



## **ARBORIST REPORT-Tree/Site Report**

45 West Dunne Ave Morgan Hill CA 95037

**Prepared for:**

Gera-Dunne Project Team

**Prepared by:**

***David Hamilton***

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To: D&Z Design, City of Morgan Hill, Nick Gera

8-26-16

From: Mighty Tree Movers

## Addendum

To all concerned parties: This addendum is to address changes in plans which affected trees to be removed, trees to remain, and has added (1) for relocation.

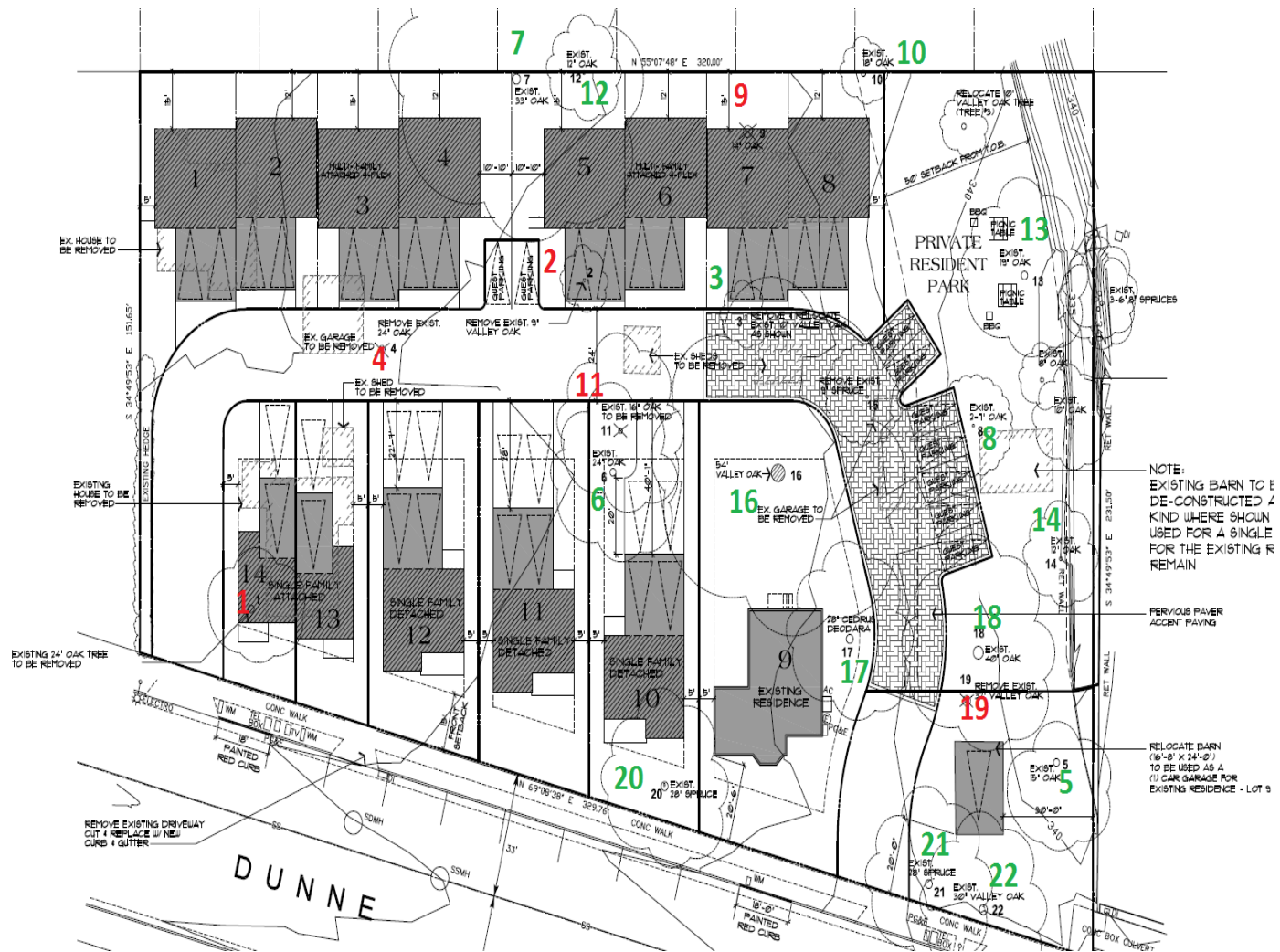
The original report based off of previous plans called for: (18) trees to remain & (5) removals. Based on current plans the trees to remain are now (16) and the number of removals is now (6). \*Note: (1) dead tree was removed, so the total number of trees is now 22.

