

Client: Elena Cuneo

Arborist: Zach Vought

Project Address: 10 Crest Rd., San Anselmo, CA

Inspection Date: November 21, 2022



ASSIGNMENT/ BACKGROUND

Elena Cuneo hired me to evaluate two heritage size California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) trees growing near a firetruck turnaround that is required as a part of a driveway improvement project. Both trees are slated for removal due to their proximity to the project. The purpose of this report is to document the trees' condition to process a tree removal permit.

OBSERVATIONS

The subject trees stand on the north side of Crest Rd. approximately 11 feet from an existing power pole (Figure 1). Both trees grow in a dense stand of California bay laurel and coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) trees which has influenced long stems that lack taper.

Tree-1 bifurcates at approximately three feet above grade. The two stems are vertically oriented- the north stem is leggy and extends northeast toward the Cuneo driveway. As shown on the civil plan the retaining wall for the firetruck turnaround cuts through the trunk of this tree (See Figure 3). The south stem was topped in the past and old dead vines have enveloped the trunk.

Tree-2 stands five feet from Tree-1 and approximately 3.5 feet from the proposed retaining wall for the turnaround. The tree leans northeast toward the Cuneo driveway and power distribution meter. It appears that utilities were recently undergrounded within a couple feet of this tree (Figure 2). There are many old pruning wounds on the lower trunk and associated decay cavities.

DISCUSSION

The San Anselmo Municipal Code defines a "heritage tree" as "a tree which has a trunk with a diameter at breast height (4.5 feet above grade) of twenty-two inches (22)". A permit is required to remove a heritage tree. Both subject trees qualify as heritage trees and are slated for removal due to expected impacts resulting from the construction of the firetruck turnaround.

It is my understanding that the turnaround is required by the fire department to provide emergency vehicle access. The trunk of Tree-1 is in the footprint of the retaining wall for the turnaround. Tree-2 stands only 3.5 feet from the retaining wall and the excavation required to build the retaining wall will likely occur inside 3.5 feet. Tree-2 leans downslope, and the excavation is likely to impact the tension roots which could destabilize the tree. Tension roots are the roots opposite the lean, and act like ropes to stabilize the tree. If Tree-2 were to fall it is likely to impact the Cuneo driveway and electrical junction box which could result in severe consequences.

CONCLUSIONS

Tree-1 is in the footprint of the firetruck turnaround and must be removed to accommodate construction. Tree-2 possesses a trunk lean toward high value targets and is expected to be significantly impacted by construction due to its proximity to the proposed retaining wall. For these reasons it should also be removed.

Zachary Vought, Urban Forester
Registered Consulting Arborist #691
ISA BCMA WE-9995B
ISA Qualified Tree Risk Assessor



