

# Exhibit D

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Beck Residence  
Tree Resource Assessment  
Construction Impact Analysis

Prepared for:

Garett Beck

Prepared by:

Frank Ono

Urban Forester

Member Society of American Foresters #48004

ISA Certified Arborist #536

1213 Miles Avenue

Pacific Grove, CA 93950

February 4, 2025

Owner:

Garrett Beck  
16089 Balfour Lane  
Salinas, CA 93908-1233

Architect or Designer:

Draftech  
2150 Garden Road, SuiteB3  
Monterey, CA 93940

Forester and Arborist

Frank Ono, Member SAF #48004, ISA Certified Arborist #536  
F.O. Consulting  
1213 Miles Ave  
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

## **SUMMARY**

Development is proposed for this site requiring excavation near oak trees. The project proposes the construction of a new 1000 s.f. two-story single-family residence with 512 s.f. first-story garage, 224 s.f. uncovered deck, 80 s.f. covered front porch, 80 s.f. uncovered front porch, 2500 s.f. a.c. driveway, septic system, and four-foot site retaining walls. Grading includes the excavation of 277 c.y. of soil and fill of 87 c.y. of soil.

The plan, as submitted, requires the removal of one tree for the design to succeed, therefore, the request is for removing oak tree #398 -11” diameter oak. This tree assessment/arborist report is prepared to identify and address the effects that the project may have on the existing tree resources on site as well as a list of recommendations regarding trees on the project.

## **INTRODUCTION**

This tree assessment/arborist report is prepared for Garrett Beck, the owner of the property located on APN 416-261-039 (address is not yet assigned) by Frank Ono, Urban Forester, and Certified Arborist (member Society of American Foresters #48004 and International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist #536) due to the proposed construction. The report is required because the Toro Area Land Use Plan and Monterey County Zoning Ordinance Title 21 identify native Coast live oak trees as species requiring protection and special consideration for management.

## **ASSIGNMENT/SCOPE OF PROJECT**

To ensure protection of the tree resources on site, the property owner, Garrett Beck, has requested an assessment of trees in the proposed development area. The assessment findings are to be documented in an arborist report to work in conjunction with other conditions for the building permit application. To accomplish this assignment, the following tasks have been completed;

- Evaluate health, structure, and preservation suitability for each tree within or adjacent (15 feet or less) to the proposed development of trees greater than six diameter inches at 24 inches above grade.
- Review proposed building site plans as provided to me by the property owner drawn by Drafect.
- Make recommendations for alternative methods and preconstruction treatments to facilitate tree retention relating to a Tree Location/Preservation Map.
- Determine the number of trees affected by construction that meet “Landmark” criteria as defined by the County of Monterey, Title 21 Monterey County Zoning Ordinance, and mitigation requirements for those found to be affected.
- Document findings are in a report as required by the County of Monterey Planning Department.

## **LIMITATIONS**

This assignment is limited to the review of plans submitted to me dated November 9, 2024, drawn by Drafect to assess the effects of potential construction on trees within or adjacent to construction activities. An assessment has been made of these plans specifically and no other plans were reviewed. Only minor grading and erosion details are discussed in this report that relate to tree health.

It is not the intent of this report to be a monetary valuation of the trees or to provide a risk assessment for any tree on this parcel, as any tree can fail at any time. No clinical diagnosis was performed on any pest or pathogen that may or may not be present. In addition to an inspection of the property, F.O. Consulting relied on information provided in the preparation of this report (such as surveys, property boundaries, and property ownership) and must reasonably rely on the accuracy of the information provided. F.O. Consulting shall not be responsible for another's means, methods, techniques, schedules, sequence, or procedures, for contractor safety or any other related programs; or for another's failure to complete the work following the plans and specifications.

## **PURPOSE AND GOAL**

The purpose of the tree assessment/arborist report prepared for this parcel, due to proposed construction activities located at APN 416-261-039, is to determine what trees will be affected by the proposed project. Its goal is to protect and maintain the Toro Area forested resources through adherence to development standards, which allow the protection, and maintenance of its forest resources. Furthermore, it is the intended goal of this report to aid in planning to offset the potential effects of the proposed development on the property while encouraging forest stability and sustainability, perpetuating the forested character of the property and the immediate vicinity.

## SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1) Assessor's Parcel Number: 416-261-039-000.
- 2) Location: The address is yet to be assigned.
- 3) Parcel size: approximately 10.3 Acres.
- 4) Existing Land Use: The parcel is vacant and is zoned RC40-D
- 5) Slope: The parcel has slopes over 25%.
- 6) Soils: The parcel is located on soils classified by the Monterey County Soils report as GkB and Xd soils.
  - a. GkB -Gorgonio sandy loam. The Gorgonio series consists of somewhat excessively drained soils on alluvial fans and in mountain valleys. It is level to gently sloping soil on valley floors and has the profile described as representative of the series. Permeability is rapid, and the available water capacity is 3.5 to 5 inches. Roots penetrate to a depth of more than 60 inches. Slopes are mostly 2 to 4 percent. Runoff is slow, and the erosion hazard is slight.
  - b. Xd-Xerorthents, dissected. These are steep to extremely steep soils on bluffs along major rivers, on steep escarpments of fans and terraces, and on the banks of deeply entrenched streams and gullies that have narrow bottoms. Soils consist mostly of unconsolidated or weakly consolidated alluvium commonly containing pebbles, cobblestones, and stones. Runoff is rapid and very rapid, and the erosion hazard is high or very high. Drainage, subsoil permeability, depth of the root zone, and available water capacity all vary within short distances.
- 7) Vegetation: The vegetation on site is composed primarily of a few scattered Oak with coastal scrub understory.
- 8) Forest Condition and Health: The stand of trees and health are evaluated with the use of the residual trees combined with surrounding adjacent trees as a complete stand. The site is vacant, and the surrounding forest canopy is fragmented and open. It is an oak savannah with a mixture of dominant coastal live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and Valley oak (*Quercus lobata*). No abnormal presence of oak diseases is apparent, though several oaks exhibit the presence of oak bark beetle activity, one of which is a tree identified for removal.

## **BACKGROUND**

The assessment focuses on incorporating the preliminary location of site improvements coupled with consideration for the general goals desired by the landowner. The proposed improvements assessed included preserving trees to the greatest extent feasible, maintaining the view shed, and general aesthetic quality of the area while complying with Monterey County Codes. The study of individual trees determined the treatments necessary to complete the project and meet the goals of the landowner. Trees within and immediately adjacent to the proposed development area were located, measured, inspected, flagged, and recorded. The assessment of each tree concluded with an opinion of whether the tree should be removed, or preserved, based on the extent and effect of construction activity on the tree's short and long-term health. All meetings and field reviews focused on the immediate area surrounding the proposed development.

## **OBSERVATIONS/DISCUSSION**

The following list includes observations made while on site and summarizes details discussed during this stage of the planning process.

- The site is vacant. There are no utilities, structures, or graded parking areas. The proposed construction is located just above the existing private drive and requires excavation for a short driveway and approach for the proposed structure.
- Oaks are located throughout the property, some as individual, others as groupings. Trees vary in diameter and size. Most of the trees on the upslope areas of the property are landmark-sized (24" diameter or greater) with smaller diameter trees along the private drive perimeter. Except for the oak (less than landmark size) located within the driveway approach to be removed, the remainder of the trees are to be retained.
- The oak located within the proposed driveway area that will be impacted are as follows:
  - #399 is a mature single-stemmed 30 feet tall 20" diameter oak located within the driveway prism. This tree is attacked by oak bark beetles within its trunk area, though its crown appears in fair condition.
- The tree listed above requires removal because it will be impacted by grading and excavation. The remainder of the trees appear to be outside the grading area. The trees closest to construction include a large 45" diameter oak (Landmark size) upslope of the proposed structure and a smaller 20" diameter oak downslope near the private drive.
- No trees are located within the area proposed for leach fields or between the leach field area and the proposed structure.
- All remaining trees will not be impacted by the project as presented. The proposed construction is at a distance that no encroachment, at this time, to the remainder of the trees is necessary.

## Laws, Policies, and Regulations Reviewed

The Toro Area plan protects both Oak and Madrone. The Toro Area Plan and Monterey County Code Section 21.64.260 both address the preservation of oaks and other protected trees. The purpose of the Ordinance is to provide regulations to protect and preserve such trees. The threshold diameter size for this code is 6 inches. That document addresses all these topics in detail and is designed to conserve and protect the trees long-term.

