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**PINE TREE NUISANCE ASSESSMENT ARBORIST REPORT**

*For*

*Allan Ashton – 29 Grove Lane, San Anselmo, CA 94965*

**PURPOSE**

Ray Moritz of Urban Forestry Associates, Inc. was asked by Elite Tree Service to inspect a pine tree (c.f. *Pinus sylvestris*) at 29 Grove Lane in San Anselmo, CA 94965. I inspected the roots and aerial portions of the subject tree, and infrastructure damage on February 20<sup>th</sup> 2020.

**OBSERVATIONS**

**Tree # 1:**

Species	c.f.Scots Pine (c.f. <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> )
Size	24.4" DBH <sup>1</sup>
Location	At the intersection of the front entrance walk and the public sidewalk. It is pressuring both sidewalks, uplifting the drainage line and an adjacent utility line. (See Figure 1)
Condition	Good health, Good structural condition, Fire Risk - severe. This tree is a prime example of wrong tree, wrong place. This species grows too large for its location. Consequently it is destroying the immediately adjacent infrastructure including the front entrance sidewalk, the home's drainage system, the public sidewalk and the curb Figures 1 & 2. It interferes with pedestrian traffic along the public sidewalk (Figure 1). It is also presents a high fire risk to the home, being a fire-prone species and the fact that it overhangs the roof. Maximum needle drop is in the fall when fire behavior risk meets its highest level. It also presents a potential obstruction to home evacuation, were a wildfire or home fire to occur and ignite the tree (See Figures 1 and 2).

**Conclusions:** The available root zone and potential for infrastructure damage, as well as fire risk, makes this tree's location unsuitable for any tree, much less a species of this tree's size and fire-prone characteristics.

**Recommendation:** Remove to abate the nuisance before the coming fall peak to the fire season.

<sup>1</sup> DBH is Diameter at Breast Height, measured 4.5' above grade on the upslope side of a tree.



Figure 1 – The subject pine tree is located where it has damaged immediately adjacent infrastructure.



Figure 2 – The uplift of the drainage line has displaced the public sidewalk and curb.

### **SCOPE OF WORK / LIMITATIONS**

Information regarding property boundaries, land ownership, and tree ownership was evident from the property improvements. UFA has no personal or monetary interest in the outcome of this matter. All determinations reflected in this report are objective and to the best of our ability. All observations regarding the sites and trees were made by UFA personnel, independently, based on our education and experience. Determinations of the health and hazard potential of the subject trees are through visual inspection only and of our best professional judgment.

The health and hazard assessments in this report are limited by the visual nature of the assessment. Defects may be obscured by soil, brush, vines, aerial foliage, branches, multiple trunks or other trees. None of the subject trees were examined using invasive techniques such as increment coring or Resistograph® tests. The probability of tree failure is dependent on a number of factors including: topography, geology, soil characteristics, wind patterns, species characteristics (both visually evident and concealed), structural defects, and the characteristics of a specific storm, other weather or edaphic event. Structurally sound, healthy trees are wind thrown or weight failure during severe weather events. Consequently, a conclusion that a tree does not require corrective surgery or removal is not a guarantee of no risk, hazard, or sound health.

### **TREE WORK STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATION**

All tree work, removal, pruning, planting, shall be performed using industry standards as established by the International Society of Arboriculture. Contractor must have a State of California Contractors License for Tree Service (C61-D49) or Landscaping (C-27) with general liability, worker's compensation, and commercial auto/equipment insurance.

Contractor standards of workmanship shall adhere to current Best Management Practices (where possible) of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for tree pruning, fertilization and safety (ANSI A300 and Z133.1). However, structural stability is the primary goal.



Ray Moritz, Urban Forester SAF Cert #241