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ASSOCIATES
Horticultural Consultants

- Why aren't the exposed roots being protected now?

February 21, 2024

Ping Wei
2907 Rio Lempa Dr.
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

Ping,

On 2/16/24 we inspected the property at the above address. The lot slopes down from south to north. We surveyed the property for the presence of Coast Live Oaks (Quercus agrifolia). We found four trees, one of which had been reduced to two feet in height, and three others which had not been pruned at all.

Where is the full report?

The following is a summary of our findings and our recommendations,

south-east?

Tree #1, Coast Live Oak, (Quercus agrifolia). This tree is located just within the property on the west side. The tree measures approximately thirty-two feet high, twenty feet wide with a twelve-inch dbh. This tree is in very good condition. We saw no signs of insect invasion or disease. The tree could use some thinning out to remove deadwood. It has no noticeable "cross branching." We recommend the ground cover surrounding this tree be cleared three feet away from the trunk to minimize competition for water in the summer months. Any oak leaf litter that falls should be left in place to maintain moisture in the root zone. The Tree Protection Zone (hereto referred to as the TPZ), on this tree is a radius of fifteen feet from the trunk.

NORTH

Tree #2, Coast Live Oak, (Quercus agrifolia). This tree is located WITHIN the eastern fence line. Apparently, an acorn must have germinated some years ago and literally grew through the existing chain link fence on the property line. The tree measures approximately thirty-seven feet high, twenty-two feet wide, with a twelve-inch dbh. This tree is in very good health, with little signs of insect invasion or disease. The tree has a pronounced lean to the north. Although the tree is well rooted, we recommend it be monitored over the next few years to ensure it does not succumb to invasion by insects due to the fact the top bar of the fence is embedded in the trunk and could negatively affect the flow of nutrients and water within the tree. The TPZ on this tree is a radius of fifteen feet from the trunk.

South?

- No recommendation to separate fence from tree?

Tree #3, Coast Live Oak, (Quercus agrifolia). This tree is very prominent in the area as it measures approximately sixty feet high, seventy-five to eighty feet wide, with a forty-four-inch dbh. This tree would be classified as a "Heritage Tree." This tree is in excellent condition. We saw no apparent signs of insect damage or disease. It could benefit from pruning to remove deadwood. The form on this tree is free of any noticeable "cross branching." Of major concern to us is the root system on the north side of the tree. Grading has been done in preparation for construction of a retaining wall on the south side of the property. Encroachment has occurred and a portion of the root system was removed in the process. A radical slope cut was made approximately six feet from the trunk of this tree on the north side. The south side of the root system remains intact and undisturbed. Approximately thirty percent of the root system was either removed or compacted on the north side of this tree.

NE?

south? north? south?

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Quercus agrifolia which grow in a steep hillside generally have anchoring roots on the uphill side and most of their feeder roots on the downhill side. At present, this tree seems to show little signs of stress as it is currently dormant. We are very concerned that this tree may suffer a loss of foliage if the summer temperatures rise to the level they have in the recent past. Should the tree not be able to draw up enough water due to the loss of a portion of its feeder roots, it may go into stress and will likely defoliate. Should this occur, the dehydration of the tree will be accelerated, and the tree could slowly succumb to insects and disease. Should the tree fail, the residence at 2907 Rio Lempa Drive would likely be one of its potential targets. To prevent this, we suggest remedial measures be taken as soon as possible. These measures include but are not limited to replacing the soil removed from the root zone on the north side of the tree. We placed an *informal* Tree Protection Zone around the tree while we were on site. This area of the root zone needs to be repaired. Until a plan is put in place to save this tree, NO ONE SHOULD ENTER THAT ZONE. The actual Tree Protection Zone on this tree is a radius of forty-five feet from the trunk.

