

From: [Serge Bonte](#)
To: [Yau, Ellen](#)
Subject: re: 570 South Rengstorff Avenue Development
Date: Monday, August 14, 2023 6:58:48 PM

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Good Afternoon Ellen,

First thanks again for all clarifications on new sidewalks in Mountain View. This will hopefully inform the Active Transportation Plan,

I'm writing with some additional questions but this time about 570 South Rengstorff Avenue. We own a rental condo across the street (on the Latham side) and received a City postcard mentioning a Zoning Hearing for a 1 year permit extension and your name as the contact person :)

I was a bit surprised to learn about a permit extension since the whole property was razed (including every single tree during bird nesting season) maybe 1 or 2 months ago. Which led me to believe the construction would start shortly.

Below is a picture I took yesterday from the steps of the condo building across the street, that's a lot of dirt.



My first question is what and who drove the decision to demolish right before a permit extension?

My second one is why take down all vegetation, while I understand that the structures might have become unsafe and a nuisance, trees seem to always be a benefit to the community.

Finally, I don't know what the City's stance will be on extending the permit for this project. But I was wondering if there was any leeway to put certain new conditions on the extended permit.

I (and other residents) will be pushing for conditions similar to these two below but I wanted to run them by you to see how realistic they would be :).

1. Adjust the BMR requirements to match current ordinances; certainly a cost for the developer but the initial permit was adopted when less generous (for the community) requirements were in place.
2. Maybe more realistically some landscaping of the property so that the community isn't faced with acres of dirt for another year or longer. A minimal landscaping could possibly be done by bringing sooner the trees that are planned for the project. Trees could be kept in their boxes and placed around the perimeter; providing some screening, some shade, some bird habitat , getting acclimating and starting their growth a year or more before the project starts. Also native ground covers could be seeded, turning all that dirt greener. Maybe part of the property (periphery?) could be turned into a small pop up park (like a public path between the boxed trees for instance).

Thanks in advance,

Sincerely

Serge Bonte