is dense, vigorous, and upright. New shoots form a compact head, cast dense shade, and are weakly attached to the older branches...Branches from such regrowth are weakly attached, particularly if the heading cuts are large, and can be hazardous throughout their life."

This tree and the remaining Liquidambar trees along this street have been topped in the past to maintain smaller forms. Unfortunately, none of the trees were properly maintained after the initial cutting, and they now have multi-stem attachments in their upper canopies. This tree is growing over the only entrance to the neighborhood. All pedestrians, vehicles, service trucks, and guests must use this access road (which is under the weakly attached tree canopies) to gain entrance to the homes along the street.

### Conclusion

This tree has caused extensive damage to the road, the irrigation, the walkway, and the street. It has poor form and is growing over a high target high traffic area, which puts everyone who uses the street at risk. No mitigation will counteract the root growth of these trees nor eliminate the hazard this tree presents. For these reasons, I believe this tree poses a significant hazard to the home, the occupants of the home, and the public. I strongly recommend removing this tree as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Jeromey A. Ingalls  
Certified Arborist WE #7076A

JAI:lg







Picture #1





Picture #2





Picture #3





Picture #4





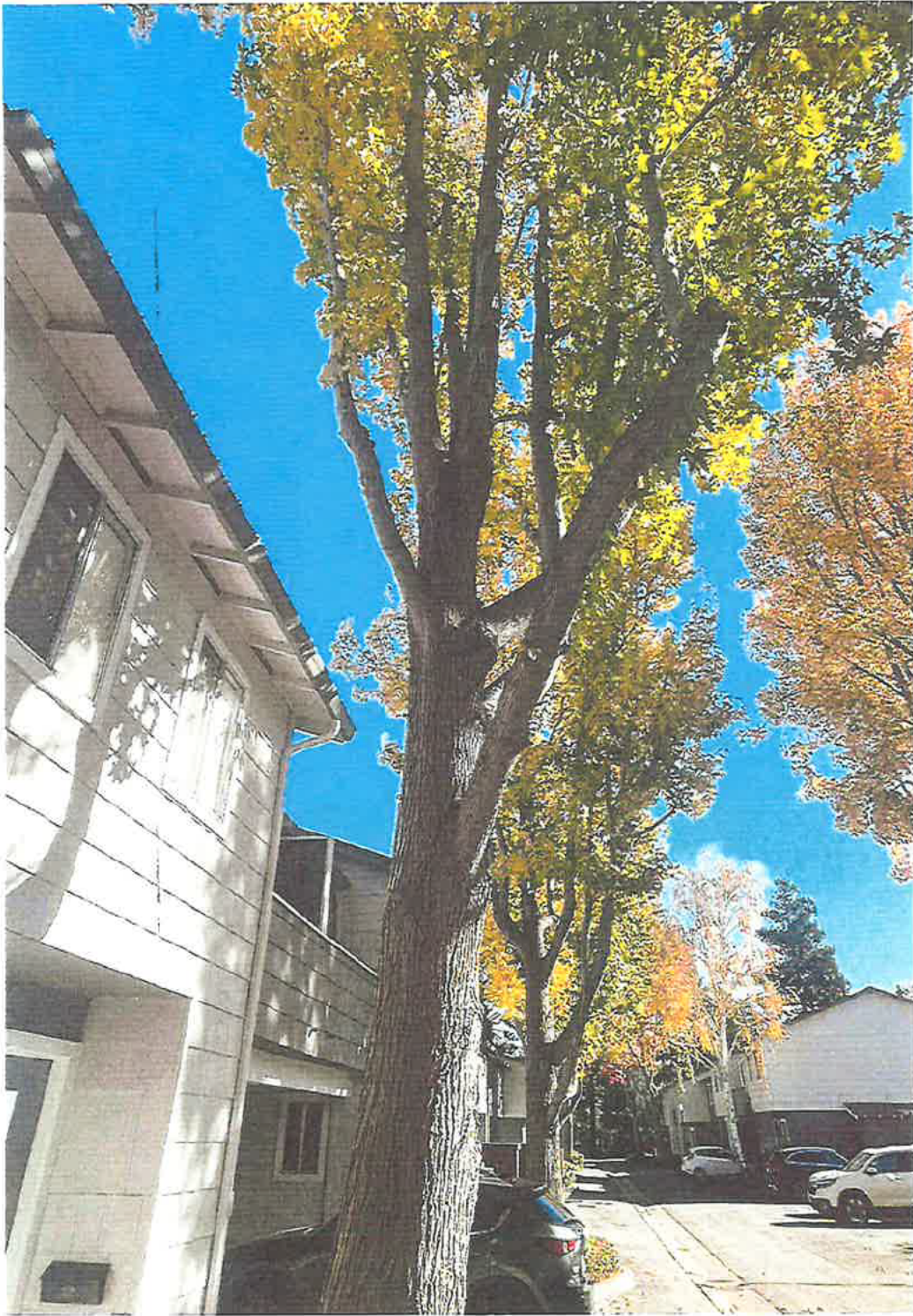
Picture #5





Picture #6





Picture #7





Picture #8





Picture #9