## **CONCLUSION/PROJECT ASSESSMENT**

This proposal to build an addition to a single-family residence and expand the driveway and garage is planned to maintain the existing oak forested environment, allowing the forest to continue to exist and regenerate over time. The proposed removal of #398 is expected for this site are the minimum required due to construction and does not reduce the tree cover to less than 25% of the existing forest canopy. All remaining trees near the proposed project are expected to survive construction. The remainder of the property containing tree cover will remain undisturbed. No water courses are near the project.

### Site Effects

Site disturbance will occur during building construction. Short-term site effects are confined to the construction envelope and immediate surroundings where some trees may be trimmed and root systems reduced. The pruning of tree crowns above 30% and reduction of root area may have short-term effects on those trees treated, including a reduction of growth and potential limb dieback.

No significant long-term effects on the forest ecosystem are anticipated. The project as proposed is not likely to significantly reduce the availability of wildlife over the long term as the site has surrounding forested areas that will remain untouched. The site was evaluated for the following:

- Soil erosion; Slopes are moderate where construction is to occur and may be addressed by appropriate measures; no construction is proposed on steeper areas.
- Water Quality: No water courses are located on the property. The removal of the trees will not substantially lessen the ability for the natural assimilation of nutrients, chemical pollutants, heavy metals, silt, and other noxious substances from ground and surface waters;
- Ecological Impacts: The removals will not hurt existing biological and ecological systems or create climatic conditions that affect these systems. The removals will not create conditions which may adversely affect the dynamic equilibrium of associated systems;
- Noise Pollution: The removals will not significantly increase ambient noise levels to the degree that a nuisance is anticipated to occur;
- Air Movement: The removals will not significantly reduce the ability of the existing vegetation to reduce wind velocities; no nuisance is anticipated to occur;
- Solar shade or sunlight: The site is moderately forested; tree removal is of less dominant trees or poor-quality trees and will not affect shading or lighting;
- Wildlife Habitat: The removals will not significantly reduce available habitat for wildlife existence.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Tree Removal and Replacement

One tree will need removal, #398 a 30-foot-tall 20” diameter oak, because it is within the driveway footprint.

The site has a sufficient amount of room to replant with an oak on a 1:1 ratio which should be included with a landscape plan. The tree may be planted on the edges of the existing tree canopies but must be planted where it can be watered and kept weed-free. The replacement tree may be 5-gallon stock or larger. It is recommended that a larger specimen be planted to avoid damage from deer browsing. Deer protection against deer browsing should be used.

Replanting should avoid open spaces where trees are not now found unless there is evidence of soil deep enough and of sufficient quality to support tree planting. The tree should be planted in an area with the greatest opening in the stand with deep enough soils to allow for minimum competition and maximum sunlight. Spacing between any planted tree should be at least 10 feet. Occasional deep watering (more than two weeks apart) during the late spring, summer, and fall is recommended during the first two years after establishment.

### Tree Pruning

It is to be understood that the pruning of retained trees may be expected for this site, especially near building construction areas. Pruning will include trees with deadwood, minor structural defects or diseases that must be compensated, and/or defensible fire space. Trees should be monitored on occasion for health and vigor after pruning. Should the health and vigor of any tree decline it will be treated as appropriately recommended by a certified arborist or qualified forester. Pruning shall conform to the following standards:

- Clear crowns of diseased, crossing, weak, and dead limbs or wood to a minimum size of 1-1/2 inch in diameter; Remove stubs, cutting outside the wound wood tissue that has formed around the branch; Interior branches shall not be stripped out.
- Reduce the end weight of heavy, horizontal branches by selectively removing small-diameter branches, no greater than 3 inches, near the ends of the scaffolds. In some cases, larger diameters may be removed depending on the situation such as where critical for safety).
- Pruning cuts larger than 4 inches in diameter, except for deadwood, shall be avoided unless deemed crucial for safety (broken, cracked, crossing, rubbing, etc.). Pruning cuts that expose heartwood shall be avoided whenever possible.
- All pruning shall be performed by a qualified arborist or under the supervision of an ISA Certified Arborist or Tree Worker. Arborists are required to have a State of California Contractors License for Tree Service (C-61/D49) and provide proof of worker's compensation and general liability insurance.
- All pruning shall be per the Tree Pruning Guidelines (International Society of Arboriculture) and/or the ANSI A300 Pruning Standard (American National Standard for Tree Care Operations) and adhere to the most recent edition of ANSI Z133.1.
- No more than 20 percent of live foliage shall be removed from the trees.