The area encroached upon constitutes approximately thirty percent of the root zone. For reference we will refer to it as the "affected area." The area under the dripline of an Oak should never be compacted. In this case the native soil is predominantly CLAY. The characteristics of this soil type have a natural tendency on its own to be compact. In the affected area the soil was compacted with heavy equipment possibly crushing the roots below it. Measures will need to be taken to reduce the compaction so as not to "lock up" the soil preventing the free flow of water and nutrients. Prior to backfilling, we suggest two-inch-wide holes be bored to a depth of twelve inches, three feet on center, within the "affected area," thus allowing the soil to have some form of oxygen exchange. We suggest all the soil removed from the "affected area" be replaced with native soil mixed with 25% oak mulch. The backfill mix should not be compacted beyond 15%. This may need to be done by hand as no equipment should enter the TPZ from this point on. We recommend a retainer wall be constructed to hold the new backfill. This wall should go from the existing height of the unaltered slope under this tree to a height of no more than thirty inches on the north side. The engineering of this wall is outside of our purview. Any footing should be dug OUTSIDE OF THE TPZ. If any roots are encountered in the process of creating footing, they need to be protected with a plastic barrier to prevent harmful chemicals from entering the vascular system of the subject "Heritage" Oak. Prior to backfilling the area, all exposed roots should be cut UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A CERTIFIED ARBORIST.

We suggest the tree be irrigated as needed for a period of two to five years between March and October of each year. The water content within the backfill should be monitored monthly, by a CERTIFIED ARBORIST. The affected area should contain a drainage system created from a three-inch perforated pipe to drain any excess moisture away from the root system. The design of these drainage and irrigation systems is not covered by our agreement. The installation of the drainage system should be done by a licensed landscape contractor.
The aim of the retaining wall along with the drainage and irrigation system is to establish NEW roots in the area where soil was removed in the affected area.

We recommend a Mycorrhizal treatment be applied in the affected area to encourage the establishment of new roots. Once the tree has put out a new roots system in the affected area, irrigation may be halted, and monitoring can be reduced to once per year.

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During the monitoring period, quarterly reports can be submitted to the agency responsible for the protection of this tree. That cost is not covered by this agreement.

Tree #4 California Native Sycamore, (Platanus racemosa). This tree is not part of an Oak Tree Report but is considered a California native and is protected in some jurisdictions. This tree measures approximately fifty-five feet high, thirty-two feet wide, with a nineteen-inch dbh. It appears to be in good health with no apparent insect damage. Any signs of disease cannot be accurately determined while the tree is dormant. The tree has been "topped" previously. The off shoots resulting from this practice should be selectively pruned to prevent "lion's tails." The TPZ should be sixteen feet from the trunk of this tree.

Diameter? How old is the cut?

Tree #5 Coast Live Oak, (Quercus agrifolia). This is a stump approximately two feet high. Undisturbed it will grow into a large bush. It appears to be in poor condition. It lies within the TPZ of tree #1.

THE FOREGOING SUGGESTIONS ARE MEANT TO BE A PLAN TO PROMOTE THE RECOVERY OF THIS TREE AND BY NO MEANS CONSTITUTE ANY WARRANTY OR GUARANTEE OF SUCCESS. OUR RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NOT MEANT TO SUPERCEED THE DECISIONS OF ANY PUBLIC AGENCY, SUCH AS THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES AS TO HOW THE SUBJECT TREE SHOULD BE CARED FOR.

Arborist's disclaimer - Arborists are tree specialists who use their experience, knowledge, training, and education to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risk near trees. Clients may choose or accept or disregard the recommendations of the Arborist or seek additional advice.
Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that can fall in ways we can not anticipate or predict. Conditions are often hidden within the tree and/or below the ground level. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all conditions, or for a specific period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments, like medicine, cannot guarantee the future health or structural integrity of a tree.

Treatment, pruning and removal of trees may involve conditions beyond the scope of the Arborist's services, (such as property boundaries and ownership, site lines, neighbor disputes, landlord tenant matters, etc.) Arborists cannot take such issues into account unless complete information has been provided to them.

The person hiring the Arborist accepts all liability for authorizing the recommended treatment or remedial measures once it has been explained and acknowledges that successful results cannot be guaranteed. Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live near a tree is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate risk from trees is to eliminate them in the landscape.

No warranty is made, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the tree or the property will not occur in the future, from any cause. The Consultant shall not be liable for damages or injuries caused by tree defects and assume no responsibility for the correction of defects or tree related problems.

