

28 August 2024

Carl Nadela, Principal Regional Planner
Puente-Whittier Development Services Section

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR PROJECT NO. PRJ2023-003960-(1), OAK TREE PERMIT NO. RPPL2024001753

Oak Tree Permit No. RPPL2024001753 is scheduled for public hearing on 3 September 2024. After reviewing the hearing package for the item, I have the following questions concerning the Oak Tree Report (“OTR”). Please be prepared to answer these questions at the hearing. I ask that you forward this memo to the applicant/owner and ensure this memo is posted on the public website for the item. It is possible that information presented at the hearing may prompt additional questions.

1. The OTR states it is a summary; where is the full report? Field notes?
2. The cardinal directions (north, east, west, south) throughout the report appear to me to be incorrect. Please confirm the directional references in the report.
3. The paragraph on Tree #2 states that part of the trunk has grown around a fence pole, which “could negatively affect...the tree.” Why is there no recommendation for alleviating this condition?
4. The section on Tree #3 states that the tree was dormant at the time of the arborist’s inspection in February. Aren’t *Quercus agrifolia* dormant in summer?
5. The paragraph on Tree #3 states that the arborist place an “informal Tree Protection Zone” around Tree #3, and photographs included in the report appear to show some traffic-style cones and yellow tape somewhere near the tree. There were no cones or yellow tape on site during my site visit in August. Why is the tree not better protected? Why aren’t the exposed roots of this tree and Tree #1 covered?
6. Please explain how the proposed retaining wall would impact Tree #4.
7. Please provide a diameter for the stump of Tree #5 and an estimate of when the tree was cut down.
8. Please provide a photo index sheet for all photos and ensure all photos are completely labeled.
9. One photo discusses placing two-inch bore holes, but is unclear about where to place these holes how many holes to bore, or the pattern for placement. Please clarify.
10. One photo suggests installing “(a) graduated block wall”, but how this would help the tree is not explained in the OTR. Please add an explanation.
11. The photo labeled for Tree #5 is illegible. Where is the tree stump?
12. Please provide a comprehensive site plan that includes: the trees, their driplines and protected zones, the proposed retaining walls, and the proposed accessory dwelling unit. Label all components.
13. Please ensure that Department of Regional Planning biologists have reviewed the OTR and any of their comments or concerns are addressed.

Sincerely,



Gina Natoli, MURP, AICP
Hearing Officer