## Tree Protection

Before the commencement of construction activities:

- Trees located adjacent to construction areas shall be protected from damage by construction equipment by the use of temporary fencing and through wrapping of trunks with protective materials.
- Fencing shall consist of chain link, snowdrift, plastic mesh, hay bales, or field fence. Existing fencing may also be used.
- Fencing must not be attached to the tree. It shall be free-standing or self-supporting so as not to damage trees. Fencing shall be rigidly supported and shall stand a minimum height of four feet above grade.
- Soil compaction, parking of vehicles or heavy equipment, stockpiling of construction materials, and/or dumping of materials should not be allowed adjacent to trees on the property, especially within fenced areas.
- Fenced areas and trunk protection materials must remain in place during the entire construction period.

During grading and excavation activities:

- All trenching, grading or any other digging or soil removal that is expected to encounter tree roots will be monitored by a qualified arborist or forester to ensure against drilling or cutting into or through major roots.
- The project arborist should be on-site during excavation activities to direct any minor field adjustments that may be needed.
- Trenching for the retaining wall and driveway located adjacent to any tree should be done by hand where practical and any roots greater than 2 inches in diameter should be bridged or pruned appropriately.
- Any roots that must be cut shall be cut by manually digging a trench and cutting exposed roots with a saw, vibrating knife, rock saw, narrow trencher with sharp blades, or other approved root pruning equipment.
- Any roots damaged during grading or excavation should be exposed to sound tissue and cut cleanly with a saw.

If significant roots (greater than 2" in diameter) are discovered during grading:

- The arborist/forester will be authorized to halt excavation until appropriate mitigation measures are formulated and implemented.
- If significant roots are identified that must be removed that will destabilize or negatively affect the target trees, the property owner will be notified immediately and a determination for removal will be assessed and made as required by law for treatment of the area that will not risk death decline or instability of the tree consistent with the implementation of appropriate construction design approaches to minimize effects, such as hand digging, bridging or tunneling under roots, etc..

## Fuels Management Plan

The area must follow the requirements of California State Defensible Space Regulations conforming to California Public Resource Code (PRC) 4291.

The area must be prepared and maintained for fuel management and defensible space. A fuel ladder is a continuous line of vegetation from the ground into the canopy or upper branches of a tree that may allow a fire to climb into the canopy. The idea is to make the homesite defensible by breaking up the continuity of fuels in both vertical and horizontal directions. Deadfall and cut branches which are fuel for a fire must be removed from the treatment area. This may be done either by hauling it off or by hiring a tree service to chip. The following are management measures to be taken and maintained for trees within the disturbed and outlying area.

- Cut dry and dead grass to a maximum height of 4 inches. The exceptions are grasses and forbs which are isolated from other fuels or those necessary to minimize erosion and may be maintained at a height of 18 inches.
- Dead plants should be cut to ground level, do not remove them as roots may still be present to minimize potential soil erosion. Maintain all remaining live landscape plants with regular water, keeping dead branches, leaves, and needles removed.
- Remove limbs within ten (10) feet of chimneys.
- Horizontal Clearances (within 100 feet of structures)
  - Trees- must have a spacing of at least 10 feet between crowns on shallow or almost level slopes (an exception is that trees growing as clusters with continuous canopy or aggregate may be treated as an individual tree to make a shaded fuel break). Where slopes are steep (over 40 %) the spacing must be increased to 30 feet between crowns of individual trees or stands of trees intended to be a shaded fuel break.
  - Shrubs- must have a four-foot clearance on shallow or almost level slopes. Where slopes are steep (over 40 %) the spacing must be 40 feet between shrubs.
- Vertical Clearances of trees and large shrubs (within 100 feet of structures)
  - Trees and shrubs must have a vertical clearance of at least 6 feet from ground fuels on shallow or almost level slopes. Remove all limbs within 6 feet of ground fuel from the ground fuel's highest point and trim dead portions of tree limbs up to 10 feet. Where slopes are steep (over 40 %) the clearance must be higher up to 30 feet.
  - Shrubs- must have four-foot clearance on shallow or almost level slopes. Where slopes are steep (over 40 %) the clearance must be 40 feet from ground fuels.
- Remove from the area dead fallen material unless embedded in the soil.
- Remove all cut material from the area or chip and spread it on site.

