



Scenic Pacifica  
Incorporated Nov. 22, 1957

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**CITY OF PACIFICA**  
**Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission**  
1810 Francisco Avenue • Pacifica, California 94044-2506  
[www.cityofpacifica.org](http://www.cityofpacifica.org)

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MAYOR  
Sue Beckmeyer

MAYOR PRO TEM  
Mary Bier

COUNCIL  
Mike O'Neill  
Sue Vaterlaus Tygarjas  
Bigstycck

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95832189618>

**CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) NOTICE**

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-25-20 AND N-29-20 WHICH SUSPEND CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE BROWN ACT AND PURSUANT TO THE ORDERS OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF SAN MATEO COUNTY DATED MARCH 16, 2020, MARCH 31, 2020, APRIL 29, 2020 AND MAY 15, 2020. THIS MEETING IS NECESSARY SO THAT THE CITY CAN CONDUCT NECESSARY BUSINESS AND IS PERMITTED UNDER THE ORDER AS AN ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTION.

Consistent with the above-referenced Orders, this City Committee Meeting will not be physically open to the public and Committee Members and staff will be video/teleconferencing into the meeting.

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can observe and participate in the meeting as detailed below.

- To Observe the Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/95832189618>
- To access the meeting by computer/smartphone, go to:
- To dial-in via phone +1 (669) 900-6833

Then webinar ID: 958 3218 9618

**How to Submit Public Comments:**

- **During the Meeting:** Live verbal public comments may be made by members of the public joining the meeting via Zoom (computer, smartphone/tablet app, or phone). Zoom access information is provided above. Use the "raise hand" feature (for those joining by phone, press \*9 to "raise hand") during the public comment period for the agenda item you wish to address. City staff will call on people to speak by name provided or last 4 digits of phone number for dial-in attendees. Please clearly state your full name for the record at the start of your public comment. You will have 3 minutes to speak unless modified by the meeting chair.
- **Before the Meeting:** Written public comments for the record may be submitted in advance by 4:00 p.m. on the meeting date by email to: [seeleyk@ci.pacificaca.us](mailto:seeleyk@ci.pacificaca.us) and will be made part of the written record but will not be read verbally at the meeting. Written public comments submitted by email should adhere to the following:
  - Clearly indicate the Agenda Item No. or topic, or specify "Oral Communications" in the Subject Line for items not on the agenda
  - Include the submitter's full name.

Note: The format of this meeting may be altered or the meeting may be cancelled, if needed. You may check on the status of the meeting by visiting the City's website at [www.cityofpacifica.org](http://www.cityofpacifica.org) for any updates.



**AGENDA**  
**Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Commission**  
**City of Pacifica**

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**Regular Meeting – 7PM**  
WEDNESDAY, June 23, 2021  
VIA Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95832189618>

**CALL TO ORDER**  
**7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING**

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**                      Regular Meeting 05/26/2021
- IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- V. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**  
None
- VI. ORAL COMMUNICATION**  
This is the time set aside for the public to address the Commission on items not appearing on the agenda, public input will be considered for items at this time. Please state your name for the record when addressing the Commission. Statements will be limited to three (3) minutes.
- VII. ITEMS FOR CONSENT**  
None
- VIII. Public Hearing**  
Appeal to Heritage Tree Removal Application No. HT-020-21
- IX. REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM COMMISSIONERS**
- X. REPORTS FROM STAFF**  
A) Director Michael Perez
- XI. ADJOURNMENT**  
  
**Next Regular Meeting:      07/28/2021**

The City of Pacifica will provide special assistance for disabled citizens upon at least 24 hour advance notice to the City Manager's office (738-7301). If you need sign language assistance or written material printed in a larger font or taped, advance notice is necessary. All meeting rooms are accessible to the disabled.



# Staff Report

Item IX                    June 23, 2021

To:                         Members of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission

From:                     Raymond Kurttila, Public Works Superintendent

**Subject:**                Appeal to Heritage Tree Removal Application No. HT-020-21

## **Background/Discussion:**

On April 28, 2021, Mr. Dave Plumb, President of the Dolphin Point Homeowners Association, applied for a permit on behalf of the HOA to remove one (1) Monterey Pine (*Pinus Radiata*) located at 223 Roberts Road. The reasons for removal stated in the application are:

- the tree has pine pitch canker disease.
- the tree is in poor condition and may not survive pruning.
- the tree poses a threat of spreading disease to other Monterey Pines nearby.

On April 28, 2021, City staff visited the site to inspect the tree and to verify reasons stated in the application. The tree in question is approximately 20-25 feet tall with a diameter of approximately 16 inches measured at 24 inches above grade. The tree is located at the southwest corner of the property and is positioned on a hillside at the backyard of the structure. Limbs on the eastern side of the tree have been pruned/removed to maintain clearance from the structure, and foliage is concentrated on the western side of the tree. Die-back in the trees upper canopy was noted, which is symptomatic of pitch canker.

