

# ***SBCA TREE CONSULTING***

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Date: Amended June 3, 2020

To: Navarre Oaks  
Assistant Planner, City of Emeryville

Subject: Arborist Peer Review of documents prepared by Inside Out:

- Tree Inventory and Assessment at 1034 47<sup>th</sup> St in Emeryville, California, 8-29-17
- Addendum #1, Tree Inventory and Assessment 8-10-18
- Preliminary Landscaping Plan, 8-10-18

Project: 47th Street Homes

Address: 1034 – 1042 47<sup>th</sup> Street

Assignment: Arborist was asked to provide peer review of InsideOut report and specifically address:

- The health and feasibility of keeping both the existing on-site trees and street trees; any planting recommendations for all proposed new trees.
- Assess if the existing street trees will survive a curb/gutter/sidewalk replacement and tree protection recommendations.

Scope: Arborist conducted site inspection of trees on 4-24-20. All trees were reviewed from the sidewalk.

## **Summary**

### Inside Out Tree Inventory and Assessment Report

- **Street trees (*Pistacia chinensis*)** – Tree #48 has been removed. Only one street tree remains: Pistache #47 is codominant and was noted with a recent 3" diameter pruning cut. No root related hardscape displacement was noted adjacent to the tree, indicating roots may have developed deeper in the soil. We concur with the InsideOut report regarding retention value: "tree preservation recommended".

Google street view in 2015 shows three Chinese Pistache growing as street trees in front of residences 1034 – 1042 47<sup>th</sup> Street. Two have since been removed by the Public Works Department as they were dead.

- **Lombardy Poplars #43 and 44** – During Arborist inspection on 4-24-20, the trees were fully leafed out and foliage appeared very dense and green. Recommend the health rating of both

trees to be changed from Fair to Good-Excellent. The species is well suited to Emeryville and can be seen thriving throughout the city.

- **Silver Maple** – This tree is a very large specimen, with a canopy that spreads over two residences. Tree health could not be fully assessed due to spring season: the tree was in the process of leafing out during Arborist inspection. However, it is recommended the health rating be changed from Fair to Good. This is based on the amount of live buds present and no dead tips.
- **Feasibility of interior tree retention** – It should be clear that the reason why retention of the large Lombardy (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') and Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) is not feasible is due to the potential for significant root loss from project construction which may compromise both health and stability of the trees.

