

## Memorandum

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Subject: Root Exploration at Central Park, San Mateo

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Arborwell recently performed root exploration along the 885 South El Camino Real property in order to determine the roots that will be impacted during the excavation of the proposed project. Specifically, we were to determine whether Trees #1, #13, #16, and #17 would be destabilized during the proposed project due to excavation close to the property line. On March 11, 2015, while the roots were exposed, the City arborist, Walt Fuji, visually observed the excavated areas and the exposed tree roots. This memorandum intends to address the potential impact of the project on the subject trees and make recommendations based on the projected impacts.

The basement garage wall will be approximately four feet, six inches (4.5') from the property line between the park and the 885 South El Camino Real property. As a result, our root exploration consisted of excavating a trench two feet (2') deep and six inches (wide) between four feet (4) and four feet, six inches (4.5') from the property line on the 885 South El Camino Real property (Exhibit 1). Our root exploration using an Air-Spade occurred between March 3 and March 9, 2015. Once roots were exposed by this method, they were evaluated by me, ISA Certified Arborist WE-9474A. My observations are as follows:

**Tree 1: Monterey Pine** – during the root exploration, two large diameter roots (> 6") were found along the excavation interface as well as a few other roots greater than two inches (2") diameter. A Root Crown Excavation was also performed to determine the extent of stabilizing roots within the park area, and many significant roots were found in the park area but none of the significant roots extended toward the proposed project site. No decay was observed in the root crown. Severing of the two (2) large diameter roots will not lead to any significant instability as most stabilizing roots, if not all, are within the park area. The root loss is estimated to be less than 10%. Cutting of the exposed roots, in coordination with the recommendations that follow my observations, will not likely result in a decline of health of this tree.

Because Tree #1 is leaning over the roadway, I recommend significant foliar end weight reduction from the road to balance the lean. Treatment for pitch canker and turpentine beetle should be performed as soon as possible. The canopy should be crown cleaned prior to construction activities. Any exposed root should be pruned by hand.

**Tree 13: Monterey Pine** – during the root exploration, several roots greater than two inches (2") diameter were found along the excavation interface. However, I do not think these roots

add significant stability to the tree. The root loss is estimated to be less than 15% with no structural root loss. Cutting of the exposed roots, in coordination with the recommendations that follow my observations, will not likely result in a decline of health of this tree.

**Tree 16: Monterey Pine** - during the root exploration, several roots greater than two inches (2") were found along the excavation interface. However, I do not think these roots add significant stability to the tree. The root loss is estimated to be less than 10% with no structural root loss. Cutting of the exposed roots, in coordination with the recommendations that follow my observations, will not likely result in a decline of health of this tree.

**Tree 17: Coast Live Oak** - during the root exploration, no roots were found along the excavation interface. The root loss is estimated to be less than 1%.

I think that the exposed roots can be severed and the trees will contribute over the long-term if the following recommendations are performed throughout the project:

- Crown clean canopy prior to construction activities, which involves the removal of dead, diseased, or dying material only;
- Prune roots by hand. The stub end(s) of the root(s) must be cleanly cut using a sharp saw and sealed using a plastic bag tied on the end. Plastic bags must be removed at the time of backfill
- Mulch under dripline to a depth of six (6) inches minimum and maintain mulch throughout construction activities; trunks should be clear of mulch at least twelve (12") from the trunk.
- Single application of slow-release fertilizer and plant growth regulator immediately to stimulate growth of feeder roots;
- Treat for pine pitch canker and turpentine beetle immediately;
- Begin irrigation immediately and monthly during construction activities to help compensate for the root loss. Irrigation should be performed for a minimum of one (1) year after the project is complete. Irrigate a minimum of ten (10) gallons for each inch of trunk diameter every month. The irrigation must not be designed to strike the trunks of trees, because of potential high risk of disease infection. A soaker hose or a drip line is preferred for this purpose.
- Monitor and Inspect Monthly during construction activities with a final assessment at the completion of the project.

In summary, if the above recommendations are followed, the specific trees should not be adversely impacted and would be expected to survive over the long-term.

# Exhibit 1

Figure 1: locations of the subject trees, indicated by green arrows, and the extent of the root exploration and root crown excavation, indicated as red dashed lines.