Based on the condition of the tree, staff recommends removal of the tree pursuant to Pacifica Municipal Code Section 4-12.05.c.1 *"The condition of the tree with respect to disease, general health, damage, public nuisance, danger of falling, proximity to existing or proposed structures, interference with utility services, and its ability to host a plant which is parasitic to another tree which is in danger of being infested by the parasite."* Staff determined that the presence of the pine pitch canker disease in the tree is sufficient justification to approve the removal application.

Notification of the tree removal request was posted at the property on April 28, 2021 and letters were sent to the adjacent property owners informing them of the process to appeal the proposed staff decision.

The City received one appeal letter from Lisa Palmer on April 29, 2021, opposing the tree's removal. Reasons stated for her appeal are:

- the tree provides natural habit for surrounding wildlife in-addition to other ecological benefits.
- that an attempt to mitigate the disease in the tree should be made before removal.
- the tree's root system provides stabilization of the hillside and protection of the structure against landslides.

Points raised in Lisa Palmer's appeal letter correspond with Heritage Tree Ordinance criteria, which staff considers when rendering a decision to approve or deny a removal permit. Staff believes that efforts to mitigate disease within the tree does not prevent the risk of the disease spreading to other Monterey Pines in the surrounding area. The presence of trees and vegetation on hillsides is a factor in soil stabilization and provides for some protection against erosion. Staff believes that the benefits created by this tree can be replicated by re-planting a tree in the area following the removal of the diseased tree. The Heritage Tree Ordinance allows imposing mitigation measures, such as replanting of a new tree, upon the approval of a removal permit. Staff is supportive of such measures.

On May 19, 2021, staff met with both parties in an attempt to mediate concerns raised in the appeal letter, but was unsuccessful in reaching a mutual solution.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Commission Action Requested:**

Commission is requested to approve, disapprove or modify the decision of City Staff's proposed decision.

**Documents Attached:**

1. Heritage Tree Permit Application # HT-020-21
2. Appeal Letter from Lisa Palmer
3. Arborist Report, Timberwood Tree Service (Provided by Applicant)
4. Arborist Report, Arbor Logic (Provided by Applicant)
5. Photographs of the tree
6. Applicants Re-Landscaping Draft
7. Examples of replacement plants
8. Email attachment from Lisa Palmer, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2021

CITY OF PACIFICA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - FIELD SERVICES DIVISION
170 SANTA MARIA AVE. PACIFICA, CA 94044
650-738-3760 650-738-9747 (fax) DPWassistance@ci.pacifica.ca.us

HERITAGE TREE APPLICATION

THIS SECTION IS A PERMIT APPLICATION ONLY.
IT DOES NOT GUARANTEE ISSUANCE OF PERMIT NOR GIVE PERMISSION TO BEGIN WORK

PERMIT NUMBER: HT-020-21 DATE: 4-28-2021 PAID: RECEIPT NUMBER:

APPLICANTS NAME: DAVE PLUMB PHONE NUMBER: 1-510-205-9768
DOLPHIN POINT HOMEOWNERS ASSN.

ADDRESS: 221 ROBERTS ROAD PACIFICA, CA 94044

1) LOCATION OF TREE(S): BEHIND 223 ROBERTS ROAD PACIFICA, CA 94044
(ATTACH A SKETCH OR PLOT OF PROPERTY)

2) VARIETY OF TREE(S): MONTEREY PINE TOTAL NUMBER OF TREE(S): 1

3) ACTION REQUESTED:

- removal / destruction
construction affecting dripline
other (please specify)
move
designate as Heritage Tree

\*SHAWN REAM

4) JUSTIFICATION (STATE THE REASON WHY THE ACTION IN SECTION 3 IS BEING REQUESTED): TREE HAS PITCH CANKER DISEASE. ARBORIST\* HAS STATED TREE IS IN POOR CONDITION & MAY NOT SURVIVE PRUNING. HE RECOMMENDED REMOVAL OF TREE BEFORE DISEASE SPREADS TO OTHER MONTEREY PINE NEARBY.

5) SIGNATURE OF PROPERTY OWNER: Dave Plumb PRESIDENT, DOLPHIN POINT HOA
(by signing, you are granting permission for the City of Pacifica to inspect tree(s) on your property)

THE PERMITTEE AND/OR PROPERTY OWNER BY ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PERMIT, AGREES TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CITY OF PACIFICA FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS AND LEGAL ACTIONS FOR INJURIES OR DAMAGES TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS OR MAINTENANCE UNDER THIS PERMIT, REGARDLESS OF PASSIVE NEGLIGENCE OF THE CITY OF PACIFICA, ITS OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, CONSULTANTS AND AGENTS, AND AGREES TO COMPENSATE THE CITY IN FULL FOR ALL DAMAGES TO PROPERTY OF THE CITY OR TO PUBLIC PROPERTY UNDER ITS JURISDICTION RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS OR MAINTENANCE UNDER THIS PERMIT.