Of the (6) trees to be removed two of them are listed as “fair”, based on health, trunk and main stem structure, and any signs of potential future problems. The other (4) removals are rated as “poor” trees. These trees have either structural flaws or growth habit problems due to phototropism.

One of the smaller Valley oaks was determined to be a good candidate for relocation. This Valley oak has a single main leader, and is approximately 18 feet tall. Keeping this tall native tree on the property will add value and beauty in the future. It should also help meet city requirements for replacement tree planting.

Sincerely,

David Hamilton



## **Objectives:**

The objective of this report is to document the significant and indigenous trees on proposed site (45 West Dunne Ave), the health and structure of these trees, and recommendations for removal and trimming. The result of this assessment, while working with proposed development plan, should be a clear outline of significant tree removals and the efforts by all to keep the majority of large indigenous trees on site for the new homeowners and community. Specific trimming specifications and a detailed tree protection plan should be provided prior to work starting. The significant trees, especially the large oak trees will need a comprehensive plan to ensure any work done does not negatively impact the trees and their root systems.

Recommendations, analysis and opinions will be based on site-walk-through and analysis of current property, plans, tree locations and condition, size, known growth habits, and proximity to buildings and potential targets.

## **Report Summary**

Twenty-three significant trees were evaluated for this project/site plan. Details of the trees size, type and health are provided in chart below. A general description of trees and property location, along with photos is also below.

### **Based upon the plans provided that I have reviewed for this project:**

- **16** trees will remain in place.
- **6** trees recommended for removal. (One is dead and one is a hazard)
- Professional tree trimming and protection plan\* for trees to remain.

\*An appropriate tree protection plan should be completed and included with the building permit set of developmental plans. This information and recommendations would be available for on-site work. It will be the owners and contractors responsibility to follow any protection guidelines set.

**The Tree Preservation Strategy for this project is:**

Attempt to maintain majority of green tree canopy footprint on the property. Attempt to save as many of the significant indigenous trees except those too close to proposed construction, trees that are in poor condition, pose unacceptable risk, or that may cause significant problems on the renovated site.

**My general impression of the trees on this site is:**

The trees on this property have not seen much attention in years, this development plan however, has highlighted the most prominent trees, and at the same time having a minimal impact on the overall canopy footprint of the property. It is apparent to me, as an arborist, that the site design has maximized the preservation of the most significant and mostly native trees.

Overall the property landscape, trees and buildings are in a state of disrepair and neglect. I expect that with the proper trimming, protection and subsequent irrigation and care the site with these trees will be an asset to the neighborhood, rather than an overgrown lot.

The dominating impression was that the large Valley oaks and some of the Live oaks are a huge asset for this property. The largest of the oaks, has one of the most majestic spreading Valley oak canopies I have ever seen.

**Property and Area**

The property located at 45-55 West Dunne Avenue has many significant trees, including many native Coast Live and Valley oaks. Many of these trees are over 50 years old as well as a few over 100 years old. Among these trees is a very large, healthy Valley oak, with good structure and canopy balance. There are no evident major weak spots or dead or broken limbs, which is rare for such a tree of this age and size. It is a huge asset to the property and neighborhood and should be well-enjoyed by the future residents of this property. Root zone and lower branch protection will be important for this tree.

### **General Property and neighborhood description:**

Property is located just West of Monterey Highway on East Dunne Avenue. It is the first property on the North side of Dunne, adjacent to Truman Auto care located on Monterey. As described above there are a lot of significant trees on this property that are also indigenous to the area. There are also some younger and smaller trees that have volunteered around the perimeter of the property, due to the lack of property maintenance and regular landscaping. The property is somewhat overgrown with multiple detached buildings littering the property in disrepair. These fruit/nut and other smaller volunteer trees are not documented, other than by photographs.

The surrounding properties, mainly north of this property, have some large trees as well, mainly oaks with some English walnuts as well. The area has good access and is very close to various shopping, retails and food/service, as well as within ½ mile of 101 freeway access. There are currently two free-standing houses on the property with residents occupying them. There are also several detached garages and buildings that are not in use or in major disrepair. During the site walk-through, the proposed plans were used to validate measurements, trees, their health and vigor and help identify trees that may have common defects of structural weaknesses that could impact the future safety of the site. Photos were taken of trees and property for proper documentation.