Best Management Practices to Observe (BMP)

The following best management practices must be adhered to:

- A) Tree service Contractors will verify animal or bird nesting before tree work. If the nesting activity of migratory birds is found, work must stop, and a wildlife biologist consulted before commencing work (the typical bird nesting season ranges from February 22 to August 1).
- B) Do not deposit any fill around trees, which may compact soils and alter water and air relationships. Avoid depositing fill, parking equipment, or staging construction materials near existing trees. Covering and compacting soil around trees can alter water and air relationships with the roots. Fill placed within the drip line may encourage the development of oak root fungus (*Armillaria mellea*). As necessary, trees may be protected by boards, fencing, or other materials to delineate protection zones.
- C) Pruning shall be conducted so as not to unnecessarily injure the tree. General-Principals of pruning include placing cuts immediately beyond the branch collar, making clean cuts by scoring the underside of the branch first, and for live oak, avoiding the period from February through May.
- D) Native live trees are not adapted to summer watering and may develop crown or root rot as a result. Do not regularly irrigate within the drip line of oaks. If replanting, native, locally adapted, drought-resistant species are the most compatible with this goal.
- E) Root cutting should occur outside of springtime. Late June and July would likely be the best. Pruning of the live crown should not occur from February through May.
- F) Tree material greater than 3 inches in diameter remaining on-site for more than one month that is not cut and split into firewood must be covered with thick clear plastic that is dug in securely around the pile to discourage infestation and dispersion of bark beetles.
- G) A mulch layer up to approximately 4 inches deep should be applied to the ground under selected trees following construction. Only 1 to 2 inches of mulch should be applied within 1 to 2 feet of the trunk, and under no circumstances should any soil or mulch be placed against the root crown (base) of trees. The best source of mulch would be from chipped material generated on-site.
- H) If trees near the development are visibly declining in vigor, a Professional Forester or Certified Arborist should be contacted to inspect the site to recommend a course of action.

Report Prepared By:



Frank Ono, SAF Forester #48004 and ISA Certified Arborist #536

February 4, 2025  
Date

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

The building site, view looking to the south



Trees #398 will be removed to access the property



Tree #398 is behind #399 (on the neighboring property) just to the right

The base of tree #399 is being attacked by bark beetles but is on the neighboring property



Tree #368 is upslope of the project and will not be affected

The structure will be located between #368 (upslope) and trees located along the road way



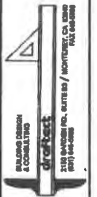
Are where structure is to be located



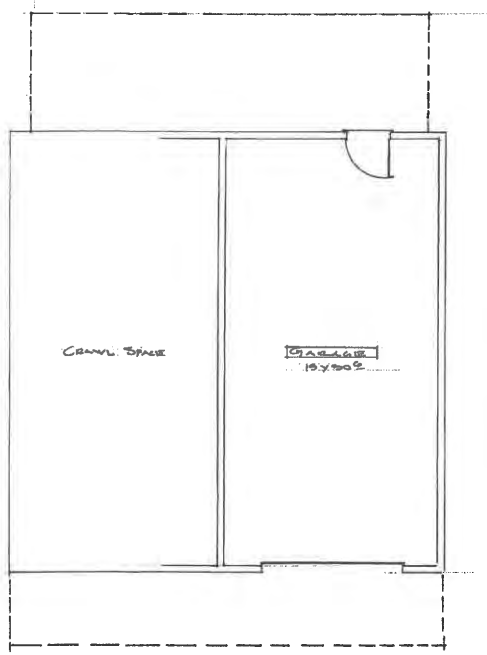


MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS FOR EXTERIOR WILDFIRE EXPOSURE - CDS R307.108  
 BUILDING MATERIALS, SYSTEMS AND OR ASSEMBLIES USED IN THE EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION OF THIS BUILDING SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH R307.3