\*\*\*\*\*APPLICANT - DO NOT COMPLETE BELOW THIS LINE\*\*\*\*\*

HERITAGE TREE ORDINANCE - PERMIT

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICATION EXECUTED ABOVE, PERMISSION IS: GRANTED DENIED

EFFECTIVE DATE: EXPIRATION DATE: EXTENTION EXPIRATION:

SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- to be done by a professional tree service with a City of Pacifica business license
debris to be removed when work is completed
mitigation measures (specify):

NOTE: ANY COSTS FOR THE REMOVAL OF HERITAGE TREE(S) IS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PROPERTY OWNER

INSPECTED BY: DATE: 4 28 2021

APPROVED BY: DATE:

HERITAGE TREE ORDINANCE APPEAL

NAME OF APPELLANT: PHONE NUMBER:

ADDRESS:

REASON TO APPEAL THE ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION ABOVE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

April 29, 2021

Dear City of Pacifica Public Works Inspector,

RECEIVED

MAY 03 2021

CITY CLERK

I am writing to appeal permit #HT-019-21, which is to cut down a heritage Monterey Pine between Roberts Road and Highway 1, behind the Dolphin Point homeowners' community.

First, I want to say thank you. As an environmentalist, I am heartened that the city of Pacifica accords mature trees historical, environmental, and aesthetic value.

In addition, given this heritage tree's location, I believe it merits particularly careful consideration. It appears to me that the tree's root system offers vital structural support to the hill above Highway 1 between Fassler and Crespi, where it and I live. I hope that you will agree with me that given its attributes, we should take care of this tree rather than destroying it.

As someone who moved to Pacifica five years ago and to Dolphin Point less than a year ago, I don't know the historical significance of this tree other than to say that given its girth and height, it has likely lived here longer than any of the other residents, and it helps to protect our community visually, aesthetically, and structurally. It is one of the few trees on the south side of the property, so removing it and replacing it with flowering groundcover, as the new owners of the adjacent property propose, will expose Dolphin Point both visually and literally.

As to environmental considerations, the tree harbors a colony of burbling Purple Finches, and it provides a hunting perch for Red-Tailed Hawks. It helps sustain the rest of us, too. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, "in one year a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange." The new homeowners have provided no information as to the carbon sequestering capacity of the flowers with which they propose to replace the tree, and the DPHOA (of which I'm a member) has no plans to plant a tree elsewhere which, in any case, would take decades to offer commensurate benefits.

Most importantly, before cutting down this particular tree, I think it vital to consider the potential structural impacts to Dolphin Point, Roberts Road, and even Highway 1. According to Pacifica's own safety analysis ([cityofpacifica.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=6557](http://cityofpacifica.org/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=6557)), we live in an area prone to seismic activity, landslides, and coastal erosion, so measures should be taken to mitigate these potential hazards. Removing a large tree whose root structure sustains a section of steep hillside approximately 25' in circumference (using the heuristic that a mature tree's root structure is approximately 2-3 times the diameter of the tree's canopy), would seem diametrically contrary to this safety imperative.

There are already multiple cracks in Roberts Road due to seismic activity, erosion, or perhaps the large trucks driving to the Harmony development above us. Those cracks demarcate the pressure bearing down on the hillside. Dolphin Point has also experienced several leaks to our water systems, again possibly linked to the new development above us. Climate change forecasts predict drenching storms in the near term, as well.

The trees on this hillside help shore up this community against water saturation, potential erosion, and pressure from uphill. Even as they stabilize the soil, mature tree root systems absorb far more water, far more efficiently, than ground cover plants, protecting us from the devastating effects of a landslide caused by water saturation due to leaks or rainstorms. From my little office I look straight down onto Highway 1; it doesn't take a lot of imagination to realize how quickly an earthquake or landslide could cause this development to develop cracks or, God forbid, slide down the hill.

It seems to me that those who claim the tree's root system is immaterial should provide a seismic or geological analysis to that effect rather than implementing the drastic experiment they propose—cutting down the tree and seeing what happens. Tellingly, the HOA rebuked my suggestion of vetting this proposal with our property insurers as well as my suggestion that those who feel there is no risk should assume that risk. If the city of Pacifica approves this proposal, it seems to me that Pacifica may be taking on that risk as well.

That said, I realize the tree in question needs care. I have spoken with Shawn Reams, a qualified arborist who diagnosed the tree with pitch canker, a common but not necessarily fatal ailment of Monterey Pines. According to the San Francisco Public Works Department, "Some trees can live many years with some symptoms and even improve over time and do not require removal" (<https://sfpublicworks.org/services/pine-pitch-canker-recommendations>).

To maximize the tree's health, Mr. Reams advised removing the affected limbs as soon as possible. I offered to pay to treat the tree at no cost to the HOA, but my proposal was rejected.