## **Main TREE SPECIES & ATTRIBUTES**

**Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*):** These trees, the largest of the oaks in Northern California, are a huge asset to this property and area. These trees dominate the oaks on the West side of the property, where the Coast Live oaks dominate the East half of the property, they range from 35 inches in circumference to 160 inches. The biggest oak in the center of the property is a near perfect specimen. It is healthy and has had no major damage and no visible trouble spots. With some much needed maintenance pruning, canopy lifting and weight reduction trimming, this will be the centerpiece for this property. There are 6 notable Valley oaks at this location, only one is recommended for removal.

This Valley oak recommended for removal is a hazard; see below for more details on this tree.

**Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*):** These trees dominate the Western half and back of the property. There are several large specimen trees, with the majority being healthy with good form and structure. These trees do need regular maintenance and canopy reduction trimming, which these have not received. These trees will all benefit long-term from some professional trimming and strategic branch removal of large co-dominant stems. Some upper branch die-back was present on 2 largest Live oaks.

**Cedrus deodaras and other conifers:** After the oaks the next largest group of trees would be the pines and spruces closer to the front of the property. There is one dead redwood tree (#3) that will be removed and one deodara recommended for removal below. The two dominant conifers at the sidewalk are about 60 feet tall, with a canopy spreading 50 feet. A large Atlas Cedar has a great bluish canopy that stands out from the usual greener California natives. The other large conifer at the sidewalk is a Cedrus deodara.

## RESULTS OF STUDY AND SITE EVALUATION

Dead & Hazardous tree removal: (Pictures below)

- (1) 100% dead redwood behind existing house on western side of property (Tree#3)
- (1) damaged and leaning Valley oak (Tree #19) \*This tree has heavy damage on trunk, with estimated more than 25% dead wood at the base. This tree also has a very evident lean due to phototropism, or growing under its' parent Valley oak tree. The tree suffered past damage and currently has an insignificant canopy, with poor structure, that adds nothing to the property or tree canopy footprint. This tree is a hazard based on current condition and should be removed regardless of any development.
- Many small volunteer fruit and nut trees along perimeter to be removed.

Trees to be removed to accommodate proposed planned development:

- (2) Coast live oaks (Trees #4 & 9) are in proposed locations for homes and will need to be removed to allow building as proposed.

## Tree trimming and protection:

- This report does not include a complete trimming and protection plan. These are both highly recommended prior to work start date. Many of these trees have huge potential to be beautiful specimen trees, appreciated by all. Therefore a strategy with a professional tree trimming company should be thought out and planned, taking into account all aspects of the development and phases of construction. Weights reduction and structural pruning of low-hanging branches will be important for long-term health of the trees and the safety of the residents.
- A detailed tree protection should be part of the building teams 'strategy from the beginning. Tree protection will include root zone protection from compaction, designated construction equipment travel paths and maintenance during construction. Long-term irrigation needs should also be taken into consideration during planning and development phases.