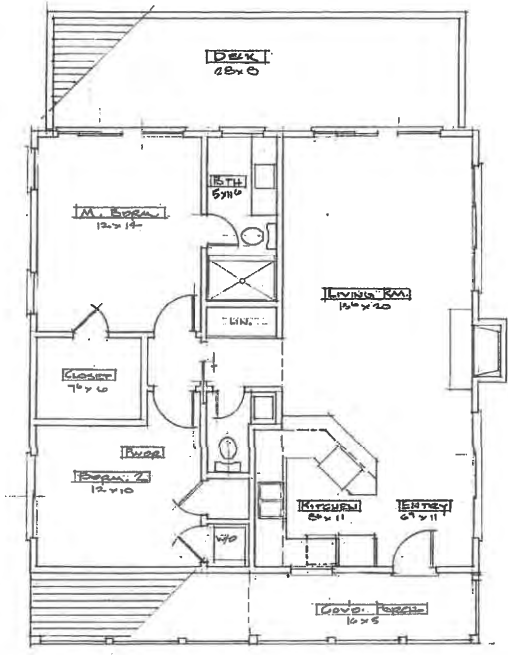
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BECK RESIDENCE  
 SAN BENITO CYN RD. (PRIVATE ROAD)  
 SALINAS, CALIFORNIA  
 APN: 416-261-038-000 PH: 831-455-5067



LOWER FLOOR PLAN  
 1/8" = 1'-0"



FLOOR PLAN  
 1/8" = 1'-0"



Date: 1.9.24  
 Scale:  
 Drawn:  
 Job: 45-2024  
 Sheet: A3  
 Of: 1 Sheet

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April 8, 2026

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The Toro Area plan protects both Oak and Madrone. The Toro Area Plan and Monterey County Code Section 21.64.260 both address the preservation of oaks and other protected trees. The purpose of the Ordinance is to provide regulations to protect and preserve such trees. The threshold diameter size for this code is 6 inches. That document addresses all these topics in detail and is designed to conserve and protect the trees in the long term.

## **CONCLUSION/PROJECT ASSESSMENT**

This proposal to build an addition to a single-family residence and expand the driveway and garage is planned to maintain the existing oak forested environment, allowing the forest to continue to exist and regenerate over time. The proposed removal of #398 is expected for this site, and is the minimum required due to construction, and does not reduce the tree cover to less than 25% of the existing forest canopy. All remaining trees near the proposed project are expected to survive construction. The remainder of the property containing tree cover will remain undisturbed. No water courses are near the project.

### Site Effects

Site disturbance will occur during building construction. Short-term site effects are confined to the construction envelope and immediate surroundings where some trees may be trimmed and root systems reduced. The pruning of tree crowns above 30% and the reduction of root area may have short-term effects on treated trees, including reduced growth and potential limb dieback.

No significant long-term effects on the forest ecosystem are anticipated. The proposed project is unlikely to significantly reduce wildlife availability over the long term, as the site is surrounded by forested areas that will remain untouched. The site was evaluated for the following:

- Soil erosion; Slopes are moderate where construction is to occur and may be addressed by appropriate measures; no construction is proposed on steeper areas.
- Water Quality: No water courses are located on the property. The removal of the trees will not substantially reduce the ability of the natural environment to assimilate nutrients, chemical pollutants, heavy metals, silt, and other noxious substances from ground and surface waters.
- Ecological Impacts: The removals will not hurt existing biological and ecological systems or create climatic conditions that affect these systems. The removals will not create conditions that may adversely affect the dynamic equilibrium of associated systems.
- Noise Pollution: The removals will not significantly increase ambient noise levels to the degree that a nuisance is anticipated to occur;
- Air Movement: The removals will not significantly reduce the ability of the existing vegetation to reduce wind velocities; no nuisance is anticipated to occur.
- Solar shade or sunlight: The site is moderately forested; tree removal is of less dominant trees or poor-quality trees and will not affect shading or lighting.
- Wildlife Habitat: The removals will not significantly reduce available habitat for the existence of wildlife.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Tree Removal and Replacement

One tree will need removal, #398 a 30-foot-tall 11” diameter oak, because it is within the driveway footprint.

The site has sufficient room to replant with an oak at a 1:1 ratio, which should be included in the landscape plan. The tree may be planted on the edges of the existing tree canopies, but it must be planted where it can be watered and kept weed-free. The replacement tree may be a 5-gallon stock or larger. It is recommended that a larger specimen be planted to avoid damage from deer browsing. Deer protection against deer browsing should be used.

