

Example Construction Impact Arborist Report

Prepared for ****CLIENT**

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BCMA WE-9909B

RCA #555

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Background

In July of 2021, I was contacted by ***CLIENT*** who asked me to prepare a Protected Tree Report for the subject property per the requirements of the City of Los Angeles Department of Urban Forestry. I visited the subject property alone on August 18, 2021 at 1:00pm to collect the data for this report. I returned on August 24, 2021 at 1:00pm to collect supplemental data.

Project Description

An existing multifamily dwelling will be demolished, and a new multifamily dwelling will be built in its place. The lot is approximately 6049.5 square feet. The footprint of the existing dwelling structure is approximately 2,931 square feet. The footprint of the existing garage structure is approximately 776 square feet. The proposed structure will be 35,272 square feet.




I recorded data on 14 trees on and around the subject property. 9 of these trees are growing on an adjacent parcel to the north. One tree is growing within the public right of way.



No trees in this report are protected per Ordinance 186,873 covering native trees and native shrubs: Native Oaks (*Quercus sp.*), California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica*), Bay Laurel (*Umbellularia californica*), Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*).



4 unprotected trees will be removed. The critical root zones of 9 unprotected trees growing on the neighboring property to the north will be encroached upon.



One street tree will be removed because it is growing within the footprint of the proposed driveway apron. Two replacement trees will be planted in the parkway.



Subject Trees



	<p>Tree 1 <i>Melea azedarach</i> – Chinaberry</p> <p>This tree is not protected by ordinance. It will be removed because it is growing within the footprint of the proposed access walkway along the south side of the proposed building.</p> <p>This tree is healthy. I observed debris piled around its trunk, but the debris did not appear to have significantly affected the overall health or condition of the tree.</p>
	<p>Tree 2 <i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i> – Angel's Trumpet</p> <p>This tree is not protected by ordinance. It will be removed because it is growing within the footprint of the proposed building.</p> <p>This tree is healthy.</p>
	<p>Tree 3 <i>Ficus benjamina</i> – Weeping Fig</p> <p>This tree is not protected by ordinance. It will be removed because it is growing within the footprint of the proposed building.</p> <p>This tree is potted and root-bound, resulting in wilting foliage. It is in poor condition.</p>

	<p>Tree OP4 <i>Syzygium australe</i> – Brush Cherry</p> <p>This tree is not protected by ordinance. It is growing on an adjacent property to the north. It will be retained in the landscape through the proposed project.</p> <p>This tree is healthy. It will be pruned for clearance over the work area. All pruning should be performed by a crew directly supervised by a Certified Arborist. Pruning cuts should not exceed 3 inches in diameter, and only the minimum amount of living foliage necessary to achieve work area clearance should be removed; the tree should not be pruned all the way to the property line. Provide reasonable notice to the neighboring property owner before performing the pruning.</p> <p>The proposed building will encroach within the critical root zone of this tree. All project activity within the drip line of this tree should be directly supervised by a Certified Arborist. Some of this tree's root system may be impacted, but it is intended to be retained in place throughout the project.</p> <p>The combined impacts of pruning and root disturbance will likely have a significant effect on this tree's condition. Notwithstanding, this tree is intended to be retained in place.</p>
	<p>Tree OP5 <i>Juniperus chinensis</i> – Hollywood Juniper</p> <p>This tree is not protected by ordinance. It is growing on an adjacent property to the north. It will be retained in the landscape through the proposed project.</p> <p>This tree has been suppressed by a morning glory vine that has colonized its canopy. It is in average condition. I recommend pruning off the morning glory vine.</p> <p>The proposed access walkway along the northern property boundary will encroach within the critical root zone of this tree. All project activity within the drip line of this tree should be directly supervised by a Certified Arborist. Some of this tree's root system may be impacted, but it is intended to be retained in place throughout the project.</p>

