

Client: Bill Johnson
Project Location: 1 Lincoln Park, San Anselmo, CA
Inspection Date: July 24, 2020
Arborist: Ben Anderson



Assignment

Bill Johnson asked me to produce a report documenting several California bay (*Umbellularia californica*) trees on the property being developed at 1 Lincoln Park. The report is to be used to apply for a tree removal permit with the Town of San Anselmo.

Observations

Prior to my inspection, Uriel Barron of All Seasons Tree Care identified the subject trees with yellow caution tape. I collected data on 16 trees, all of which were bay trees. Of the trees I inspected, only ten had a stem larger than seven inches in diameter. The diameters of each of the subject trees can be found in Table 2. I assessed each of the protected trees for health, structure¹, and form². These ratings can be found in Table 2. The rating categories are described in Table 1.

All the trees were located above the development area. The site was under construction during my visit. The location of the trees and the property line were unclear. I used a Nikon Forestry Pro hypsometer to take distances from the utility pole and existing structures to locate the trees. See the map in Figure 1 for these approximate locations. Photos of each of the trees can be found here: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!Agxd6LY3k0-8hdd75WLHzwKVs7vu3A?e=VasYbD>. I wrote the tree number on the caution tape with a pen in the field.

Discussion

Only 10 of the subject trees are considered “protected” by the San Anselmo Municipal Code and none is “heritage.” I included the other trees only to clarify and document they are not protected. See Table 2 for their protected status. The locations shown on the map in Figure 1 are approximate. The exact location and ownership of the trees are unknown. Mr. Johnson informed me that Mr. Barron has previously pruned these trees and is in contact with the adjacent property owner. It is my understanding that Mr. Johnson will contact the landowner to obtain permission to remove the trees.

Conclusions

Mr. Johnson is requesting to remove all the trees described in this report.

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

¹ **Structure** – Overall stability of the tree or its branches. This can be negatively affected by things such as acute angle crotches, decay cavities, strong leans, stem girdling roots, ambrosia beetles, history of failures, etc.

² **Form** – The plant’s overall appearance as it relates to its shape or silhouette. Can be negatively affected by crown asymmetries.

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.



Benjamin Anderson, Urban Forester
ISA Board Certified Master Arborist & TRAQ
RCA #686, WE #10160B
(415) 454-4212

Table 1. Condition ratings table. Taken from *Guide for Plant Appraisal, 10th edition*

Rating category	Condition components		
	Health	Structure	Form
Excellent	High vigor and nearly perfect health with little or no twig dieback, discoloration, or defoliation	Nearly ideal and free of defects.	Nearly ideal for the species. Generally symmetric. Consistent with the intended use.
Good	Vigor is normal for the species. No significant damage due to diseases or pests. Any twig dieback, defoliation, or discoloration is minor.	Well-developed structure. Defects are minor and can be corrected.	Minor asymmetries/deviations from species norm. Mostly consistent with the intended use. Function and aesthetics are not compromised.
Fair	Reduced vigor. Damage due to insects or diseases may be significant and associated with defoliation but is not likely to be fatal. Twig dieback, defoliation, discoloration, and/or dead branches may comprise up to 50% of the crown.	A single defect of a significant nature or multiple moderate defects. Defects are not practical to correct or would require multiple treatments over several years.	Major asymmetries/deviations from species norm and/or intended use. Function and/or aesthetics are compromised.
Poor	Unhealthy and declining in appearance. Poor vigor. Low foliage density and poor foliage color are present. Potentially fatal pest infestation. Extensive twig and/or branch dieback.	A single serious defect or multiple significant defects. Recent change in tree orientation. Observed structural problems cannot be corrected. Failure may occur at any time.	Largely asymmetric/abnormal. Detracts from intended use and/or aesthetics to a significant degree.
Very poor	Poor vigor. Appears to be dying and in the last stages of life. Little live foliage.	Single or multiple severe defects. Failure is probable or imminent.	Visually unappealing. Provides little or no function in the landscape.
Dead			

Table 2. Tree descriptions

Tree Number	Species	Diameter	Health	Structure	Form	Comments	Protected Status	Location
1	California bay	13.3	Good	Fair	Fair	Splits to three trunks at 9'.	Protected	35' to pole
2	California bay	5.2						4' from fence. 32' from pole
3	California bay	12.0 6.0	Good	Fair	Fair		Protected	8' up from 1. 13' from fence
4	California bay	7.9 ~6	Fair to good	Fair	Fair		Protected	10' from 1 at top of slope.
5	California bay	10.3	Fair	Fair	Fair		Protected	77' from pole. 65' from house corner
6	California bay	6.5 5.0	Fair to good	Fair	Poor to fair	Leaning out over slope with asymmetric canopy		3' from 5
7	California bay	5						18' up from 5
8	California bay	6.9				One stem of a larger tree.		12' up/side from 5
9	California bay	9	Fair to good	Fair	Fair	Leans downhill with asymmetric canopy	Protected	9' cross from 6. 134 from lower building.
10	California bay	10.2	Fair	Fair to Good	Poor to fair		Protected	15' from upper garage corner
11	California bay	6.1 6 6 5	Fair to good	Fair to Good	Fair to Good			140 from lower building. 103 from pole
12	California bay	7.7	Fair to good	Fair to Good	Fair	Strong lean downhill and asymmetric canopy	Protected	5 feet cross slope from 11
13	California bay	13.5	Good	Good	Fair to Good		Protected	145 from lower. 25 from upper. 67 from retaining wall corner
14	California bay	4.9						20 feet down from an in-line with building edge
15	California bay	16.8	Good	Good	Fair to Good		Protected	3 feet down and cross slope from 14
16	California bay	11.5	Fair to good	Fair to Good	Fair	Bows downhill with asymmetric canopy	Protected	



Figure 1. Map of approximate location of subject trees.