Replanting should avoid open spaces where trees are not now found unless there is evidence of soil deep enough and of sufficient quality to support tree planting. The tree should be planted in the area with the greatest opening in the stand, in deep enough soil to allow minimal competition and maximum sunlight. Spacing between any planted tree should be at least 10 feet. Occasional deep watering (more than two weeks apart) during the late spring, summer, and fall is recommended during the first two years after establishment.

### Tree Pruning

It is to be understood that the pruning of retained trees may be expected for this site, especially near building construction areas. Pruning will include trees with deadwood, minor structural defects, or diseases that must be compensated for, and/or defensible fire space. Trees should be monitored on occasion for health and vigor after pruning. Should the health and vigor of any tree decline it will be treated as appropriately recommended by a certified arborist or qualified forester. Pruning shall conform to the following standards:

- Clear crowns of diseased, crossing, weak, and dead limbs or wood to a minimum size of 1-1/2 inch in diameter; Remove stubs, cutting outside the wound wood tissue that has formed around the branch; Interior branches shall not be stripped out.
- Reduce the end weight of heavy, horizontal branches by selectively removing small-diameter branches, no greater than 3 inches, near the ends of the scaffolds. In some cases, larger diameters may be removed depending on the situation such as where critical for safety).
- Pruning cuts larger than 4 inches in diameter, except for deadwood, shall be avoided unless deemed crucial for safety (broken, cracked, crossing, rubbing, etc.). Pruning cuts that expose heartwood shall be avoided whenever possible.
- All pruning shall be performed by a qualified arborist or under the supervision of an ISA Certified Arborist or Tree Worker. Arborists are required to have a State of California Contractors License for Tree Service (C-61/D49) and provide proof of workers' compensation and general liability insurance.
- All pruning shall be per the Tree Pruning Guidelines (International Society of Arboriculture) and/or the ANSI A300 Pruning Standard (American National Standard for Tree Care Operations) and adhere to the most recent edition of ANSI Z133.1.
- No more than 20 percent of live foliage shall be removed from the trees.

## Tree Protection

Before the commencement of construction activities:

- Trees located adjacent to construction areas shall be protected from damage by construction equipment by the use of temporary fencing and through wrapping of trunks with protective materials.
- Fencing shall consist of chain link, snowdrift, plastic mesh, hay bales, or field fence. Existing fencing may also be used.
- Fencing must not be attached to the tree. It shall be free-standing or self-supporting so as not to damage trees. Fencing shall be rigidly supported and shall stand a minimum height of four feet above grade.
- Soil compaction, parking of vehicles or heavy equipment, stockpiling of construction materials, and/or dumping of materials should not be allowed adjacent to trees on the property, especially within fenced areas.
- Fenced areas and trunk protection materials must remain in place during the entire construction period.

During grading and excavation activities:

- All trenching, grading or any other digging or soil removal that is expected to encounter tree roots will be monitored by a qualified arborist or forester to ensure against drilling or cutting into or through major roots.
- The project arborist should be on-site during excavation activities to direct any minor field adjustments that may be needed.
- Trenching for the retaining wall and driveway located adjacent to any tree should be done by hand where practical and any roots greater than 2 inches in diameter should be bridged or pruned appropriately.
- Any roots that must be cut shall be cut by manually digging a trench and cutting exposed roots with a saw, vibrating knife, rock saw, narrow trencher with sharp blades, or other approved root pruning equipment.
- Any roots damaged during grading or excavation should be exposed to sound tissue and cut cleanly with a saw.

If significant roots (greater than 2” in diameter) are discovered during grading:

- The arborist/forester will be authorized to halt excavation until appropriate mitigation measures are formulated and implemented.
- If significant roots are identified that must be removed that will destabilize or negatively affect the target trees, the property owner will be notified immediately and a determination for removal will be assessed and made as required by law for treatment of the area that will not risk death decline or instability of the tree consistent with the implementation of appropriate construction design approaches to minimize effects, such as hand digging, bridging or tunneling under roots, etc..

## Fuels Management Plan

The area must comply with the requirements of the California State Defensible Space Regulations, as set forth in California Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291.

The area must be prepared and maintained for fuel management and defensible space. A fuel ladder is a continuous line of vegetation from the ground into the canopy or upper branches of a tree that may allow a fire to climb into the canopy. The idea is to make the homesite defensible by breaking up fuel continuity in both vertical and horizontal directions. Deadfall and cut branches which are fuel for a fire must be removed from the treatment area. This may be done either by hauling it off or by hiring a tree service to chip. The following management measures are to be taken and maintained for trees within the disturbed and outlying areas.