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RCD
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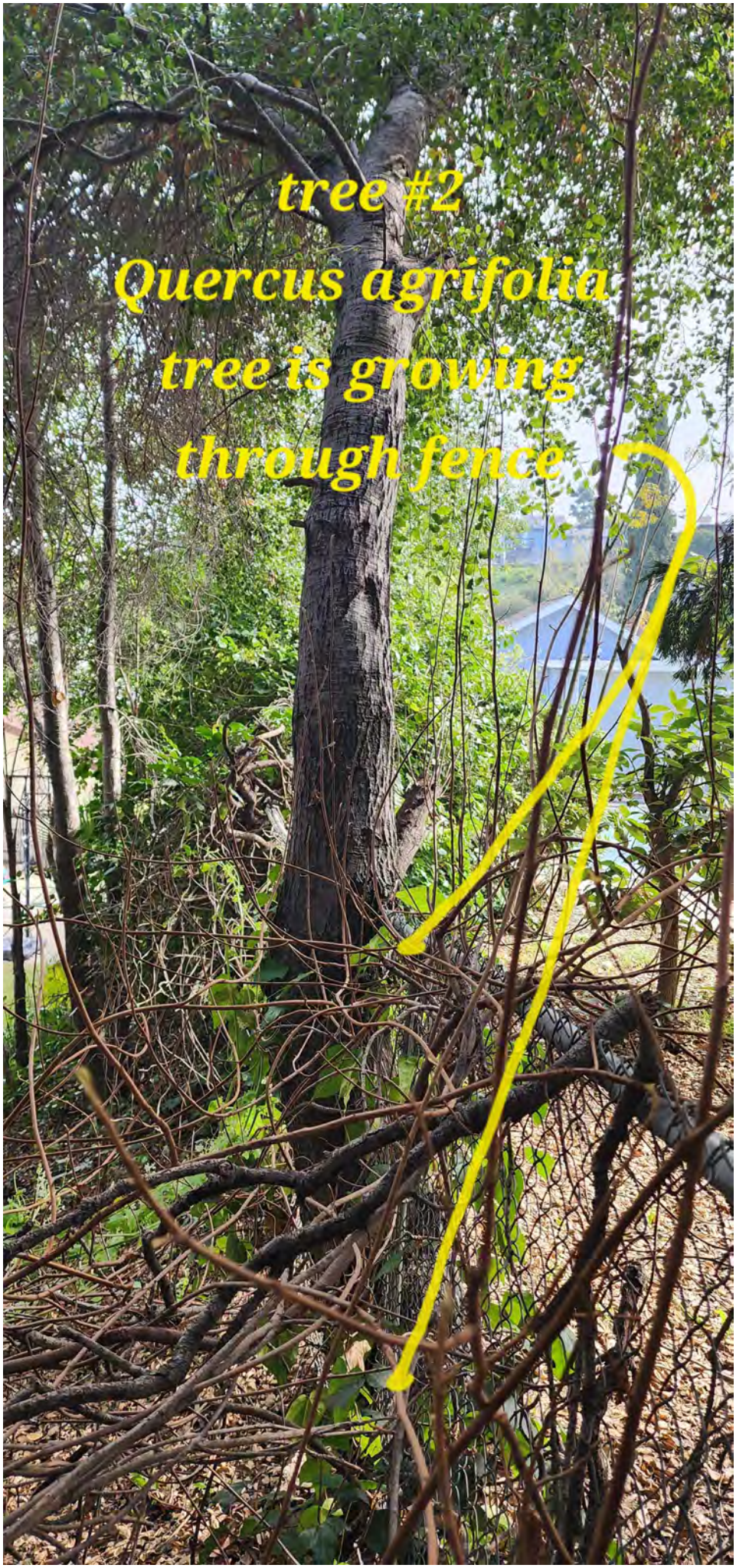
PROFESSIONAL SEAL
NO
DATE
DESCRIPTION
PROJECT TITLE
2907 RIO LEMPA DR,
HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA 91745
SHEET NAME
SITE PLAN
JOB NO: 23125
DATE ISSUED: 06-01-23
DRAWN BY: HL
CHECK BY: HL
SHEET NO
A-1.1
RIO LEMPA DIVE
N
SCALE
1/8"=1'-0"
Site Plan
PROJECT TABULATION:
SITE PLAN NOTES:
SITE PLAN NEW CONSTRUCTION KEYNOTES:
This is a dripline? This makes no sense.
Where are the driplines for the oaks?