I hope you will agree with me that the environmentally sound and safety conscious solution is to endeavor to preserve the tree, to maintain the stability and structure it offers our hillside. If it turns out that the tree is non-viable, then I would agree that the HOA needs to remove it while also implementing a plan to replace it with equally beneficial vegetation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my appeal, and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Lisa Palmer  
215 Roberts Road  
Pacifica, CA 94044  
415-706-4946  
palmer@smccd.edu

ARBORIST REPORT

# TIMBERWOOD TREE SERVICE

648 FOX HOLLOW WAY, VACAVILLE, CA 95687  
PHONE: 415-931-1150

DATE: 5/15/2021

ARBORIST REPORT FOR: Dave Plumb  
223 Roberts Road, Pacifica, CA

### Details

Monterey Pine ( Pinus Radiata) Tree is located on hillside behind house. Approx 16"DBH 25' height. Tree has signs of pitch canker disease. Die back starting on outer canopy. Tree also has poor growth structure. I advised that affected limbs could be removed but does not guarantee it will survive. Pitch canker spreads by spores and can be transmitted to other pines and firs by winds. It is my opinion the tree should be removed as it is not healthy and has poor structure.

Contact: Anita Johnson at 415-931-1150 or email timberwoodmail@gmail.com

Signed X   
Arborist Lic # WE-4532-AT



415.753.5022 • 236 WEST PORTAL AVE. #311, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94127 • [jlascot@arborlogic.com](mailto:jlascot@arborlogic.com)

**REPORT DATE:** June 7, 2021

**REPORT TYPE: PINE TREE INSPECTION AT 223 ROBERTS ROAD  
DOLPHIN POINT HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

**SITE LOCATION:** 223 Roberts Road, Pacifica, California 94044

**INSPECTION DATE:** June 3, 2021

**ARBORIST(S):** James Lascot

**PURPOSE/ISSUE:** Arborist assessment of pine tree in rear of yard.

**INSPECTION / REPORT TYPE:** Visual inspection from the ground without excavation, coring, boring or sampling. This is an abbreviated report and more detailed report can be produced upon request.

**TREE MAP -** Subject tree T1 in relation to property. North is straight up (provided by Google Maps)



**SUBJECT TREE No. 1: Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*)****TRUNK DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT (4.5 feet above soil grade):** multi-trunk 15.6" and 6.6"**TRUNK CIRCUMFERENCE AT 24 INCHES ABOVE SOIL GRADE:** 55 " (17.4" diameter)**TOTAL HEIGHT:** Approx. 25 feet tall.**TOTAL CANOPY WIDTH:** Approx. 30 feet on center.**HEALTH:** Branch die back of eight to twelve branch tips from first or second years pinecone whorl to tip, some excessive sap in these dieback areas of upper canopy, no signs of bark beetle infestation at the base of trunk at time of inspection.**CONDITION:** Other than significant signs of health issues, this tree appears structurally sound with good anchorage.**DISCUSSION:**

- The subject is a young Monterey tree located to the southwest and rear yard of the property. This tree is located just north of its native coastal range of Monterey through San Luis Obispo.
- The branch dieback is symptomatic of pine pitch canker (*Fusarium circinatum*). The number of limbs that have dieback (more than three) indicates that this tree is in advanced stages of the disease and will not likely recover as this is a chronic and fatal disease without any effective treatment. The infection is spread by twig beetles (*Pityophthorus* spp.) and there is much infection among the other Monterey pines in this area. The retainment of this tree would contribute to infections for all other Monterey pine trees in the area.
- A Monterey pine trees infected with pine pitch canker is vulnerable to infestations of bark beetle infestations, particularly red turpentine beetle (*Dendroctonus subglutinans*) as these beetles are attracted to the oozing sap produced by pine pitch canker. The major natural bark beetle defense for this species it to produce sap to push out boring beetles but, during long drought periods, these pines cannot produce adequate amounts of sap to inhibit bark beetle infestations. With the premature ending of the rainy season this spring we can expect high populations of bark beetles which further threatens this tree.
- This pine species is also considered an undesirable species due to its high flammability and fire risk and is often removed when within 30 feet of existing structures. This tree is located about 15 feet from the home structure at 223 Roberts Road. As noted in the previous paragraph, we are expected to be in another drought period with higher than usual risk for wildfires. Reference "Pyrophytic vs. Fire Resistant Plants" Svihra ; Moritz University of California Cooperative Extension 1998".
- **CONCLUSION:** Due to the amount of significant disease, flammability, and location, the removal of this tree is recommended to reduce significant risks to nearby trees, persons, structures and for reasonable enjoyment of the property by the homeowner.
- **RECOMMENDATIONS:** Removal of this tree. The stump may be ground for future planting but will not re-sprout from its stump.



James Lascot

Principal / Consulting Arborist

International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist WE-2110

**PHOTOGRAPH 1** - Subject pine No. T1 located in the rear yard area of 223 Roberts Road.



**PHOTOGRAPH 2** - Subject pine tree No. T1 showing upper canopy. Note: Branch tip dieback indicative of pine pitch canker.