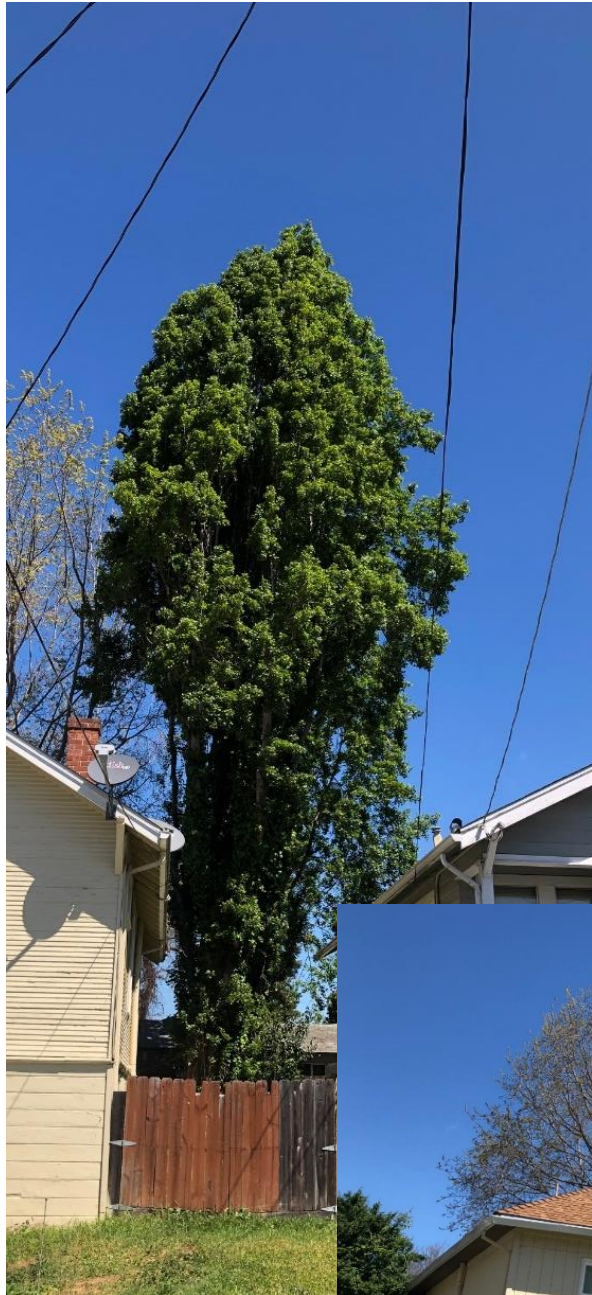
#### Inside Out Landscaping Plan

- **Tree protection** – Tree #47 is suitable for protection. A Tree Preservation Plan should be submitted for review.
- **Increase street tree amount** – At the time *Addendum #1* was submitted in 2018, two street trees existed. With the removal of tree #48, three street trees are now suitable for replacement planting. Chinese Pistache is an acceptable species for use. City specified soil volume requirements for medium stature trees can be achieved with the use of structural soil under pavement.
- **Tree replacement** – The project proposes removal of three mature, large stature trees and two medium trees, yet only plans to replace with one large stature tree and six small in stature. The trees currently growing on site contribute significantly to the neighborhood. If removed, an equal or greater replacement planting is recommended. Landscape Architect is encouraged to review additional planting locations. It is recommended that large stature trees be utilized in replacement planting and be provided with soil volumes commensurate with their sizes at maturity.
- **Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)** – The Western Redbud is not recommended for use due to relatively poor performance in the Bay Area. The Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) has been noted to perform better. The *Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis* 'Oklahoma' has shiny foliage and leaves with thick cuticles, that are more resistant to pathogen attack. *Cercis* 'Hearts of Gold' also shows more resistance to mildew.
- **Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*)** – We have not observed this species perform well in Emeryville. The Heritage Oak (*Quercus x macdanielii* 'Clemons') has a lobed leaf like the Valley Oak but is mildew resistant. The Forest Green Oak (*Quercus frainetto* 'Schmidt') is another oak species with a lobed leaf that is better suited for the location.
- **Soil volume requirements** – Landscape Architect shall provide soil volume amounts for proposed replacement trees.



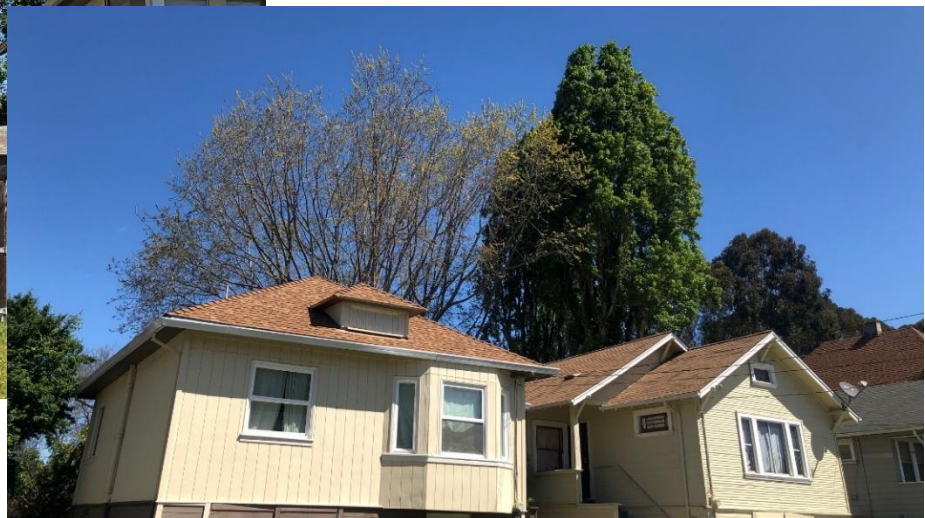
- **Root barriers** – Root barriers are not recommended. A combination of crushed rock and structural soil is a more acceptable alternative to increase soil volume and reduce future root related hardscape displacement.

## Photo Supplement



**Photo 1.** Photo left was taken 4-24-20. Poplar #44 is shown very green with excellent leaf density. Health is rated at Good-Excellent.

**Photo 2.** Photo below shows another angle of Poplar #44, with #43 behind. Silver Maple #42 can be seen to the left of the poplars just leafing out.







**Photo 3.** Photo left shows Silver Maple #42. The tree is very large, with the canopy extending over two residences. The tree contributes significantly to the neighborhood and if removed, requires an equal or greater replacement planting.

**Photo 4.** Photo right shows the last Chinese Pistache street tree. Google Street View shows three trees originally planted. Since InsideOut report in 2018, one large branch has been removed over the sidewalk, therefore destroying the balanced canopy noted in report.



Report submitted by:

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