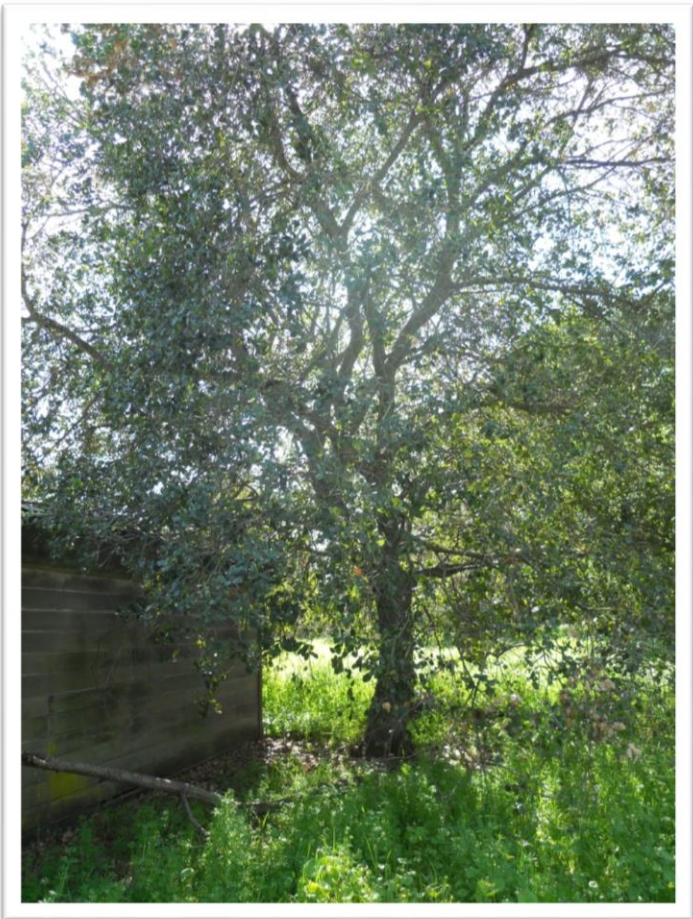
					<b>45/55 Dunne Ave Morgan Hill CA</b>
					Significant Indigenous Trees
Tree #	Circumference	Species Red=Removal	Health/ Structure	Keep or Remove	Comments
1	76"	Coast Live Oak	Fair	Remove	Encroaching onto sidewalk/leaning. Needs sidewalk clearance trimming and canopy reduction
2	18" Multi-trunk	Valley Oak-small	Poor	Remove	Leaning, poor structure
3	10"	Valley Oak	Good	Relocate	To be relocated to replace removed Live Oak
4	75"	Coast Live Oak	Poor-flaw	Remove	Removal due to construction footprint-included bark flaw
5	46"	Coast Live Oak	Good	Remain	Good structure/healthy canopy
6	74"	Coast Live Oak	Good	Remain	Co-dominant stems-fair structure and health-some upper die-back
7	100"	Coast Live Oak	good/moderate	Remain	On neighboring property, 1 or 2 branches need clearance pruning.
8	38"	Coast Live Oak	good-poor	Remain	
9	55"	Coast Live	Fair	Remove	Remove due to construction-Some



		Oak			upper die-back
10	56"	Valley Oak	Excellent	Remain	Nice structure and trunk taper
11	57"	Coast Live Oak	Fair	Remove	Hidden, in decline, large upper leader damage-branch breakage
12	23"	Coast Live Oak	good	Remain	
13	33"	Valley Oak	good	Remain	
14	36"	Coast Live Oak	good	Remain	
15	58"	Spruce	Dead	Remain	Removed-hazard tree
16	160"	Valley Oak	Excellent	Remain	Showpiece of the property-Some weight reduction and height clearance pruning needed.
17	82"	Cedrus Deodara	Good	Remain	
18	123"	Valley Oak	Good	Remain	Overshadows 2nd Valley oak 10 feet from trunk.
19	100"	Valley Oak	Poor	Remove	Damaged. Leaning, lots of dead wood in trunk-hazard-remove
20	85"	Atlas Cedar	Good	Remain	Needs deep root fertilization and irrigation in Spring 2017
21	85"	Cedrus Deodara	good	Remain	
22	95"	Valley Oak	good	Remain	poor location, intemixed with cedrus deodara, trimming recommended