	<p>Tree OP6 <i>Podocarpus gracilior</i> – Fern Pine</p> <p>This tree is not protected by ordinance. It is growing on an adjacent property to the north. It will be retained in the landscape through the proposed project.</p> <p>This tree has been suppressed by a morning glory vine that has colonized its canopy. It is in poor condition. I recommend pruning off the morning glory vine.</p> <p>The proposed access walkway along the northern property boundary will encroach within the critical root zone of this tree. All project activity within the drip line of this tree should be directly supervised by a Certified Arborist. Some of this tree's root system may be impacted, but it is intended to be retained in place throughout the project.</p>
	<p>Tree OP7 <i>Juniperus chinensis</i> – Hollywood Juniper</p> <p>This tree is not protected by ordinance. It is growing on an adjacent property to the north. It will be retained in the landscape through the proposed project.</p> <p>This tree has been suppressed by a morning glory vine that has colonized its canopy. It is in average condition. I recommend pruning off the morning glory vine.</p> <p>The proposed access walkway along the northern property boundary will encroach within the critical root zone of this tree. All project activity within the drip line of this tree should be directly supervised by a Certified Arborist. Some of this tree's root system may be impacted, but it is intended to be retained in place throughout the project.</p>

	<p>Tree OP8 <i>Podocarpus gracilior</i> – Fern Pine</p> <p>This tree is not protected by ordinance. It is growing on an adjacent property to the north. It will be retained in the landscape through the proposed project.</p> <p>This tree has been suppressed by a morning glory vine that has colonized its canopy. It is in poor condition. I recommend pruning off the morning glory vine.</p> <p>The proposed access walkway along the northern property boundary will encroach within the critical root zone of this tree. All project activity within the drip line of this tree should be directly supervised by a Certified Arborist. Some of this tree's root system may be impacted, but it is intended to be retained in place throughout the project.</p>
	<p>Tree OP9 <i>Juniperus chinensis</i> – Hollywood Juniper</p> <p>This tree is not protected by ordinance. It is growing on an adjacent property to the north. It will be retained in the landscape through the proposed project.</p> <p>This tree has been suppressed by a morning glory vine that has colonized its canopy. It is in poor condition. I recommend pruning off the morning glory vine.</p> <p>The proposed access walkway along the northern property boundary will encroach within the critical root zone of this tree. All project activity within the drip line of this tree should be directly supervised by a Certified Arborist. Some of this tree's root system may be impacted, but it is intended to be retained in place throughout the project.</p>

	<p>Tree OP10 <i>Podocarpus gracilior</i> – Fern Pine</p> <p>This tree is not protected by ordinance. It is growing on an adjacent property to the north. It will be retained in the landscape through the proposed project.</p> <p>This tree has been suppressed by a morning glory vine that has colonized its canopy. It is in average condition. I recommend pruning off the morning glory vine.</p> <p>The proposed access walkway along the northern property boundary will encroach within the critical root zone of this tree. All project activity within the drip line of this tree should be directly supervised by a Certified Arborist. Some of this tree's root system may be impacted, but it is intended to be retained in place throughout the project.</p>
	<p>Tree OP11 <i>Podocarpus gracilior</i> – Fern Pine</p> <p>This tree is not protected by ordinance. It is growing on an adjacent property to the north. It will be retained in the landscape through the proposed project.</p> <p>This tree has been suppressed by a morning glory vine that has colonized its canopy. It is in average condition. I recommend pruning off the morning glory vine.</p> <p>The proposed access walkway along the northern property boundary will encroach within the critical root zone of this tree. All project activity within the drip line of this tree should be directly supervised by a Certified Arborist. Some of this tree's root system may be impacted, but it is intended to be retained in place throughout the project.</p>

	<p>Tree 12 <i>Prunus persica</i> – Peach</p> <p>This tree is not protected by ordinance. It will be removed because it is growing within the footprint of the proposed access walkway along the south side of the proposed building.</p> <p>This tree has symptoms of drought and heat stress. However, it is still in good condition.</p>
	<p>Tree OP13 <i>Citrus sp.</i> – Citrus</p> <p>This tree is not protected by ordinance. It is growing on an adjacent property to the north. It will be retained in the landscape through the proposed project.</p> <p>This tree has chlorotic foliage. It has a strong lean out from under Tree OP4 due to suppression from competition. Overall, this tree is in poor condition. This tree will be pruned for clearance over the work area. All pruning should be performed by a crew directly supervised by a Certified Arborist. Only the minimum amount of live foliage necessary to achieve clearance should be removed.</p> <p>The proposed access walkway along the northern property boundary will encroach within the critical root zone of this tree. All project activity within the drip line of this tree should be directly supervised by a Certified Arborist. Some of this tree's root system may be impacted, but it is intended to be retained in place throughout the project.</p>



Tree 14

Syagrus romanzoffiana – Queen Palm

This tree is not protected by ordinance. It is a street tree growing within the public right of way.

This tree is growing within the footprint of the proposed driveway apron and must therefore be removed. Two replacement trees will be planted in the parkway strip adjacent to this tree.