Figure 2

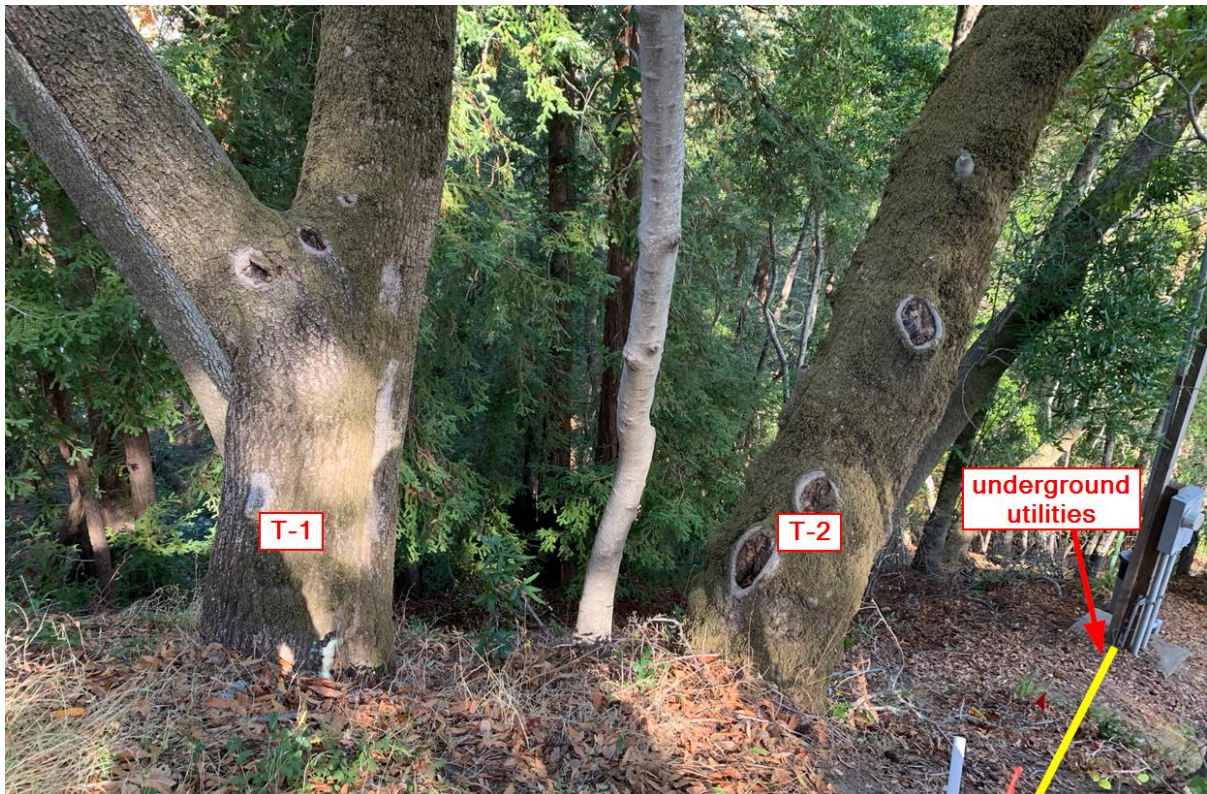


Figure 2

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. Defects may be obscured by soil, brush, vines, aerial foliage, branches, multiple trunks or other trees. Even structurally sound, healthy trees are wind thrown during severe storms or other 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.

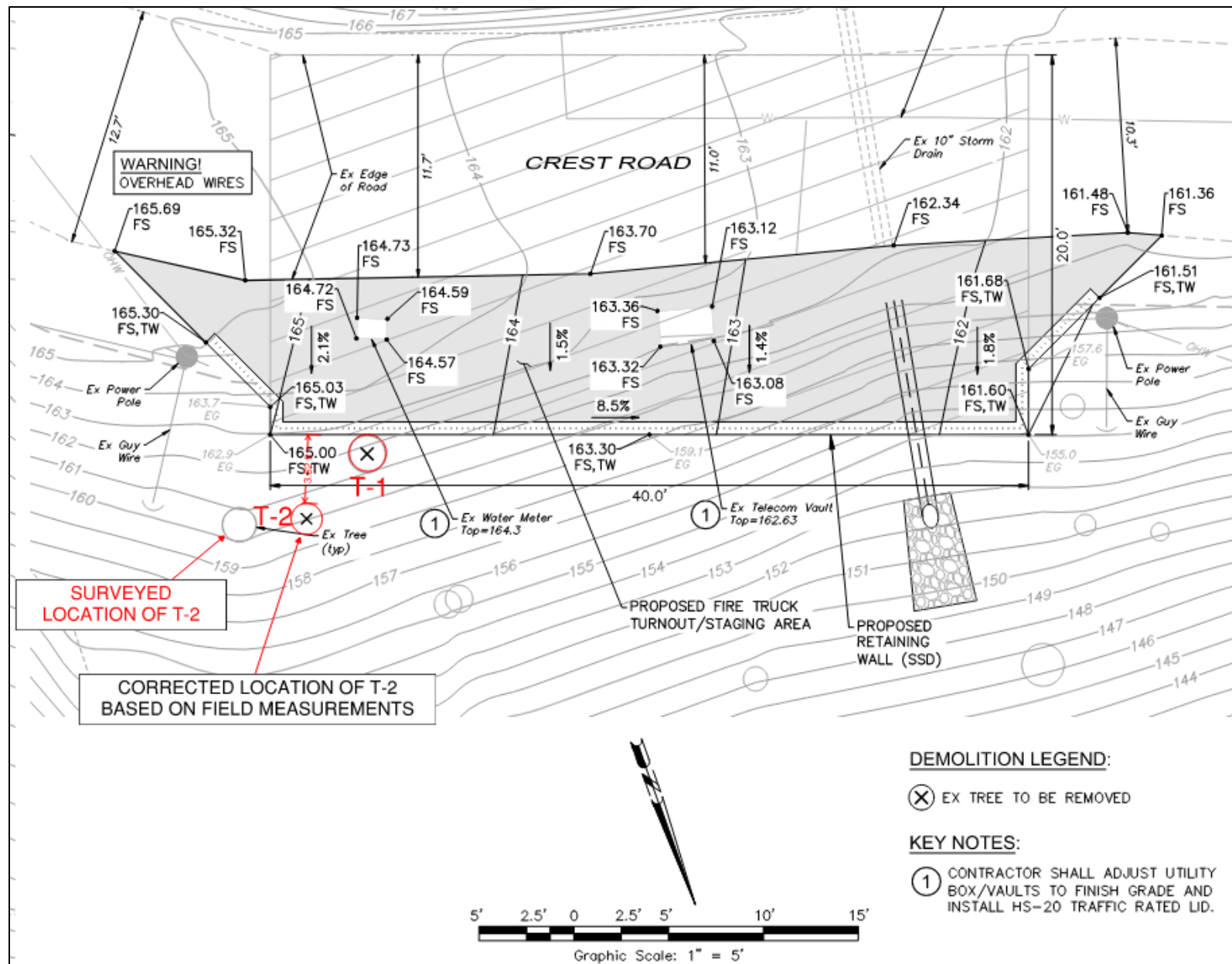


Figure 3. Screen capture of the Driveway Redesign created by adobe associates, inc., dated July 7, 2022