LEGEND

- ICE PLANT
- COYOTE BUSH
- MONTEREY PINE
- JUNIPER
- X TREE TO BE REMOVED
- CONCRETE SWALE

PLANTS TO BE ADDED

- CEANOTHUS
- MANZANITA

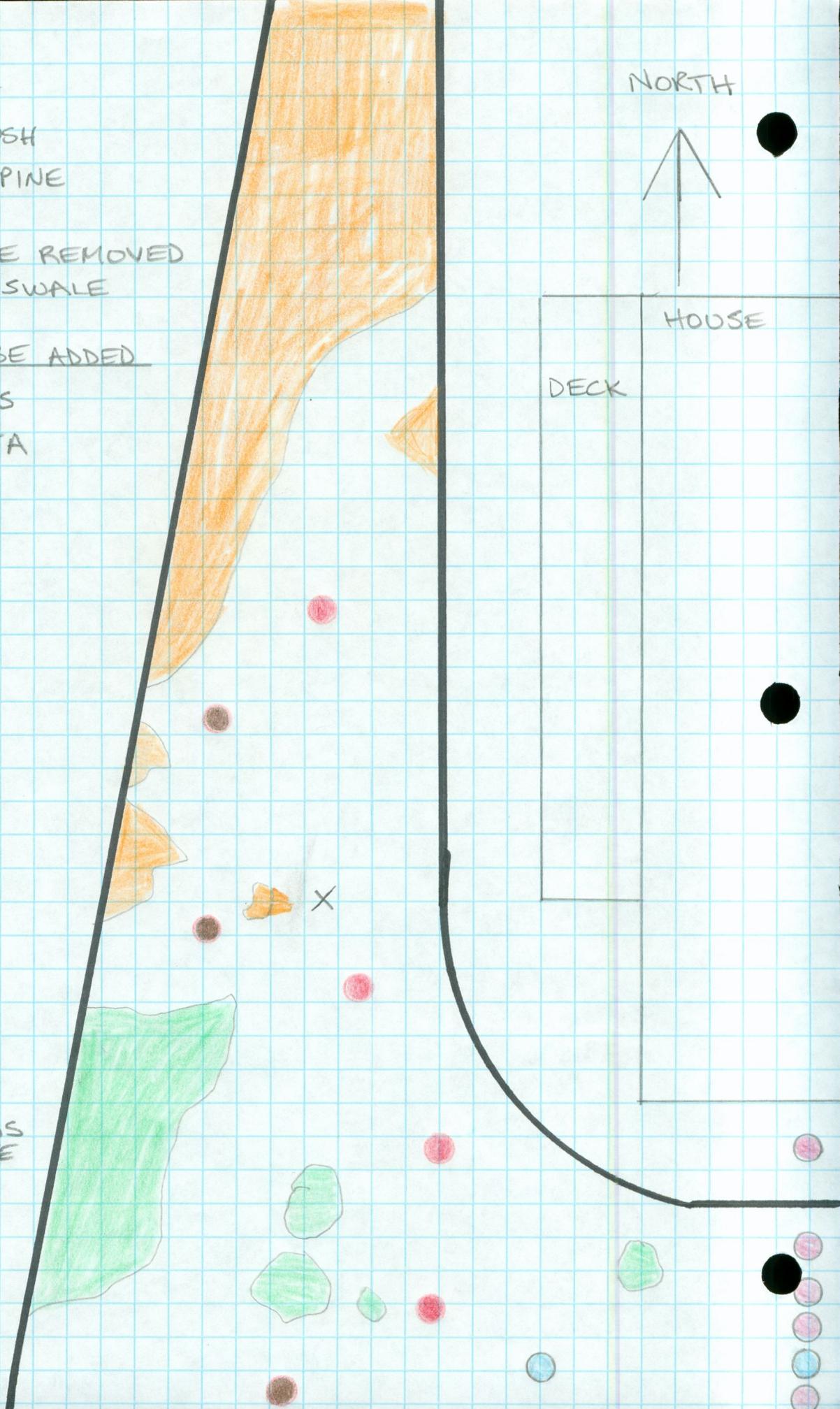
NORTH



HOUSE

DECK

NOT TO SCALE  
PLANT LOCATIONS  
ARE APPROXIMATE



From: [Curtis Lamb](#)  
To: [Curtis Lamb](#)  
Subject: Example of plants for 223 Roberts Road  
Date: Sunday, June 13, 2021, 3:43:23 PM

[CAUTION: External Email]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Pacific. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.



Example of plants to be planted at 223 Roberts Road.