This tree has an inverted root crown; the base of the trunk is thinner than the middle of the trunk. This top-heavy form leaves the tree with a slightly increased likelihood of failure due to the amplification of loads at the base of the tree.

In the past, this tree was climbed with gaffs for pruning. The gaffs left spike wounds in the trunk that will never heal. These wounds have the potential to become entry points for decay over time.

The canopy appeared to be partially drought stressed. This tree is in average condition.

Matrix of All Trees on Site

Tree #	Tag #	Species	Common Name	DBH	Height	Spread	Condition	Treatment	Rate	Protected?	Remove?	Natural?	Encroach?	Impact Activity
1	7973	<i>Melea azedarach</i>	Chinaberry	13", 11"	30'	30'	healthy, debris around trunk	Remove	A-	No	Yes	No	Yes	access walkway
2	no tag	<i>Brugmansia suaveolens</i>	Angel's Trumpet	8x1.5", 8x1"	15'	15'	healthy	Remove	A	No	Yes	No	Yes	access walkway
3	no tag	<i>Ficus benjamina</i>	Weeping Fig	5x1", 9x0.5"	10'	8'	root bound	Remove	D+	No	Yes	No	Yes	building
4	no tag	<i>Syzygium australe</i>	Brush Cherry	~16"	40'	35'	healthy	prune clearance	A	No	No	No	Yes	building
5	no tag	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	Hollywood Juniper	~5"	15'	10'	suppressed by morning glory	prune morning glory vine	C	No	No	No	Yes	access walkway
6	no tag	<i>Podocarpus gracilior</i>	Fern Pine	~4", 2x2", 2x1.5"	10'	8'	suppressed by morning glory	prune morning glory vine	D	No	No	No	Yes	access walkway
7	no tag	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	Hollywood Juniper	~5", 4", 3"	15'	8'	suppressed by morning glory	prune morning glory vine	C	No	No	No	Yes	access walkway
8	no tag	<i>Podocarpus gracilior</i>	Fern Pine	~3x3", 2x2"	15'	8'	suppressed by morning glory	prune morning glory vine	D+	No	No	No	Yes	access walkway
9	no tag	<i>Juniperus chinensis</i>	Hollywood Juniper	~5"	10'	10'	suppressed by morning glory	prune morning glory vine	D-	No	No	No	Yes	access walkway
10	no tag	<i>Podocarpus gracilior</i>	Fern Pine	~3", 3x2.5", 2x1.5"	15'	10'	suppressed by morning glory	prune morning glory vine	C	No	No	No	Yes	access walkway
11	no tag	<i>Podocarpus gracilior</i>	Fern Pine	~2x5", 4"	15'	10'	suppressed by morning glory	prune morning glory vine	C-	No	No	No	Yes	access walkway
12	no tag	<i>Prunus persica</i>	Peach	3x1"	10'	10'	drought/heat stress	Remove	B	No	Yes	No	Yes	building
13	no tag	<i>Citrus sp.</i>	Citrus	~8"	12'	15'	chlorotic foliage, leaning, suppressed	prune clearance	D	No	No	No	Yes	access walkway
14	7974	<i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i>	Queen Palm	15"	20' B/T	15'	inverted root crown, spike wounds in trunk, dead fronds, heat stress	remove	C	Street	Yes	No	Yes	driveway

Protected Tree Matrix

There are no protected trees on site.

Protected Trees to be Removed

There are no protected trees on site.

Protected Trees to Remain

There are no protected trees on site.

Recommendations and Construction Impact Guidelines

Pre-Construction

These recommendations should be implemented prior to the start of construction.

- Erect tree protection zone fencing as shown in this report. No construction activity, heavy equipment access, or materials storage should take place within the tree protection zones during construction without the direct supervision and approval of a certified arborist. For this project, brightly-colored snow fence may be attached to the property line fence to serve as a visual reminder for workers to avoid damaging off-property trees.
- Pruning
 - All pruning should be performed by a crew directly supervised by a Certified Arborist.
 - Only the minimum amount of living foliage necessary to achieve the intended objective should be removed.
 - Only perform pruning when the project arborist deems it necessary. Seek review by the project arborist before beginning cutting.
 - Provide reasonable notice to the owner of Tree OP4 before performing the pruning.
 - Prune Trees OP4 and OP13 for clearance over the work area. Pruning cuts should not exceed 3 inches in diameter. Lateral branches should be pruned back to their unions with their respective parent stems, and no stubs should be left.
 - Remove the morning glory vine that has colonized Trees OP5-OP11. Avoid removing living branches from the trees themselves.
- After obtaining permits to do so, remove the trees approved for removal by the urban planner.