**Tree# 9 Removal**





**Tree# 4 Removal**





**Tree#4 –Included bark & co-dominant stems**



**Tree#19 Valley oak-remove Hazard Tree**





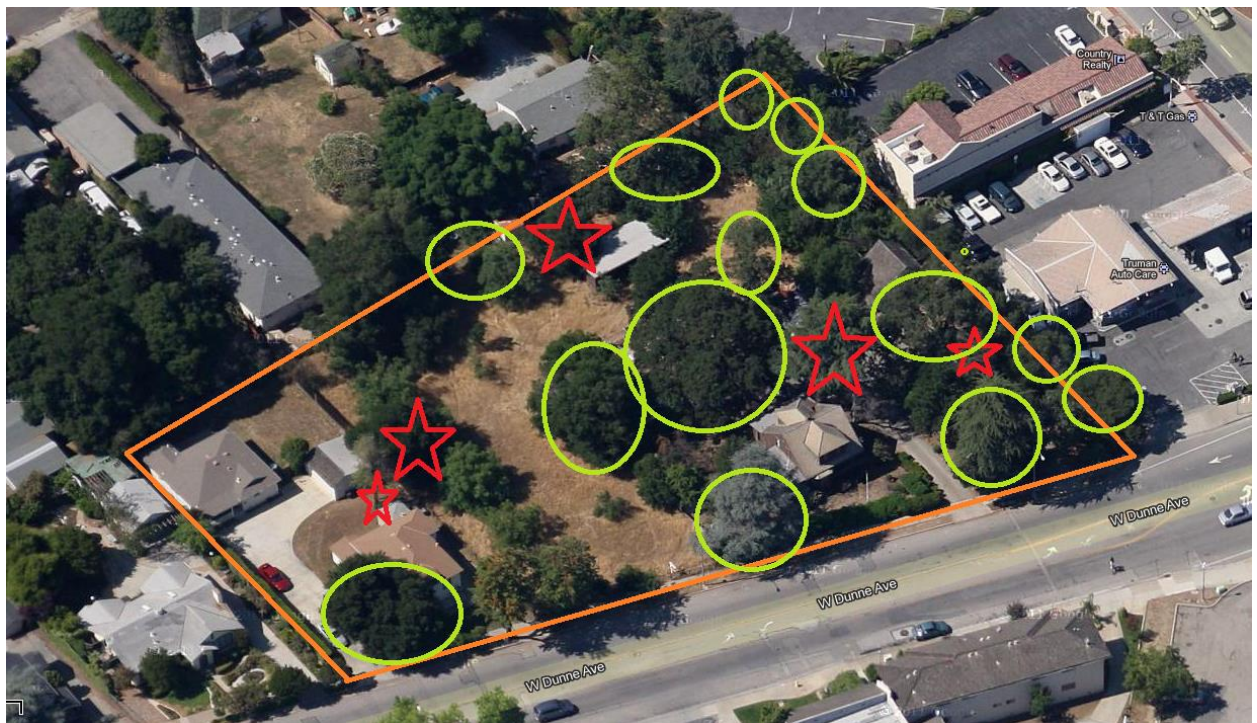
**Tree#17 Remove-Too close to foundation**





**Tree# 3 Remove- Dead**

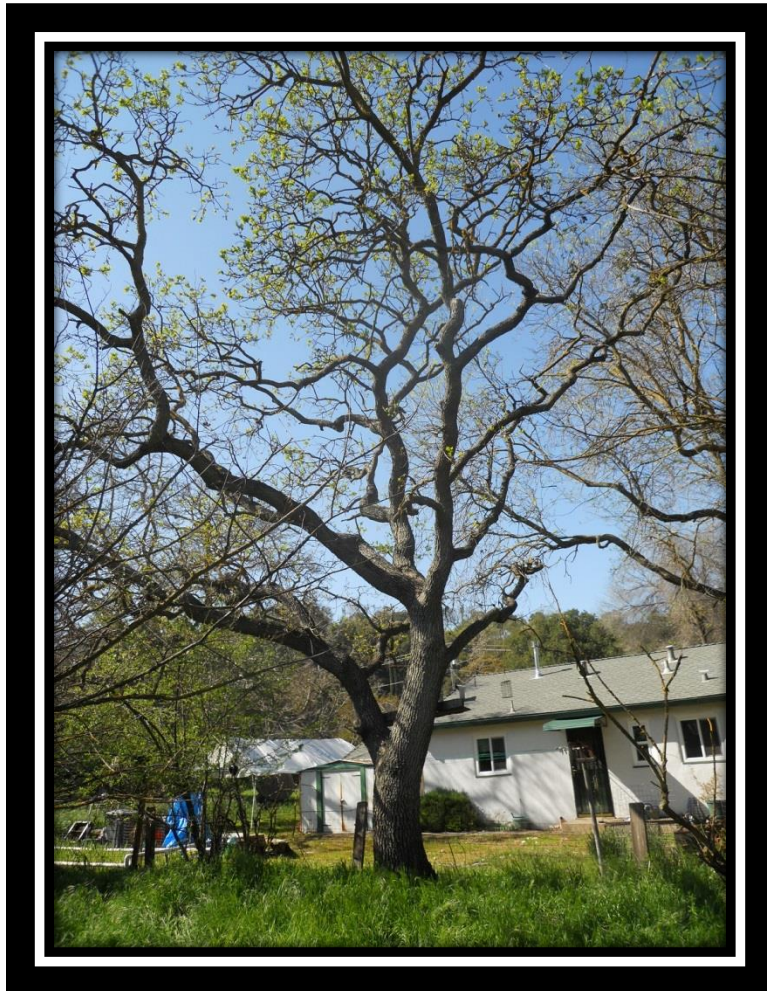




Stars are (5) listed removals. Green circles are significant trees being preserved.



**Some documented significant/indigenous trees to remain below:**



Valley oak at property line at back of property.















Brush and volunteers to be removed.