## Sec. 4-12.05. - Applications for and granting of tree removal permits.



- (a) A person who desires to destroy, move, or remove one or more heritage trees on any private or City-owned property shall apply in writing to the Director. Such application shall contain the number, species, size, and location of the tree or trees involved, a statement of the reason for the requested action, a list of the property owners adjacent and contiguous to the location of the proposed tree or trees involved, stamped and addressed envelopes to such property owners, and any other pertinent information. No person may trim, cut down, destroy, remove or move a heritage tree for which a permit application is pending.
- (b) Within fourteen (14) days after the receipt of the application, the Director, or his or her appointed representative, shall inspect the premises and the tree or trees involved and shall issue a proposed decision determining which, if any, trees may be destroyed, moved, or removed and setting forth the conditions to be imposed. The Director shall give notice of the application and proposed decision pursuant to [Section 4-12.09](#) herein.
- (c) The granting of such permit shall be based on the following criteria:
  - (1) The condition of the tree with respect to disease, general health, damage, public nuisance, danger of falling, proximity to existing or proposed structures, interference with utility services, and its ability to host a plant which is parasitic to another tree which is in danger of being infested by the parasite;
  - (2) Whether the requested action is necessary for the economically viable use of the property;
  - (3) The topography of the land and effect of the requested action on it;
  - (4) The number, species, size, and location of existing trees in the area and the effect of the requested action upon shade, noise buffers, protection from wind damage, air pollution, historic value, scenic beauty and upon the health, safety, historic value, and general welfare of the area and the City as a whole;
  - (5) The number of healthy trees the parcel is able to support; and
  - (6) Good forestry practices.



## Re: Save the Tree or Save the View



Dave Plumb <seacast@ix.netcom.com>

Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 8:54 AM

To: Palmer, Lisa; Vickie Yan; Moxuan Li; Gale Vandersluis; Olof Åkerlund; Vanessa Boucher; Zach Boucher; Daniel Gould; Beimin Ni; Steve Girkout; [+2 more](#) ✓

You forwarded this message on 4/8/21, 7:23 PM.

**Option: Save the Tree:** The Monterey pine (*pinus radiata*) is a fast growing tree (up to 2 meters the first 3-4 years) with a much shorter life span than our Monterey Cypress (up to 70-80 years in favorable conditions if not infected with disease or termites.) Pine trees here are challenged by bark beetle infestation and by pitch canker. They are also susceptible to termites and to fungus, especially in damp, foggy climates like ours. We've lost several pine trees over the years. California has tens of millions of dead pine trees, killed by drought, bark beetle and pitch canker. Monterey pines usually have an extensive root system depending on location. They contribute to reducing green house gasses and can create noise, sun and wind buffers. The roots are good holders of soil and can help eliminate erosion.

**Next step:** Ask Shawn Ream to cut out the diseased parts of the tree to save it and to prevent spread of the pitch canker. Then, after growing season in the fall, we could have him safely trim the tree to improve the 223 view.

**Option: Save the View:** All of us came here for the view. It's the best view in town and one of the best in the Bay Area. John and Gale gave up a view from Nob Hill for it. It may literally be worth a million dollars or more. During our 24 years here, owners have had many conversations about this and have consistently chosen to support owners to having the best view. We've agreed that's why we're here. I already mentioned trimming trees at 213 and 215. We've also had a norm of not allowing new trees or plants to grow up and block people's view. So, when it came to a choice like the main issue here, we have almost always gone for Save the View.

One big exception is the cluster of Monterey Cypress on the ocean side of 209 and 211 far from the homes and nearer to the ocean. Soon after Zach and Vanessa arrived, Zach asked to have that clump of cypress trimmed to allow a better view. We didn't trim it because Gale and John love that clump and because we were short on tree trimming money. Since then, Vanessa told me how she loves that Cypress clump. Beauregard, the red tailed hawk, lives there as well as many other fun critters to watch. It's a good buffer of Highway 1 noise and of wind. It seems happy the way it is.

**Next step:** Prepare an application to get a permit from the City to remove the pine tree and pay \$220. We may have to pay our arborist to make a statement and describe the disease. We also may be required to plant another tree elsewhere on our property. (I measured the trunk at 24 inches above the ground and got a circumference of 57 inches, more than the 50 inches that makes it a heritage tree. Since we've had three protests about removing the tree, I think going the official route of getting City approval is appropriate. The City Director of Development or a designee has 14 days to inspect the tree and tell us whether our request is approved or not.)

*circinatum*. This fungus can also infect Douglas-fir, but symptoms are usually limited to tip dieback. The fungus causes infections (lesions) that can encircle (or girdle) branches, exposed roots, and the main stems (trunks) of pine trees. The tips of girdled branches wilt as a result of obstructed water flow, causing needles to turn yellow and then brown. The fascicles (needle clusters) eventually fall off, leaving bare branch ends. Multiple branch infections can cause extensive dieback in the crown of the tree and may lead to tree mortality. The fungus isn't known to move within the tree; therefore, each canker or lesion is a separate and distinct infection.

Pitch canker can result in extensive damage and even death of infected trees. However, not all infected trees become severely diseased, and of those that do, some recover. Experiments under controlled conditions show that susceptible Monterey pine trees repeatedly exposed to the pathogen may gain resistance over time, and field studies have confirmed that trees in areas where pitch canker has been present for 10 or more years tend to be more resistant to the disease than trees in areas where the pathogen has only recently become established.

Therefore, landowners and land managers should take a conservative approach to removing diseased trees, because there is a possibility they may recover completely.