During Construction

This is the stage where mechanical injury is the most likely to occur. By following these recommendations, the likelihood of accidental damage will be reduced:

- Inform all construction personnel of the intention to preserve the trees on site. Many times damage occurs because workers are not aware of the importance of preserving the trees on site. This includes contractors and their respective subcontractors as well.

- If any changes are made to the plans resulting in any excavation or equipment access within the dripline of any protected tree, the project arborist should be informed. Additional protection measures may need to be discussed.
- Throughout the construction period, a certified arborist should make periodic site visits to ensure the tree protection plan is being followed.
- No construction activity should take place within the tree protection zones. This includes construction worker access, materials storage, and equipment access.
- All excavation within 5 feet of the drip line of a tree intended for preservation should be directly supervised by a Certified Arborist. All excavation within this area should be performed with hand tools or pneumatic excavation tools. If any roots 1 inch in diameter or larger are encountered, they should be preserved for evaluation by the project arborist. The project arborist may determine whether the roots can be retained in place or may be severed.
- If any injury should occur to a protected tree during construction, the project arborist should be informed within 24 hours so it may be evaluated and treated as soon as possible.
- Retain the tree protection zone fencing until construction activity has been completed or until the landscape installation phase begins. Even when landscapers are permitted near the trees, make sure they are aware of the intention to preserve the trees and the roots if any digging is performed for irrigation lines or plant installation.
- If during any part of the construction phase there is a significant amount of particulates in the air (from cutting materials or any other activity), a shop vacuum or equivalent should be used during the cutting or other activity to reduce the amount of particulates that are deposited on the foliage. If despite a good faith effort to reduce particulates, a layer is still deposited on the foliage, wash it off with a jet of water at the end of each construction day where particulates are deposited.
- During the painting phase, if spray-application of paint is used within the drip line of a tree intended for preservation, wrap the exposed half of the trunk and scaffold branches with plastic at the beginning of each painting day to avoid paint drifting onto the trunk. Remove the plastic at the end of each day to allow for air circulation.

Post-Construction Care

The most stressful time of year for the subject trees will be the summer immediately following construction. The following management practices are recommended:

- Retain the leaf drop around the root zone of the subject trees where practical. The best ground cover for a tree is its own leaf mulch. Leaf mulch will continue to reduce soil evaporation and mitigate soil temperature changes. If leaf drop is not practical for use, apply a layer of coarse mulch 2-4 inches thick around the base of the protected trees intended for preservation.
- The subject trees may be monitored by a certified arborist for development of disease, decay, or other symptoms of stress due to construction activity. Deadwood may be removed as it appears, and as much live wood as possible should be retained on the trees, provided that it doesn't come into conflict with the infrastructure.

Mitigation Trees

The City of Los Angeles requires removed street trees be mitigated on a 2:1 basis. Two replacement trees must be planted for each street tree removed. One street tree is proposed for removal because it is growing within the footprint of the proposed driveway apron. Two replacement trees will be planted in the parkway adjacent to the driveway. Replacement trees will be 24" box size queen palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*). The species of the replacement trees may be adjusted with approval of the city's urban forester, the project arborist, and the project's landscape architect.

Limitations

My observations are based on a strictly visual inspection of the property, and some hidden or buried symptoms and signs may not have been observed. I did not conduct excavation, coring, or climbing inspection to make observations. My analysis is only based on the observations I gathered at the time of inspection. I do not guarantee the safety of the subject trees. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies may not arise in the future.

Arborists are tree specialists who use their knowledge, education, training, and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risk of living trees. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist, or to seek additional advice.

Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways not fully understood. Conditions are often hidden within trees and below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specified period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments, like any medicine, cannot be guaranteed.

Treatment, pruning, and removal of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborist's services such as property boundaries, property ownership, site lines, disputes between neighbors, and other issues. Arborists cannot take such considerations into account unless complete and accurate information is disclosed to the arborist. An arborist should then be expected to reasonably rely upon the completeness and accuracy of the information provided.

Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risk associated with trees is to eliminate all trees.