- Cut dry and dead grass to a maximum height of 4 inches. The exceptions are grasses and forbs which are isolated from other fuels or those necessary to minimize erosion and may be maintained at a height of 18 inches.
- Dead plants should be cut to ground level, do not remove them, as roots may still be present to minimize potential soil erosion. Maintain all remaining live landscape plants with regular water, keeping dead branches, leaves, and needles removed.
- Remove limbs within ten (10) feet of chimneys.
- Horizontal Clearances (within 100 feet of structures)
  - Trees- must have a spacing of at least 10 feet between crowns on shallow or almost level slopes (an exception is that trees growing as clusters with continuous canopy or aggregate may be treated as an individual tree to make a shaded fuel break). Where slopes are steep (over 40 %), the spacing must be increased to 30 feet between crowns of individual trees or stands of trees intended to be a shaded fuel break.
  - Shrubs- must have a four-foot clearance on shallow or almost level slopes. Where slopes are steep (over 40 %) the spacing must be 40 feet between shrubs.
- Vertical Clearances of trees and large shrubs (within 100 feet of structures)
  - Trees and shrubs must have a vertical clearance of at least 6 feet from ground fuels on shallow or almost level slopes. Remove all limbs within 6 feet of ground fuel from the ground fuel's highest point and trim dead portions of tree limbs up to 10 feet. Where slopes are steep (over 40 %) the clearance must be higher up to 30 feet.
  - Shrubs- must have four-foot clearance on shallow or almost level slopes. Where slopes are steep (over 40 %) the clearance must be 40 feet from ground fuels.
- Remove from the area dead fallen material unless embedded in the soil.
- Remove all cut material from the area or chip and spread it on site.

Best Management Practices to Observe (BMP)

The following best management practices must be adhered to:

- A) Tree service Contractors will verify animal or bird nesting before tree work. If the nesting activity of migratory birds is found, work must stop, and a wildlife biologist must be consulted before commencing work (the typical bird nesting season ranges from February 22 to August 1).
- B) Do not deposit any fill around trees, which may compact soils and alter water and air relationships. Avoid depositing fill, parking equipment, or staging construction materials near existing trees. Covering and compacting soil around trees can alter the relationships between water, air, and the roots. Fill placed within the drip line may encourage the development of oak root fungus (*Armillaria mellea*). As necessary, trees may be protected by boards, fencing, or other materials to delineate protection zones.
- C) Pruning shall be conducted so as not to unnecessarily injure the tree. General-Principals of pruning include placing cuts immediately beyond the branch collar, making clean cuts by scoring the underside of the branch first, and for live oak, avoiding the period from February through May.
- D) Native live trees are not adapted to summer watering and may develop crown or root rot as a result. Do not regularly irrigate within the drip line of oaks. If replanting, native, locally adapted, drought-resistant species are the most compatible with this goal.
- E) Root cutting should occur outside of springtime. Late June and July would likely be the best. Pruning of the live crown should not occur from February through May.
- F) Tree material greater than 3 inches in diameter remaining on-site for more than one month that is not cut and split into firewood must be covered with thick clear plastic that is dug in securely around the pile to discourage infestation and dispersion of bark beetles.
- G) A mulch layer up to approximately 4 inches deep should be applied to the ground under selected trees following construction. Only 1 to 2 inches of mulch should be applied within 1 to 2 feet of the trunk, and under no circumstances should any soil or mulch be placed against the root crown (base) of trees. The best source of mulch would be from chipped material generated on-site.
- H) If trees near the development are visibly declining in vigor, a Professional Forester or Certified Arborist should be contacted to inspect the site to recommend a course of action.

Report Prepared By:



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Frank Ono, SAF Forester #48004 and ISA Certified Arborist #536

Revised April 8, 2026  
Date

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

The building site, view looking to the south



Trees #398 will be removed to access the property



Tree #398 is behind #399 (on the neighboring property), just to the right

The base of tree #399 is being attacked by bark beetles but is on the neighboring property



Tree #368 is upslope of the project and will not be affected

The structure will be located between #368 (upslope) and trees located along the road way



Are where structure is to be located

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