Where is the photo index sheet for all the photos?




tree #2
grew through
the fence

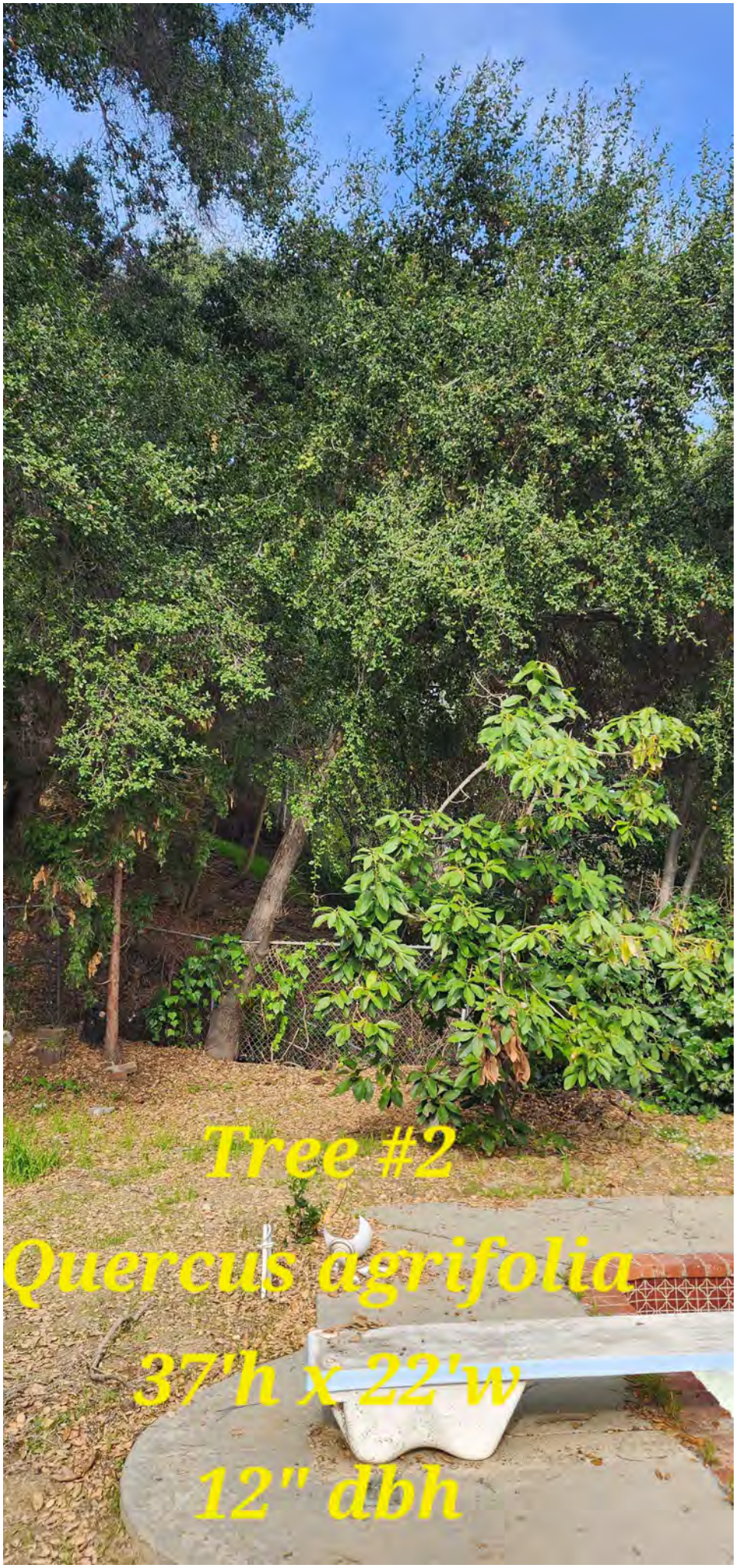
Which tree is this?


Tree #3
Quercus agrifolia
55-60'h x 75-80'w
45" dbh
HERITAGE
TREE

Which tree is this? A site plan for the bore holes would be helpful. What does "3 Feet on Center" mean? How many bore holes? I'm not going to assume 4 holes just because there are 4 yellow lines.

How does this help? Where would it go?

This "barrier" was not in place when I conducted my site visit.


Tree #2
Quercus agrifolia
37'h x 22'w
12" dbh

Where?
No better photo than this?


Tree #1
Quercus agrifolia
32'h x 20'w
12" dbh

How would the proposed retaining wall impact this tree?