Site Photos



Figure 1: Tree 1



Figure 2: Tree 2



Figure 3: Tree 3



Figure 4: Tree OP4

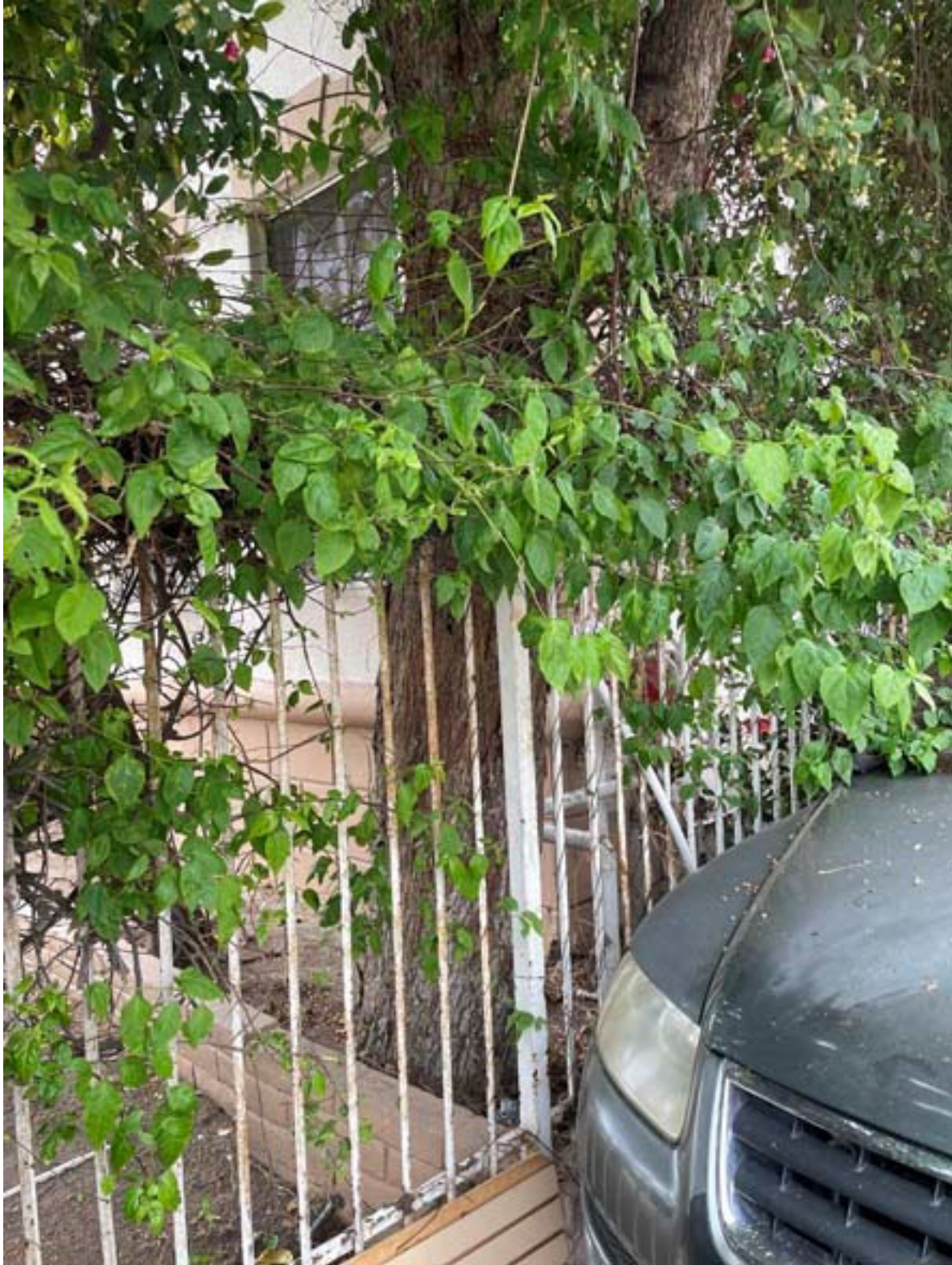


Figure 5: The trunk of Tree OP4 is close to the property line.



Figure 6: Tree OP5



Figure 7: Tree OP6



Figure 8: Tree OP7



Figure 9: Tree OP8



Figure 10: Tree OP9



Figure 11: Tree OP10



Figure 12: Tree OP11



Figure 13: Tree 12



Figure 14: Tree OP13



Figure 15: Tree 14 is growing within the public right of way. It will be removed because it is growing within the footprint of the proposed driveway apron.



Figure 16: Bougainvillea is growing on the fence along the northern property boundary.