

January 18, 2017

Scott Dawson
1143 Bay Street
Alameda, Ca



Subject: Assessment of Impacts to Trees
1208 Saint Charles Street, Alameda, CA

Dear Mr. Dawson:

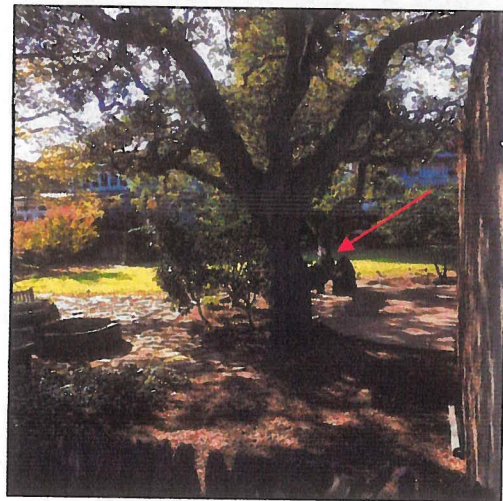
The residents of 1208 Saint Charles Street in Alameda, CA have applied for a permit with the City of Alameda to expand the garage. The residents of 1137 and 1143 Bay Street, whose backyards border 1208 Saint Charles Street, are concerned with the impact the construction will have on two coast live oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*) located within 10' of the proposed project. I was asked by the residents of 1137 and 1143 Bay Street to assess impacts that proposed improvements and was provided the Arborist Report prepared by Judith L. Thomas dated October 6, 2016 for the resident of 1208 Saint Charles Street. I visited the site on November 9, 2016 and January 7, 2017.

I was unable to fully assess the condition of the two coast live oaks, as I was not granted access to 1208 Saint Charles Street. However, I was able to see the trees from the back yards of 1137 and 1143 Bay Street. The oaks were growing in the rear yard on the northern and southern sides of the garage proposed for expansion. The northern oak was referred to in the Thomas report as #1, and the southern oak as tree #2.

The oaks were mature with diameters of 36" and 33", respectively. Both oaks were in good condition, with full crowns and spreading forms. Oak #2 had a long lateral limb extending out to the east and held up by a prop (Photo1). Both trees had been over pruned and lion tailed within the past year. Lion tailing is a form of pruning that greatly reduces the green foliage, leaving growth only at the ends of each branch. Lion tailing is particularly detrimental to coast live oaks because they are susceptible to sunscald and sunburn.

Photo 1. Tree #2 was in good condition with a long lateral limb that extended out into the yard (arrow).

The project proposes to enlarge the garage 12' north and 10' feet south. The Arborist Report prepared by Judith L. Thomas provides a detailed description of how the proposed structure could be built and how to protect the trees during construction. Mrs. Thomas suggests that instead of the usual 'L' or 'T' footings, the foundation be supported by piers no deeper than 36".



Two exploratory trenches were dug with an air spade adjacent to trees 1 and 2. The trenches were 1' wide and 36" deep. The trench dug for tree #1 runs north-south and was excavated where the footprint of the building is proposed (Photo 2 and 3, next page). The trench dug for tree #2 runs east

west and was placed where the footprint of the proposed building will be constructed (Photo 4 and 5).



Photo 2, left. Tree #1 with the trench in the location of the proposed building.



Photo 3, right. Looking into the trench adjacent to tree #1.

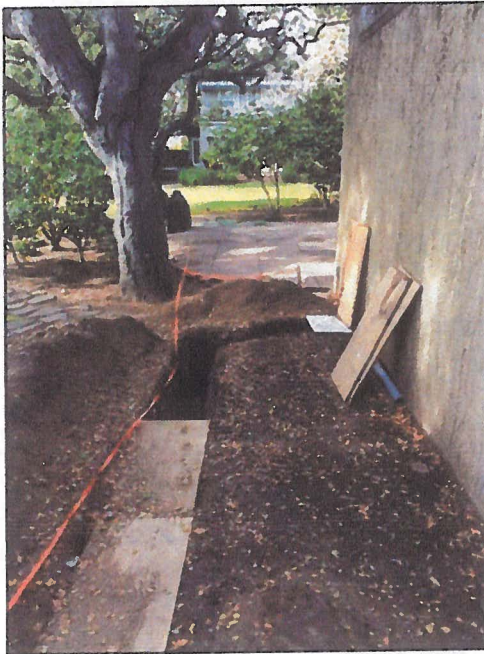


Photo 4, left. Trench adjacent to tree #2.



Photo 4, right. Close up of the trench adjacent to tree #2.

The trench adjacent to tree #1 had five roots larger than 2" that can be seen in Photo 3. I do not recommend any work be done in this area, cutting of roots this large and this close to the tree has the potential to impact health, compromise stability.

The trench adjacent to tree #2 shows no roots larger than 2". Work in this area could be completed as is directed in the Thomas Arborist Report dated October 6, 2016.

Vertical clearance, or pruning requirements for installation of the building including any scaffolding that may be required for tree #1 should be considered. As proposed, I believe the project would remove two, of the five, large laterals limbs on the south and east sides of tree #1. Prior pruning has left the canopy sparse, additional pruning will stress the tree further. I do not recommend any additional pruning be completed within the next two-years on either tree.

Please contact me if you have any questions about my recommendations.

Sincerely,



Darya Barar
Certified Arborist WE-6757A