

# SBCA TREE CONSULTING

1534 Rose Street, Crockett, CA 94525

Phone: (510) 787-3075

Fax: (510) 787-3065

Website: [www.sbcatree.com](http://www.sbcatree.com)

*Steve Batchelder, Consulting Arborist*

WC ISA Certified Arborist #228

CUFC Certified Urban Forester #134

CA Contractor License #(C-27) 53367

E-mail: [steve@sbcatree.com](mailto:steve@sbcatree.com)

*Molly Batchelder, Consulting Arborist*

WC ISA Certified Arborist #9613A

ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

E-mail: [molly@sbcatree.com](mailto:molly@sbcatree.com)

Date: Amended May 20, 2021

To: Navarre Oaks, Associate Planner  
City of Emeryville

Project: 1270 64<sup>th</sup> St.

Subject: Tree Removal Recommendation

Species: American Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Cost Recovery Account: UD20-4

## Summary

Arborist tree inspection determined that a tree protection plan is not applicable in this situation due to problems associated with the species and the poor structural condition. Removal and replacement with a more appropriate species in a soil volume commensurate with its mature size is recommended.

## Tree Site and Condition

The tree is growing as a street tree in a sidewalk cutout. DBH was measured at 8". The tree is in fair health condition, displaying sparse foliage with a small leaf size. Several branch rip outs were noted on the trunk street side, likely due to vehicle clearance issues. The tree is codominant and was observed with a bleeding crack on the trunk. A large circling girdling root was noted at the base. New pavement surrounding the tree can indicate previous root loss when repairs were made.

## Analysis and Recommendations

The *Liquidambar* is a species associated with significant root related hardscape displacement due to its invasive root system. The large circling root will restrict water and nutrient uptake as the tree continues to grow, which will affect future tree health. The large wounds on the trunk will decay in time and compromise structural integrity of the tree. The future is best served with removal of this problematic tree and replacement with a species that can thrive in the location.

## Replacement Species

Replacement species shall be commensurate with available soil volume. It is likely a medium stature tree requiring City specified 700 cubic feet is appropriate. A few species suggestions include: Netleaf Oak (*Quercus rugosa*); Compton Oak (*Quercus comptoniae*); Green Vase Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata* 'Green Vase').



**Photo 1.** Photo above left shows the tree with sparse foliage, possibly due to root damage when pavement was repaired.

**Photo 2.** Photo above right shows a close up of the rip outs on the main stem. Such wounds will decay in time and compromise the tree.

**Photo 3.** Photo left shows red arrow and large circling root which could affect future root stabilization and/or tree health.



Report submitted by:

Molly Batchelder, Consulting Arborist  
WC ISA Certified Arborist #9613A  
Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ)

End