Source: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74107.html>

I agree that we should definitely lose no time in letting the arborist treat the tree, and hopefully the tree will survive and continue to provide structural support to part of our hillside. But at the same time, we need to consult the arborist, in case the tree couldn't make it, what other realistic alternatives we have to stop soil erosion. And those measures would need to be taken well before the demise of the tree. It's our plan B. We could consider planting new trees together with land cover plants in that area to renew our arboreal "contract" of maintaining soil stability of the local landscape.

I don't know if you guys notice that, if you walk down Roberts Road, most of the slope is covered by trees, bushes and low-level plants. In comparison, the southern end of our living compound rests on a much more steep and yet barren hillside, and the risk is ours. When winter comes, torrential rain will create temporary runoffs draining away the topsoil continuously from our landscape. And the steeper the terrain, the more relentless the process is. As we witness increasing extreme weather events each year, we need to step up in our defense against climate change. Covering a barren landscape with plants is already the cheapest way of slowing down soil erosion, and probably the most effective. As to candidate trees for slope protection, we could choose stunted tree species so as not to block 223's view where applicable, and trees not as susceptible to pitch canker as Monterey Pines, Douglas-fir, and other indigenous Californian pine trees. We could also consider cultivating shrubs like Rowan bushes and indigenous lower-level land covers. To create a multi-level plant system to secure our hillside will do us good in the coming decades. This food for your thoughts, but for now, let's treat the tree before it is too late.

Best wishes to all of you,  
Moxuan

On Fri, 2 Apr 2021 at 18:27, B MM <[beimin.b.ni@gmail.com](mailto:beimin.b.ni@gmail.com)> wrote:

Me too, happy to join the sweeping.

-Beimin

On Fri, Apr 2, 2021, 10:10 AM Vickie <[vicyan@gmail.com](mailto:vicyan@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Lisa - I'd be happy to join the sweeping posse. Steve and I actually have an electric-powered blower so we can add that to the arsenal of tools.

- Vickie

On Thu, Apr 1, 2021 at 1:25 PM Palmer, Lisa <[palmer@smccd.edu](mailto:palmer@smccd.edu)> wrote:

Hi all,

Curtis, Marilyn, Dave and I met with the arborist today. He's going to send an estimate for thinning the tree in front of 223, including cutting off diseased tips, or removing it.

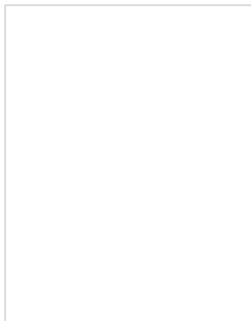
Did you know that a tree roots expand 2-3 times the width of a tree's canopy and as much as 20 feet deep? A rule of thumb is that a tree's roots will extend approximately one foot for every inch of the trunk's diameter, meaning that the tree in front of 223 is helping to sustain approximately 25 feet of hillside. Steve, the arborist, mentioned replacing the tree with ice plant if we take out the tree. However, ice plant is a non-native invasive species that expands mercilessly and holds up topsoil, not, usually, hillsides, though I admit the colors can be spectacular.

If that tree must go, we'll need to research how to replace it so that our foundations don't go downhill along with it. Curtis suggested that maybe we can plant something after thinning the tree, so if thinning doesn't solve the view + disease issue, we'll already have something in the ground helping to support our property.

Secondly, did you all know that gas-powered leaf blowers are noxious to the environment and to human beings? Below is an article from the Sierra Club on the topic. Given that we're all atrophying from lack of gym time anyway, I'm wondering if anyone is willing to join me in periodically sweeping our common areas rather than putting pollutants into the air by hiring people who use leaf blowers.

Please let me know if you'd like to join the period sweeping posse. John and I did a big swath in front of the buildings a few months ago and it only took an hour or so. Plus, we got an excellent work-out.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/blog/2017/08/lifestyle-eco-actions-gas-powered-leaf-blowers>



[Lifestyle Eco-Actions: Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers | Sierra Club](#)

(By Tanli Su) People have known about the detrimental effects of gas-powered leaf blowers for many years now, and yet these noisy machines which simultaneously harm our health and environment continue to be popular today. Take this lifestyle eco-action and stop using your gas-powered leaf blower!  
[www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

Thanks for your time,  
Lisa

Lisa K. Palmer, PhD

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**From:** Dave Plumb <seacast@ix.netcom.com>

**Sent:** Saturday, April 3, 2021 6:47 PM

**To:** Moxuan Li <limoxuan@gmail.com>; B MM <beimin.b.ni@gmail.com>

**Cc:** Vickie <vicyan@gmail.com>; Palmer, Lisa <palmer@smccd.edu>; Gale Vandersluis <galevandersluis@comcast.net>; Olof Åkerlund <wukailong@gmail.com>; Vanessa Boucher <vanessagade@gmail.com>; Zach Boucher <zbourcher2.0@gmail.com>; Daniel Gould <waxorchard@gmail.com>; Steve Girkout <sgirkout@gmail.com>; Alexis Weiss <alexiswg@gmail.com>; Curtis Lum <sfq50@aol.com>

**Subject:** Re: tree update and leaf sweeping

Hi all,

Let's keep in mind that it is Marilyn and Curtis's view that the tree blocks. It would be if we can to support the decision they make.

