

Client: Koidak Drewry
Project Location: 50 Juniper Ave, San Geronimo, CA
Inspection Date: December 29, 2021
Arborist: Ben Anderson



URBAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATES, INC.

Assignment

Kodiak Drewry asked me to produce a tree protection plan for the development project proposed at the subject property. This is a supplemental letter to accompany that plan, which is found on a separate sheet (dated 2/21/22).

Observations

Please see the tree protection plan for the project, which contains a spreadsheet of all the subject trees which describes their condition. The new home is proposed on an unimproved a slope, among a stand of existing coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) trees, several of which are very large. There is an existing gravel driveway and parking area, but the entire site is forested. The home is proposed in the most open area of the stand, but several trees will need to be removed to accommodate the construction. Most of these removals are of trees that are exempt from Chapter 22.130 of the Marin County Code "Native Tree Protection and Preservation" due either their size or their condition (22.62.040 – Exemptions). Photos of each tree can be made available upon request.

Many of the Doug firs on the property are infected with red ring rot (*Porodaedalea pini*), a wood decay fungus that rots the heartwood of conifers. Conks growing on the trunk are the best indicator of the infection. Trees with multiple conks over a long portion of the trunk pose an elevated likelihood of failure and so are labeled as exempt from tree removal permit requirements in the inventory.

Several trees are against the existing retaining wall for the driveway. Smaller trees in this location are proposed for removal, but the larger trees will be retained.

Discussion & Conclusions

Of the 11 trees proposed for removal, only three meet the definition of heritage, and five meet the definition of protected, but fall short of heritage (Chapter 22.130 – Definitions). These are the only eight trees that require a tree removal permit (Chapter 22.62.020). There will still be mature, native trees all around the home to provide screening and habitat. I do not see a way the property could be reasonably developed without the removal of some heritage and protected trees. There is no area more open than the one proposed.

Chapter 22.26.040 – "Landscaping Objectives" requires two replacement trees per permitted tree removal, "unless a higher or lower replacement ratio is determined to be appropriate." This is a large lot with many trees. 16 replacement trees (2 replacements/removal x 8 removals) is not an unreasonable number for the site, but they would need to be understory species, not redwoods or firs. There are already enough redwoods on the site, and redwood is a very long-lived species. I recommend 15-gallon size or smaller. Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*), or beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*). Huckleberry and hazelnut are not really trees, but are large, native shrubs that provide excellent food for wildlife. They should be planted to conform to defensible space requirements, but close enough to the home to be easily irrigated during the first two years after planting.

SCOPE OF WORK AND LIMITATIONS

Urban Forestry Associates has no personal or monetary interest in the outcome of this investigation. All observations regarding trees in this report were made by UFA, independently, based on our education and experience. All determinations of health condition, structural condition, or hazard potential of a tree or trees at

issue are based on our best professional judgment. The health and hazard assessments in this report are limited by the visual nature of the assessment. Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Since trees are living organisms, conditions are often hidden within the tree and below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specific period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments cannot be guaranteed. Trees can be managed but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk and the only way to eliminate all risk associated with trees is to eliminate all trees.



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