Dave

On 4/3/2021 6:19 PM, Moxuan Li wrote:

Hi, Dave,

Thanks for filling us in the details.

Here is more on Pitch canker:

Pitch canker, a disease that affects many pine species, is caused by the fungus *Fusarium*

 **[EXTERNAL]Re: Tree Vote Today**



**Zach Boucher** <[zboucher2.0@gmail.com](mailto:zboucher2.0@gmail.com)>

Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 3:27 PM

**To:** David Plumb; **Cc:** Alexis Weiss; Beimin Ni; Curtis Lum, Marilyn; Daniel Gould; Gale Vandersluis; Moxuan Li; Olof Åkerlund; [+4 more](#) ∨

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Hi All -

Vanessa and I vote which ever way Curtis and Marilyn want to go. So count our vote with their's.

Zach

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Re: attn: arborist treatment department  
**Date:** Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 9:43:10 AM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** ARBORIST NOW, INC.  
**To:** Palmer, Lisa

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa,

I received a text response from our arborist.

We are aware that you are on a timeline to get an initial input and statement by Monday so we would like to do our due diligence.

"I don't think this tree needs to be removed. I recommend:

-Prune the dead Pitch portions of the tree out in (November - March). Ballpark: \$1600 \*This is not an actual estimate.

-Polyphosphite fertilizer this June or July. This will help manage drought stress. \$350.

Can you send that to them? "\_ Josh Johns, ISA Certified Arborist.

Noteworthy, Josh was not able to answer several other questions based on the pictures alone. He would need to see the tree in order to give more input.

Please let me know if you would Josh to send you an estimate -OR- better yet, call me to set up any appointment should you like Josh to come out for an appointment.

On Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 11:33 AM Palmer, Lisa <[palmer@smccd.edu](mailto:palmer@smccd.edu)> wrote:

Hi,

Yesterday I contacted you via Yelp, and received a call back from Leoni, about assessing a Monterey Pine at the HOA where I live. Since I need a recommendation by Monday, June 14th, which is very short notice, he suggested a photo assessment.

Attached please find photos of the tree in question, which will be discussed at the upcoming Pacifica parks and rec commission. My neighbors would like to cut it down, but I would like to know, first, if we may be able to preserve it, at least while other plantings (or another tree) has time to take root

and help stabilize the soil and hillside.

Questions:

If treated for pitch canker, how long would you guess that the tree may survive? (I've been told anywhere from 2 to 20 years; would you concur?)

The tree is approximately 24-30 feet tall and the trunk is more than 8' in circumference at the base. Would you have an estimate of the size of the root structure and how much of the hillside it may be helping to support?

How long will it take for another tree (or other plants) to assume the same ability to support the hill? Do you know what the watering requirements will be for new vegetation and/or a new tree to root?

Does the tree appear to be an imminent danger to anything? (It's at least 20' from the nearest building).

What would you recommend as the course of treatment, and what is the estimated cost?

Please let me know if you have any questions. If you can't answer these questions, that's fine, of course, but anything you can share, from your expertise, I would really appreciate it. I'm hoping to save the tree if it makes sense to do so.

Thank you, in advance, for your help.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Palmer  
415-706-4946

215 Roberts Road  
Pacifica, 94044

Lisa K. Palmer, PhD  
Curriculum Committee Chair  
Professor of English  
Cañada College

[palmer@smccd.edu](mailto:palmer@smccd.edu)



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Arborist Now is either certified or members of the following organizations.



**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Re: estimate for tree with pitch canker  
**Date:** Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 5:29:43 PM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** Precision Tree Care  
**To:** Palmer, Lisa

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. Palmer,

At our meeting today, (June 10, 2021), I was asked to observe and inspect a Monterey Pine tree on the hillside behind property at 223 Roberts Road, Pacifica. The tree in question does have signs and symptoms of pitch canker and I do believe it to be present. At this time the tree does not pose an imminent hazard to the immediate structure.

Please reach out if I can be of further assistance.

Thank you,

Ryan Doleschal

Precision Tree Care, Inc.  
Ryan Doleschal, President  
Certified Arborist #WE-12520A  
CSLB #907593  
650-355-1277  
866-793-4264 fax  
P.O. Box 410  
Pacifica, CA 94044

On Thursday, June 10, 2021, 01:53:59 PM PDT, Palmer, Lisa <palmer@smccd.edu> wrote:

Hi Patty,

Thank you for the call. I would love to get suggestions for treating a tree with pitch canker, asap as I need information prior to a Pacifica commission meeting on cutting down the tree.

My email is palmer@smccd.edu, and my phone number is 415-706-4946.

The tree is at Dolphin Point, on Roberts Road. My time is flexible so I could meet with Ryan whenever he's available.

Thank you so much,  
Lisa

Lisa K. Palmer, PhD

Curriculum Committee Chair  
Professor of English  
Cañada College

palmer@smccd.edu



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